



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2016  
9:00 a.m. (EDT)

Indiana Government Center South  
Conference Room B  
302 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Board Members Present:** Superintendent Glenda Ritz (Chair), Mrs. Sarah O'Brien (Vice Chair), Dr. Vince Bertram, Dr. Byron Ernest, Dr. David Freitas, Mr. Gordon Hendry, Ms. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Mr. Edward Melton, Mr. B.J. Watts (via phone), Ms. Cari Whicker, and Dr. Steven Yager.

**Board Members Absent:** None

### I. CALL TO ORDER

- Superintendent Ritz called the meeting to order, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and roll was called. The roll reflected eleven members present with Mr. B.J. Watts participating via phone.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Dr. Freitas asked to move Consent Agenda Item C to New Business – Action. Consent was given. Superintendent Ritz received a motion and second to approve the agenda. The Board approved the agenda unanimously by voice vote.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the January 26, 2016 meeting by voice vote.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board unanimously approved the minutes for the February 3, 2016 meeting by voice vote.

**IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR**

- Superintendent Ritz updated the Board on recent activities and acknowledged recent award-winners.

**V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- Dr. Yager voiced concerns he is hearing from educators in our schools about the administration of the ISTEP+ assessment.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski mentioned that school administrators have much more work to do with the administration of the ISTEP+ exam under Pearson than under McGraw-Hill.
- Mr. Melton informed the Board that he was invited to the White House to mark the anniversary of the launch of the My Brother's Keeper initiative and mentioned a program under that initiative to reduce chronic absenteeism. He also thanked a number of stakeholders for working together to find funding to address the heating issues at Roosevelt College and Career Academy in Gary, Indiana.
- Mr. Hendry thanked Indiana lawmakers and stakeholder groups for working together to pass HEA 1002 which provides scholarship funding to top students interested in pursuing the teaching profession.
- Dr. Ernest reported to the Board his key takeaways from a national conference concerning the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). He said he is working with staff to make the materials available to Board Members from the conference.

**VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (public comments on specific agenda items are taken at the time each item is before the Board)**

- Steve Braun, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, testified on the diploma recommendations and the need to ensure the state's educational goals are aligned to the needs of employers.
- Eric Worthington, principal, informed the Board about issues and errors in the ISTEP+ assessment. He said he informed the Department of Education about the problem last year and was surprised it was not corrected before it appeared incorrectly again during this year's assessment. He also raised concerns about lack of communication from the Department of Education about testing issues.

- Kim Dodson, Executive Director of ARC of Indiana, testified about the proposed diploma requirements. She thanked the Board for listening to the concerns of parents of special needs students. She said there is no agreement among stakeholders about the need to change the diploma requirements and encourages the Board to wait until more data becomes available.
- Steven Lacey, Associate Professor at IUPUI, testified about the need to add health/safety and workplace safety education to the new high school diploma requirements.

#### **VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESSES**

- None

#### **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- Five items appeared on the consent agenda.
  - A. Approval of Governing Body Change – M.S.D. of Steuben County
  - B. Approval of Common School Loans
  - D. Approval of the Principal Survey per IC 20-28-11.5-9
  - E. Final A-F Placement of Damar Charter Academy
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

*The Board took a recess for technicians to address audio/video streaming issues.*

#### **IX. ADJUDICATIONS**

- None

#### **X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION**

##### **A. Approval of Proposed Growth to Proficiency Table Model**

- Steve Baker, Principal at Bluffton High School, told the Board he appreciated the process used to develop the new A-F system and the growth tables. He told the Board he supported either proposed table to be used in the growth model.

- John Albright, math coach in M.S.D of Wayne Township, described the two proposed tables as fair and good. He prefers table #19 rather than table #24. He applauded the Department of Education and State Board for developing both tables.
- Judy Stegemann, Assistant Superintendent at M.S.D. of Wayne Township, thanked the Department and Board for its work on the two proposed tables.
- Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability with the Department of Education, and Cynthia Roach, Sr. Director of Accountability and Assessment with the State Board, presented their [joint recommendation](#) from the Department and Staff concerning the growth to proficiency tables.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to give preliminary approval to growth table #24.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked the Board to recognize Ms. Paino and Ms. Roach for their work to develop the tables.

*B. Approval of Final Rule 511 IAC 15-7-2*

- Risa Regnier, Assistant Superintendent of School Support Services with the Department of Education, provided a quick overview of the proposed rule change.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the rule.

*D. Career Academy Accountability Baseline Reset Appeal - 1-12016 (taken out of order)*

- John O'Neal, representing the Indiana State Teachers Association, called for greater transparency for charter schools.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (10-0), Superintendent Ritz abstained, to approve the appeal.

*F. Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Appeal 2-12016*

- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (10-0), Superintendent Ritz abstained, to approve the appeal.

G. Approval of Continued State Accreditation Status for Earlham College Teacher Prep Program

- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve continued accreditation.

XI. **DISCUSSION AND REPORTS** *(taken out of order)*

D. CSUSA Emma Donnan Update

- John Hage and Sherry Hage from Charter Schools USA provided an [update](#) to the Board on performance and operations of Emma Donnan Middle School.

X. **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION** *(continued)*

C. Approval of Evansville School Corporation's School Improvement and Turnaround Efforts for Caze Elementary and Washington Middle School

- Officials with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation presented their [plan](#) to encourage and continue growth and improvement at Caze Elementary and Washington Middle School.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (9-0), Mr. Watts abstained due to his employment with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and Mr. Melton was not present for the vote, to approve the school turnaround plan.

*The Board recessed for lunch.*

XI. **DISCUSSION AND REPORTS** *(continued)*

A. Proposed Diploma Update

- Superintendent Ritz made a [presentation](#) to the Board concerning a task force, co-chaired by the Superintendent and Dr. Yager, on proposed changes to Indiana's high school diploma requirements.
- Lindsay Lackland, guidance counselor at Homestead High School and task force member, urged the Board to receive more data before making changes to the high school diploma requirements, especially in the area of math.
- Justin Peeper, Spanish teacher at Homestead High School and task force member, urged the Board to maintain the current diploma requirements.

- Tom Sobel, principal at Whiteland Community High School, canvassed principals in his area and shared their concerns about raising math requirements and staffing concerns from raising college and career ready course requirements.
- Steve Baker, principal at Bluffton High School and task force member, recommended no changes to the diploma requirements. He provided data to the Board from the Commission for Higher Education that showed remediation rates declining significantly. He also discussed how changing the requirements would require staffing changes in high schools.
- Pam Horne, Vice Provost at Purdue University, encouraged the Board to increase diploma requirements to better prepare students for college.
- T.J. Revard, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Indiana University, urged the Board to increase diploma requirements and make the calculus tract the default academic math course sequence for high school students.
- Todd Bess, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Principals, recognized representatives from high schools in attendance. He recommended the Board make no changes to the current diploma requirements.
- Laura Bush, Director of Area 30 Career Center, spoke against proposals by some to add fine arts requirement as it could negatively impact some CTE students.
- Kevin Gerrity, Associate Professor at Ball State University and task force member, thanked the task force for keeping the fine arts requirement for honors diploma and urged inclusion of a one fine arts credit requirement for all students.
- John Tribe, Ivy Tech Community College, supports original diploma requirements that recognize the needs of students who seek one-year, two-year, and two-year transferring to four-year post-secondary education options, especially proposals that raise math requirements. He also noted drop in remediation rates may be partially attributed to changes in reporting and testing by Ivy Tech.
- James Condon, principal at Plymouth High School, urged the Board to wait for new data before taking the step of raising the diploma requirements.

- James McNeary, principal of Guerin Catholic High School, recommended the Board make no changes to the current diploma requirements and urged the Board to keep flexibility in the requirements so students can explore multiple academic paths.
- Caryl Auslander, Vice President of Education and Workforce Development with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and task force member, urged the Board to raise the diploma requirements in order to better prepare students for college and a career and meet the needs of employers in the state. She also asked that any proposed changes be returned to the Career Council prior to final approval by the Board.
- Cheryl Clemons spoke about the impact of proposed diploma changes to students with special needs.
- Mrs. O'Brien made a motion to table indefinitely the proposal to change the diploma requirements until additional data and information can be provided on the current graduating class. Dr. Freitas seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously (8-0), Mr. Hendry and Mr. Watts were not present and Superintendent Ritz abstained, to indefinitely table the proposal to change Indiana diploma requirements.

*B. Assessment Update*

- Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Assessment with the Department of Education, provided an assessment [update](#) to the Board.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked Dr. Walker about issues relating to pilot testing. Dr. Walker said identifying schools to participate by the Department of Education required more time than ideal, but the Department extended the window to administer the pilot test by a week to provide additional time to administer the pilot test. Mrs. O'Brien asked about errors and problems in test questions. Dr. Walker responded there were problems with artwork in some questions and the Department is working to provide accurate information to teachers and students in Indiana classrooms. She also said the Department reviews materials before they go to print but some issues were not identified during their quality review.

- Ms. Whicker asked about the impact of some schools deciding not to administer the pilot test. Dr. Walker said administering the pilot test is a required part of the ISTEP+ program. She said the percent of students taking pilot tests ranges between 1-10%, depending on the grade/section.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked about why the pilot test was administered without accommodations for students with special needs. Dr. Walker said she plans to ask the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) about the potential impact of that decision. Dr. Walker said she did not know why accommodations were not provided for pilot testing. She continued by adding the Department of Education is exploring whether a fall pilot or additional spring piloting will be required.
- Dr. Walker reported that schools will receive results from IRead-3 on April 18.
- Rich Young, Pearson, updated the Board on the administration of the ISTEP+ assessment. Mr. Young said Part I administration is complete. Training of scorers will begin shortly and materials are being finalized for Part II.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked about a recent advertisement for scorers that indicated they could work from home and how that would impact test security. Mr. Young said their system accounts for that issue and scoring from home would only involve items that are scheduled to be publicly released.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked why accommodations were not provided during the pilot. Mr. Young said that was not included in their contract with the Department of Education.
- Ms. Roach told the Board the agenda for the next TAC meeting will include a discussion about the lack of accommodations during the pilot and the impact of schools refusing to pilot tests.
- Ms. Roach said she is available to answer any questions about the validity study. Superintendent Ritz said the report had been available for a while and didn't think anyone had questions.



**XII. BOARD OPERATIONS**

- Not discussed.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Upon receiving a motion and second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn by voice vote.