

Minutes State Board of Education January 11, 2024

Brooke Axiotis
Vice President
Des Moines

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
President
Iowa Falls

Sophia Van Houten
Student Member
Ida Grove

McKenzie Snow
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education (State Board) meeting was held on January 11, 2024, in person, at the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

State Board members present were John Robbins, Brooke Axiotis, Nathan Peterson, and Cassandra Halls. Mike May, Cindy Dietz, Mary Meisterling and Brian Kane were present via Zoom call from separate locations.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were: McKenzie Snow, Deborah Elder, Heather Doe, Eric St Clair, Kim Buryanek, Tina Wahlert, Eric Heitz, Jeremy Varner, Stephanie TeKippe, Kimberly Villotti, Janet Boyd, Maryam Rod Szabo, Amy Gieseke, Kassandra Cline, Jay Pennington, Jason Crowley, and Jeremy Anzevino. Thomas Mayes was present via Zoom call from a separate location.

State Board Business Meeting

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to approve the agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Communication

John Robbins opened the meeting with a Statement about the Perry Community School shooting and sends the Board's deepest sympathy to that community. Asks for a moment of silence for the student who was killed. Moment of silence was executed.

John Robbins made a statement regarding limiting the time of public comment, to 30 total minutes, based on the number of speakers wishing to provide public comment.

Public Comment

No Public Comment was made.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapters 11 & 17 - Open Enrollment - School Choice

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapters 11 & 17 - Open Enrollment - School Choice.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapters 11 & 17 - Open Enrollment - School Choice.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 12 - Accreditation Standards

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 12 - Accreditation Standards.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Mike May seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 12 - Accreditation Standards.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapters 21 & 24 - Community Colleges

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapters 21 & 24 - Community Colleges.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapters 21 & 24 - Community Colleges.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 31 - Private Instruction

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 31 - Private Instruction.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 31 - Private Instruction.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 41 - Special Education

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 41 - Special Education.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 41 - Special Education.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 44 - School Buses

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 44 - School Buses.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 44 - School Buses.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 62 - Progression in Reading

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 62 - Progression in Reading.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 62 - Progression in Reading.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 98 - Categorical Funding

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 98 - Categorical Funding.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 98 - Categorical Funding.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 102 - Abuse of Students

Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, presented information regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 102 - Abuse of Students.

Motion: Nathan Peterson made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to give notice of intent to amend Chapter 102 - Abuse of Students.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

State Board of Education's Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Kim Buryanek, Administrator, PK-12 Learning and Results Division, presented information to discuss the State Board's strategic plan. She referenced the three documents she provided to the board and recommended that the State Board of Education adopt and approve the State Board's Vision Statement and Vision Statement.

Motion: Nathan Peterson made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the State Board of Education's Strategic Plan 2024-2029 Vision and Mission Statements.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Kim Buryanek then spoke specifically about the State Board's four goals. The Board Members discussed with Kim Buryanek and Department of Education staff. John Robbins stated that he wants to focus only on the 'goals' due to time constraints and discuss 'outcomes' in the future.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the State Board of Education's Goals.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Graceland University Educator Preparation Program Approval

Stephanie TeKippe, Education Program Consultant and personnel from Graceland University presented information with regards to Graceland University's state accreditation review. Stephanie highlighted elements of the Graceland University program and review for decision-making purposes. The program consultant shared a PowerPoint presentation showcasing a broad overview of Graceland University's evaluation that was available to the Board for review.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve Graceland University Educator Preparation Program.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Board President John Robbins granted a 5-minute break.

Meeting resumed at 10:34 a.m.

Accrediting Commission for Western Association of Schools and Colleges Independent Accrediting Agency Application Approval

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, and Dennis McClain, Education Program Consultant, for the Bureau of School Improvement all introduced themselves and briefed information about the accreditation process. Then briefed information specifically about the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Independent Accrediting Agency Application and recommended approval.

Motion: Nathan Peterson made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Independent Accrediting Agency Application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Middle States Association-Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools Independent Accrediting Agency Application Approval

Tina Wahlert, Bureau Chief, Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant, and Dennis McClain, Education Program Consultant, for the Bureau of School Improvement briefed information specifically about the Middle States Association-Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools Independent Accrediting Agency Application and recommended approval.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to approve the Middle States Association-Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools Independent Accrediting Agency Application.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Oakmont Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement presented background and information associated with the Oakmont Charter School Application. Janet Boyd began by recognizing the amount of effort by their team during this evaluation process. Janet Boyd stated that she will brief for about 5 minutes and then turn over to the school for their overview. She briefed her team's evaluation process. She recommended the Board approve Oakmont's application.

The President of Oakmont, briefed a short history of Oakmont then introduced a student (Aliyah) who shared her experience at Oakmont. The Oakmont staff continued to highlight their school and requested the Board's approval for their application.

Motion: Mike May made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application for Oakmont Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Empowering Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement presented background and information associated with the Empowering Charter School Application. She briefed her team's evaluation process. She recommended the Board approve Empowering's application.

The Empowering Charter School leadership, briefed a short history of Empowering and highlighted their school's activities and future plans. The Empowering Charter School staff requested the Board's approval for their application.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application for Empowering Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Civica CR Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement presented background and information associated with the Civica CR Charter School Application. She briefed her team's evaluation process. She recommended the Board approve Civica CR's application.

The Civica CR Charter School leadership briefed a short history of Civica and highlighted their school's activities and future plans. The Civica CR Charter School staff requested the Board's approval for their application.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application for Civica CR Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins paused the meeting for lunch. Resumed at 1:06.

Director's Report

Department of Education Director McKenzie Snow started her Director's Report with thanking the State Board members for their service and the moment of silence given for the Community of Perry and family and loved ones of Ahmir Joliff who was laid to rest today. Below are the topics Director Snow briefed about the Department of Education:

Visits and Consultation: All Area Education Agencies and Superintendents' regions.

Department of Education Priorities:

Support a Strong Teacher Pipeline through Recruitment and Retention

Strengthen Early Literacy and Evidence-Based Reading Instruction

Narrow and Close Achievement Gaps Experienced by Students with Disabilities

Empower Students with Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success

Board meetings: Children's Behavioral Health System State Board Meeting and the Special Education Advisory Panel.

Department of Education internal items including the introduction of the new Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Deborah Elder, the launching of the Department's new website, and raising nearly \$7,000 for the Food Bank of Iowa through the annual silent auction.

Civica DSM Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement presented background and information associated with the Civica DSM Charter School Application. She briefed her team's evaluation process. She recommended the Board approve Civica DSM's application.

The Civica DSM Charter School leadership briefed a short history of Civica and highlighted their school's activities and future plans. The Civica DSM Charter School staff requested the Board's approval for their application.

Motion: Cindy Dietz made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to approve the application for Civica DSM Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Quest CR Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement presented background and information associated with the Quest CR Charter School Application. She briefed her team's evaluation process. She recommended the Board approve Quest CR's application.

The Quest CR Charter School leadership, briefed a short history of Quest and highlighted their school's activities and future plans. The Quest CR Charter School staff requested the Board's approval for their application.

Motion: Cindy Dietz made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the application for Quest CR Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Quest DSM Charter School Application

Janet Boyd stated that the same representatives are here for Quest DSM as well. Janet Boyd said the process is the same for this application. Recommendation is that the Board approve the application for Quest DSM Charter School.

John Robbins asked if the Quest team has any different information for the DSM location. Quest DSM's representative highlighted that they discovered the military base here and wanted to explore opportunities for their school to be geared towards the military, first responders as teachers. Also, that their goal is to employ Iowa educators.

Motion: Nathan Peterson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the application for Quest DSM Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Scholarship Prep ES Charter School Application

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, and Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School improvement introduced Scholarship Prep ES & MS Charter Schools, that their application was received on time, a little bit about the schools and their evaluation score, when they're proposing opening in the Fall of 2025, that the Department of Education staff is recommending approval without conditions, and introduced the Scholarship Prep Charter School representatives. Scholarship Prep representatives briefed about their school utilizing a presentation which highlighted their Community School Model. This included highlights of their program, their recruiting plan and their application process. They requested the Board's approval of their application.

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to approve the application for Scholarship Prep ES Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Scholarship Prep MS Charter School Application

Janet Boyd stated this application is for the middle school. Same process for evaluation. Recommendation is to approve Scholarship Prep MS Charter School.

John Robbins asked if there was any difference in the applications between the two Scholarship Prep Schools. Scholarship Prep representatives said the programming is simply geared towards preparing them more for what happens after high school.

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Nathan Peterson seconded to approve the application for Scholarship Prep MS Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins is taking a 10-minute break. Resumed at 2:55.

School Budget Review Committee Update

Kassandra Cline, Chief, Bureau of School Business Operations, presented the summary of action from the School Budget Review Committee hearing held on December 12, 2023.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan Update and Revision

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information & Analysis Services, gave a presentation that included background, overview, and feedback about the proposed changes to the Every Student Succeeds Act plan.

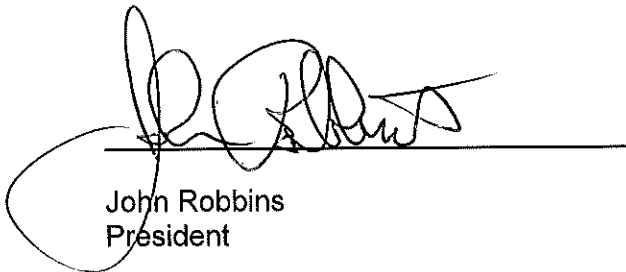
Iowa School Performance Profiles (ISPP) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) New Identifications and Supports & Assessment Results Aligned to Assessment Requirements

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information & Analysis Services, provided an overview of the latest version of the ISPP. Additionally, the presentation also covered the latest assessment results and invited the Board to ask any questions they may have.

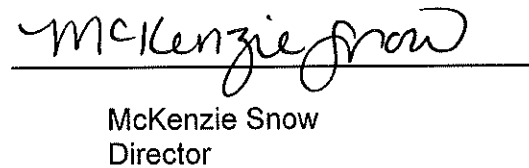
Annual Report on Citations and Corrections

Tina Wahlert, Chief, Eric Heitz, Administrative Consultant both from the Bureau of School Improvement both presented information to the Board. Eric Heitz briefed that the report the Board has in front of them, is a required report and he highlighted the information in the report including the two school districts that were noncompliant during the 2022-2023 school year and the districts that were not able to correct the noncompliance. He stated that the Department will continue to work with these districts.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.



John Robbins
President



McKenzie Snow
Director