



Minutes State Board of Education June 8, 2023

Brooke Axiotis
Des Moines

Rodney Bradley
Denison

Cindy Dietz
Cedar Rapids

Cassandra Halls
Carlisle

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Mike May
Spirit Lake

Mary Meisterling
Cedar Rapids

Nathan Peterson
Iowa City

John Robbins
Iowa Falls

Sophia Van Houten
Student Member
Ida Grove

Chad L. Aldis
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education (State Board) meeting was held on June 8, 2023, in person at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Rod Bradley, Cindy Dietz, Cassandra Halls, Brian Kane, Mike May, Mary Meisterling, John Robbins and Sophia Van Houten.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were Chad Aldis, Shan Seivert, Mark Ford, Jeremy Varner, Earl Whipple, Kimberly Buryanek, Thomas Mayes, Rachel Bosovich, Heather Doe, Eric St Clair, Cassandra Cline, Tina Wahlert, Eric Heitz, Holly Barnes, Buffy Campbell, Pam Spangler, Jay Pennington, Jason Crowley, Amy Gieseke, Maryam Rod Szabo, Kelly Faga, Stephanie TeKippe, Heather Meissen, Lora Vargason, Jeanette Thomas, Isbelia Arzola, Sara Nickel, Jillian Dotson, Holli Marolf, SueAnn Johnson, Lisa Albers, Bryan Bauer, Steve Ervin and Carol McMains.

Also in attendance were: Corey Lunn, Choice Charter School; Jill Budde and Matt Thompson, Indian Hills Community College; Loleta Montgomery, Chassidi Martin, Amber Robinson and Kendall Hellmer, Royal Legacy Christian Academy; Gary Richardson, Chris Nonhof and Carrie Thonstad, Northwestern College; Katarina Sostaric, Iowa Public Radio; Erin Kokemiller and Jay Waagmeester, Iowa State Daily; Holly Callas-Sullivan; Kim Walsh; Bridget Godes, Iowa Senate Democratic Caucus; and Jane Dufoe, Office of Governor Reynolds.

State Board Business Meeting

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was conducted in person, with remote access information provided in the notice of meeting.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Rod Bradley seconded to approve the meeting agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Communication

John Robbins made a statement regarding limiting the time of public comment based on the number of speakers wishing to provide public comment.

Public Comment

Corey Lunn, Choice Charter School (Choice Charter), provided information regarding positive outcomes from the school's first year.

Holly Callas-Sullivan shared that her son successfully completed his first year at Choice Charter.

There was discussion regarding Choice Charter enrollment projections for 2023-2024.

Director's Report

Director Aldis provided updates regarding Department work related to new legislation, guidance being developed for stakeholders and planning for an At-Risk Task Force. He also shared information regarding the Education Savings Account (ESA) initiative, state government alignment, Title 1 waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education, and summer food programs being offered around the state.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Mike May seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 14 – School Health Services (Adopt)

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, shared information regarding Chapter 14 – School Health Services.

House File 771 allowed schools to obtain stock supplies of bronchodilator medication and equipment, as well as authorizing the self-administration of bronchodilator medication by students. House File 803 made changes to authorized practice by physician assistants and directed the State Board to amend certain rules in Chapter 14. House File 2573 allowed school districts to obtain prescriptions for stock opioid antagonist medication. These three pieces of legislation are addressed in this rule making. After public comment, the Department proposes three changes from the notice of intended action: a more consistent use of the term "licensed health care professional," revisions to eliminate unnecessarily specific rules regarding specific types of stock medication, and required aftercare when a staff member administers a bronchodilator.

There was discussion regarding community partners, public comment not included, district responsibility regarding prescriptions, and conflicts between the terms "nurse practitioner" and "physician assistant."

Motion: Rod Bradley made a motion and Brian Kane seconded that the State Board adopt amendments to Chapter 14.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Indian Hills Community College Comprehensive Accreditation Report

Amy Gieseke, Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented the Indian Hills Community College (IHCC) Comprehensive Accreditation Report.

The Department conducted the interview portion of the evaluation on February 20-21, 2023. This report reflects the review team's observations and determinations made during IHCC's comprehensive visit. As mandated by Iowa Code section 260C.47, the accreditation team, including two external peer reviewers, assessed IHCC's compliance with eight Iowa State Accreditation Standards via a structured process of document review and interviews. The team also reviewed the most recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) regional accreditation report to ensure that any findings have been addressed. Iowa's process has been designed not to duplicate the HLC accreditation process.

Discussion topics included growth in the agriculture program, virtual learning environments, new criminal justice training faculty, minority group attraction to CTE programs, and the Teacher Paraeducator Registered Apprenticeship program.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded that the State Board grant continued accreditation for Indian Hills Community College until the state interim accreditation visit conducted in fiscal year 2028.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Northwestern College Educator Preparation Program Approval

Kelly Faga, Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges, presented the Northwestern College Educator Preparation Program.

The Department conducted the program review and site visit in February 2023 under Iowa Administrative Code 281—79. Northwestern College (Northwestern) has met Chapter 79 standards without condition.

Faga introduced Gary Richardson, Carrie Cannstatt and Chris Nahash from Northwestern College, who shared a presentation outlining undergraduate endorsements, online graduate and undergraduate programs, Graduate School & Adult Learning program, enrollment history, leadership coaching program, internship sources and graduation outcomes.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board award full approval to Northwestern College Preparation Program through the next review scheduled for the 2029-2030 academic year.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Royal Legacy Christian Academy

Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, Holly Barnes, Consultant, and Buffy Campbell, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, presented the Royal Legacy Christian Academy

nonpublic state accreditation report. The State Board has authority, under Iowa Code section 256.11 and 281-IAC 12, to accredit nonpublic schools. The accreditation process included document review and an onsite visit.

There was discussion regarding school funding, curriculum, Spanish immersion program, current enrollment, capacity, finances, community partnerships and sponsorships, class size, multi-grade level instruction, enrollment and family interview process, parent volunteers, afterschool and daycare programs, special education services, transportation and facilities..

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brian Kane seconded that the State Board approve the request for Royal Legacy Christian Academy to become a state accredited nonpublic school.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Comprehensive Schools Update

Kimberly Buryanek, Administrator, Division of Learning and Results, shared information and a presentation regarding visits to Extended Comprehensive schools and the extensive support the Department is providing to these schools to help them improve.

Buryanek also provided information regarding 13 schools identified as Comprehensive that improved enough to no longer need support. A study was conducted to learn the actions these schools took to increase student achievement.

Discussion topics included interventions, student attendance, interim supports, high-quality instructional materials, parent engagement and support, review cycle, school performance profiles, Department resources and current staffing.

State Government Alignment Update

Mark Ford, Deputy Director, provided an update regarding Department progress in implementing planning and internal changes per the recently-passed state government alignment legislation. Coordination continues with the Governor's STEM Council, Board of Educational Examiners, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Iowa School for the Deaf and Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

There was discussion regarding whether the Department's name would change, Lunch and Learn sessions led by joining agencies, timeline for transition, anticipated efficiencies, space in the Grimes Building, and no jobs being lost due to the alignment.

Board Reports

Brooke Axiotis shared that she traveled to Bettendorf for the Quad Cities Registered High School Apprentice 2023 Signing Day event and Governor Reynolds' signing of Senate File 318, which creates an Office of Apprenticeship.

Mike May shared that he recently attended several athletic events and routinely reaches out to teachers and students to learn what is on their mind.

Sophia Van Houten has been giving thought to how to reach out to students over the summer months to share information regarding the Department, State Board and the education system.

Brian Kane attended the Greater Dubuque Community Foundation dyslexia meeting with educators in the community.

Cassandra Halls shared that the Community Colleges for Iowa annual conference will take place July 19-20 in Cedar Rapids and that there will be a luncheon for the Community College Council members, board members and presidents to kick off the conference.

Mary Meisterling connected with a data analyst at Cedar Rapids Schools and confirmed that what is being seen across the state is happening in Cedar Rapids and is very alarming.

John Robbins explained that there is a ton of data but little data analysis to inform instruction. He requested that information regarding the ESA initiative be shared at a future meeting.

Class of 2022 Graduation Rates

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, shared information and a presentation regarding findings from the class of 2022 graduation rates.

Discussion topics included tracking of students, free lunch and summer lunch programs, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, schools engaging with at-risk students, using data to effect change and the definition of “proficient.”

Postsecondary Readiness Report

Jay Pennington shared a presentation regarding the findings from the latest release of the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness reports website.

Closing Achievement Gaps Report

Jay Pennington shared a presentation regarding findings from the Closing the Achievement Gaps report.

There was discussion regarding benchmarks, State Board authority, and assessments.

State Board Retreat Planning

State Board members discussed a possible location for the September retreat. Department staff will make arrangements and determine agenda items for the business meeting.

It was moved by Cassandra Halls and seconded by Brooke Axiotis to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

John Robbins
President

McKenzie Snow
Director