

**Minutes
State Board of Education
February 8, 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 February 8, 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, Brian Kane, Cindy Dietz and Cassandra Halls. Mike May and Nathan Peterson were present via Zoom call from separate locations.

Iowa Department of Education (Department) staff members present were: McKenzie Snow, Deborah Elder, Thomas Mayes, Rachel Bosovich, Heather Doe, Eric St Clair, Kim Buryanek, Tina Wahlert, Jeremy Varner, Stephanie TeKippe, Janet Body, Maryam Rod Szabo, Amy Gieseke, Kassandra Cline, Barbara Ohlund, Tom Wood and Jeremy Anzevino.

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 the meeting.

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Communication

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.

Director's Report

Director Snow started off by welcoming and thanking the Board Members for their service and the Department's appreciation for their time and dedication to Iowa's students, teachers and families. Director Snow briefed the following topics:

ESSA: The Department's consideration of changes to the accountability plan, updating the proposed accountability system, and the issuance of a statewide survey to receive boarder input.

Mathematics: Listening sessions on standards and a survey soliciting public comment on the proposed changes to Iowa's mathematics standards.

ELA regarding a request to educators, administrators and content experts to review the state's ELA standards and provide suggestions for revisions.

LETRS enrollment.

EVAAS: The Department expanded the opportunity to access classroom level data in EVAAS statewide to all school districts and schools.

Visits: Meeting with student leaders representing each of Iowa's 8 CTSOs, the Agriculture Education Summit and the ninth annual Emerging Educators Academy.

Department of Education internal highlights: The STEM team recent award from Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the completion of the physical move for the Bureau of Iowa College Aid into the Grimes Building.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Oakmont Charter School Contract

Janet Boyd, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, introduced herself and the personnel from Oakmont Charter School.

Thomas Mayes, Department of Education General Counsel, reminded the Board that this is a negotiation. The Board can ask questions and negotiate.

Brian Kane commented that the contracts are all different in format and may not all contain the same components. Thomas Mayes responded that there are discussions about what needs to be in the contracts, and this is a worthwhile discussion. John Robbins commented on the challenge to review contracts that are not consistent in components or format. Brooke Axiotis expressed the desirability of a consistent template.

Director Snow asked Janet Boyd to expound on the contract process and the contracts used. Charter schools write and submit a contract. Her staff reviewed the contract and provided the Charter School with recommendations.

Tina Walhert, Bureau Chief, stated that they reviewed the contents as a staff, Kassandra Cline reviewed the financial portion and Thomas Mayes reviewed each contract to ensure legal compliance.

Thomas Mayes expressed concern about Oakmont Charter's language regarding student fees. He proposed that the school revise the contract to ensure that students will not be charged fees for activities.

John Robbins summarized the changes and asked if anyone from Oakmont would like to comment. Oakmont personnel made a few general statements thanking the Board and specified that they will not charge fees.

Thomas Mayes, asked if Oakmont had any objections to the proposed changes to the contract. Oakmont personnel had no objections.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the contract for Oakmont Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried

Empowering Charter School Contract

Janet Boyd introduced Empowering Charter School that were on Zoom. Janet Boyd recommends the State Board approve the Empowering Charter School Contract.

Thomas Mayes began by identifying some of the language in the contract and recommends some modifications. The Board, Thomas Mayes, Kassandra Cline, Janet Boyd and the Empowering personnel discussed the changes.

Director Snow asked Thomas Mayes to summarize the recommendations.

Empowering Charter School personnel also discussed.

Thomas Mayes, asked if Empowering had any objections to the proposed changes to the contract. Empowering personnel had no objections.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the contract for Empowering Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins orders a 10-minute break.

Reconvened at 10:52.

Civica CR & DSM Charter Schools Contract

Janet Boyd introduced CIVICA Charter Schools that were on Zoom. Janet Boyd recommends the State Board approve the CIVICA Charter School Contract which covers both Cedar Rapids and Des Moines schools they're proposing.

Thomas Mayes began by identifying some of the language in the contract and recommends modifications to certain areas. The Board, Thomas Mayes, Kassandra Cline, Janet Boyd and the CIVICA personnel discussed the changes.

The Board, Department of Education staff and CIVICA personnel discussed various portions of the contract and recommended changes.

Thomas Mayes, asked if CIVICA CR & DSM had any objections to the proposed changes to the contract. CIVICA personnel had no objections.

Motion: Cindy Dietz made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the contract for CIVICA CR Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the contract for CIVICA DSM Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Quest CR & DSM Charter Schools Contract

Janet Boyd introduced Quest Charter Schools that were on Zoom. Janet Boyd recommends the State Board approve the Quest Charter School Contract which covers both Cedar Rapids and Des Moines schools they're proposing.

The Board, Department of Education staff and Quest personnel discussed various portions of the contract and recommended changes.

Thomas Mayes, asked if Quest personnel had any objections to the proposed changes to the contract. Quest personnel had no objections.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the contract for Quest CR Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mike May seconded to approve the contract for Quest DSM Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins breaks for lunch.

Reconvened at 12:27 p.m.

Scholarship Prep ES & MS Charter Schools Contract

Janet Boyd introduced Scholarship Prep Charter Schools personnel that were on Zoom. Janet Boyd recommends the State Board approve the Scholarship Prep Charter Schools Contract which covers both the elementary and middle schools they're proposing.

The Board, Department of Education staff and Scholarship Prep personnel discussed various portions of the contract and recommended changes.

Thomas Mayes, asked if Scholarship Prep personnel had any objections to the proposed changes to the contract. Scholarship Prep personnel had no objections.

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cindy Dietz seconded to approve the application for Scholarship Prep ES Charter School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

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

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

State Board of Education's Strategic Planning Vision & Mission, Goals and Outcomes

Kim Buryanek, Division Administrator for PK-12 Learning Division, presented the State Board's strategic plan. She addressed the Board's desire for changes and additions.

Kim Buryanek, the Department of Education staff, and the Board Members discussed the updated plan and goals.

Cassandra Halls brought a document with specific recommendations.

John Robbins made comments on each of the Board's strategic plan items and gave a list of his suggestions with regards to some of those items. His intent is for the Board to discuss the recommended revisions and for Kim Buryanek to finalize and brief at the next State Board meeting.

Introduction of the 2024 Iowa Teacher of the Year, Ann Mincks

Gwendolyn Nagel, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Learner Strategies & Supports, who oversees the Teacher of the Year program. She spoke briefly about the program and its intent and introduced Ann Mincks, the 2024 State of Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Ann Mincks started by thanking the State Board members, the Director of the Department of Education, and Department staff, and gave a presentation about her road to becoming a teacher, why she loves doing what she does, and her goals for the future.

Legislative Update

Eric St Clair, Legislative Representative, updated the Members of the Board and Department of Education staff on the current status of legislation related to the Department.

2023 State of Educator Preparation Report

Maryam Rod Szabo, Administrative Consultant, and Stephanie TeKippe, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of Community College & Postsecondary Readiness, briefed the Board Members utilizing a presentation that outlined the goals of the program and statistics associated with each goal.

The Board members and Department of Education staff/presenters discussed the information.

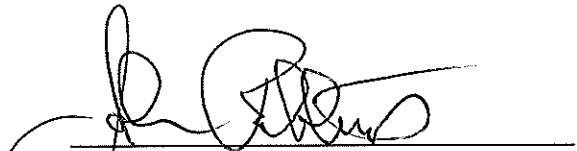
Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report Academic Year 2023

Jeremy Varner, Bureau Chief, Amy Gieseke, Section Chief and Vladimir Bassis, Bureau of Community College & Postsecondary Readiness briefed the board on data from the 2022-2023 academic year.

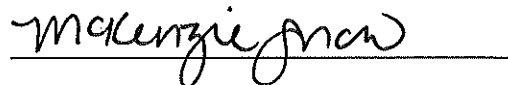
He preempted the presentation with a brief history on the report itself and the intent of the report.

Jeremy Varner, Amy Gieseke and Vladimir Bassis continued with providing data, and board members and Department staff discussed the information.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.



John Robbins
President



McKenzie Snow
Director