



**DRAFT Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**September 15, 2022**

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Rodney Bradley  
Denison

Cindy Dietz  
Cedar Rapids

Cassandra Halls  
Carlisle

Brian J. Kane  
Dubuque

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Nathan Peterson  
Iowa City

John Robbins  
Iowa Falls

Georgia Van Gundy  
Waukeg

Alaina Whittington  
Student Member  
Diagonal

Ann Lebo  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education (State Board) meeting was held on September 15, 2022, in person at the John V. Hanson Career Center, 124 Nerem Drive, Forest City, Iowa.

State Board members present were Brooke Axiotis, Rod Bradley, Cindy Dietz, Cassandra Halls, Brian Kane, Mike May, John Robbins, Georgia Van Gundy and Alaina Whittington.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were Ann Lebo, Shan Seivert, Jeremy Varner, Thomas Mayes, Kim Buryanek, Heather Doe, Lisa Albers, Eric St Clair, Kassandra Cline, Bill Roederer, Kala Shipley, Kimberly Villotti, Dennis Harden, Barbara Anderson, Barbara Ohlund, Eric Heitz, Holly Barnes, Maryam Rod Szabo, Jen Rathje, Bryan Bauer, Richard Lehman, Tana Mullen and Carol McMains.

Also in attendance were: Amy Whittington; Teri Patrick; Lisa Bartusek, Iowa Association of School Boards; Bridget Godes, Iowa Senate Democratic Caucus; Jane Dufoe, Office of Governor Reynolds; Courtney Collier; Pam Gronau; Kristen McAfee; and Tom Crowley, North Iowa Area Community College.

### **State Board Business Meeting**

Due to a major outage of the Zoom video-conferencing platform, the State Board Business meeting was unable to begin at 10:15 a.m. as scheduled.

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m.

It was moved by Brooke Axiotis and seconded by Cindy Dietz to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

### **Communication**

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

### *Public Comment*

Teri Patrick provided comments the book, *Gender Queer*.

Khristen McAfee shared information regarding his interest in public education and diversity, equity and inclusion.

### *Director's Report*

Director Lebo shared that Davenport Community School District will provide an update to the State Board at the November meeting.

Lebo also shared an update regarding Governor Reynolds' school safety initiative and timelines, cybersecurity resources available through the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and concerns regarding the Iowa School Business Management Academy.

There was discussion regarding school district safety assessments and cybersecurity.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the consent agenda.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Iowa e-Learning Central Update**

Barbara Ohlund, Executive Officer, Division of Learning and Results, provided an update regarding Iowa e-Learning Central.

The Department was awarded a federal Education Stabilization Fund – Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant, authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act in 2020. Iowa e-Learning Central addresses two statewide needs. The first, brought to light by the COVID-19 pandemic: the need for accessible, evidence-based supports and resources not only for students to be successful in their studies (whether in-person or online), but for educators and families to support students in their learning. The second identified need is access to high quality content, regardless of a student's location in the state.

Ohlund presented a PowerPoint which explained the Iowa e-Central Learning program.

There was discussion regarding tracking course downloads, costs involved, course exchange agreements, offer and teach, expanding resources, annual review process, professional development support, number of courses, number of students reached, district savings, review of course schedule, federal reporting required, computer science, and alignment with Iowa standards.

### **Early Childhood Overview**

Kimberly Villotti, Chief, Bureau of Early Childhood, provided a broad overview regarding early childhood programming and services throughout the Department and a brief overview of some current work efforts of the Bureau.

Villotti presented a PowerPoint which explained Iowa's early childhood programs.

### **Social Emotional Behavioral Health Services and Supports Update**

Barbara Anderson, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports, provided an update around Social Emotional Behavioral Health (SEBH) supports for schools. Anderson shared information on SEBH within a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) and an overview of specific supports and services including therapeutic classrooms.

A PowerPoint was presented which provided information regarding programs supporting SEBH in Iowa schools.

There was discussion regarding the components of therapeutic classrooms and professional learning grants.

### **Board Reports**

Rod Bradley provided information regarding the preschool situation in Denison.

Cassandra Halls shared information regarding the September 14 Community College Council (CCC) meeting. The CCC focused on noncredit career and technical education, employment outcomes and understanding data collection. Iowa is leading the way nationally in data collection and reporting analysis. Halls encouraged Board members to visit [iowastudentoutcomes.com](http://iowastudentoutcomes.com) to see how Iowa schools are performing and to use the site as a resource as the Board develops a strategic plan and strategic goals.

The CCC also received an introduction to the work done by the Iowa Consortium for Higher Education in prisons. Halls recently met with the Spencer Chamber of Commerce which has created a new position to connect businesses with high school students for internship placements.

Brian Kane discussed an open house for the Dubuque's Holy Family Resurrection Elementary School and explained that Holy Spirit Parish will soon be opening a new early childhood center. There is another early childhood facility under way at St. Joseph the Worker, which is also in Dubuque.

Alaina Whittington provided an update regarding a recent National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting where student action plans were discussed.

Cindy Dietz talked about the incredible work of the Bureau of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation around the Gap Tuition Assistance Program and non-credit job training for high demand jobs.

Mike May shared information from his conversations with family at Buena Vista University and Spencer Community School District regarding getting students involved in education and therapeutic classrooms.

Brooke Axiotis mentioned that her son started Kindergarten and is doing very well.

John Robbins shared that he was impressed by the data presented at the September CCC meeting and that he recently attended the Iowa Valley Community College Board meeting. Robbins is currently serving as an interim, part-time superintendent and had the opportunity to visit a therapeutic classroom.

It was moved by Rod Bradley and seconded by Brooke Axiotis to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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John Robbins  
President

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Ann Lebo  
Director