



# Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 3, 2011

Department of Education

James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room

151 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:02 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, Steve Gabet, James D. Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present. Vicki Snyder, Neil Pickett, and David Shane were not present.

#### I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. **Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett introduced Andrew Kossack and welcomed him to the Department of Education (DOE). Mr. Kossack was the former public access counselor and will work with the legal team to help school districts with implementation of collective bargaining and teacher quality reform. Dr. Bennett said the DOE also welcomes the Education Employment Relations Board (EERB), which is now under the umbrella of the DOE, following new legislation from the 2011 General Assembly.

Dr. Bennett informed Board members that Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell has resigned as a member of the State Board of Education, due to family and personal reasons. The Department is working with the governor's office to fill this position. Dr. Bennett thanked Dr. Griffith-Adell for her dedication and years of service on the State Board.

**IV. Spotlight on Learning** – Spotlight on Learning was deferred.

**V. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Pettibone talked about education initiatives funded with a Lilly grant and said he recently spent time at a program in northeast Indiana with representatives of aerospace defense businesses. Thirty educators attended and spent the day learning what the engineers are doing and the expectations of engineers. Mr. Pettibone said he appreciates those companies reaching out to educators.

A fourth grade teacher from Adams Central applied and was accepted as one of the Phil Mickelson Scholars. She was one of two selected from Indiana and was invited to New Jersey where they spent a week being involved in science initiatives and learning how better to teach science in elementary schools. Mr. Pettibone said another testament to great teachers was that Adams Central had about 40 percent of their teachers working over the summer to get more involved in summer training and working to become better teachers.

Mr. Pettibone said New Tech has greatly expanded in northeast Indiana and this area probably has the largest conglomerate of New Tech high schools in the state and the country.

Dr. Bennett gave Board members a copy of an article from Education Week, “States Target Early Years to Reach Third Grade Reading Goals.” The article talks about third grade reading initiatives and how it is beginning to get a lot of attention nationally. Dr. Bennett said he is very proud of the work his team has done on this issue. The DOE had over 1,400 educators attend a literacy conference held in early July, in which John Wolf and Anna Shultz, Reading consultants, were given a standing ovation.

**VI. Adjudications and Hearings**

See item A under consent agenda.

**VII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. Discussion**

**B. Assessment**

Mr. Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, participated by conference call and gave an assessment update. The DOE currently has a two year contract with CTB with the option of one two-year renewal. This current contract with CTB, including its renewal, would coincide with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), assessments that will include English/Language Arts and math. Indiana is one of 25 states in a consortium with PARCC.

The question was asked about the cost associated with PARCC assessments. Mr. Bruce said they estimate that if there is the ability to use some artificial intelligence scoring, the cost would be significantly less than our current per student cost.

**C. Accountability**

Dr. Bennett said a huge value of the PARCC assessment, which will be ready in three years is that it will be designed as a grade 3-11 assessment, so we will have growth measures for students from grades 3-11.

Dr. Bennett introduced Jackie Cissell and welcomed her to DOE. Ms. Cissell came to the DOE from FSSA and is the new Assistant Director/Community Engagement.

Jim Larson, School Turnaround Director, discussed schools that were in year five of probation and those that are now in year six. After calculating the accountability metrics, there are now seven schools on the list of six year probation.

Mr. Larson said the Turnaround School Operator finalists are: (1) EdPower, (2) Charter Schools USA, and (3) Edison Learning. The Department is in the process of analyzing Lead Partners.

Dr. Bennett explained that Lead Partners would be involved with some school corporations who can still maintain control, with some very intense interventions that would be agreed upon by the district and DOE. If the specific school districts would not want to agree to the intervention plans, DOE will assign a Turnaround School Operator.

Mrs. Blacketer read the following statement:

Turnaround School Vote, August 2, 2011:

*I appreciate all the time, dedication, attention and support the Department and Dr. Bennett provided to each and every one of the original failing schools. The travel across the state, many, many hearings and meetings, appear to have paid off based on this year's results. Yet, I find myself saddened by the fact that once we accept these results, a six-year "mulligan" plan. I fear that our kids will not be served well with this "restart."*

*I have continued to express skepticism in the overall process. While several schools showed gains, there are other percentages that we have accepted knowing they are likely inaccurate. Those percentages include attendance rates, ADM counts vs. ECA testing comparisons, Title 1 funding uses and ongoing "cut score" manipulations, social promotions regardless of ECA or ISTEP scores. All of which plan a part in the true academic picture of each school.*

*I am concerned that the good intentions of our guidelines may have been manipulated by some schools to simply ensure the flow of money to their coffers. While I understand these are preliminary numbers, it would appear that I cannot support these recommendations and ask that any formal vote be split by turnaround/take overs and those released.*

*Any formal actions will subjugate our children, whom have entrusted us to adequate educate, so they could compete in tomorrow's world.*

*The final decision we make on these preliminary numbers will be our moment in history to lead the expectations of public education in Indiana and we have blinked. In the future we will be judged by our actions or inactions in our final decision. I would ask that the two votes be separated when the final decision comes to this board. What is our next step for formality?"*

**IX. Consent Agenda Items**

Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval of the following:

- A. The hearing examiner's recommended decision in I.S. v. Southwest Dubois County School Corporation, Transfer Tuition Pursuant to I.C. 20-26-11-15. Hearing Number 1106007.
  
- B. The petitions for Freeway School status from:
  - 1. Central Christian Academy.
  - 2. Grace Christian Academy.
  
- C. The renewal of Freeway School status for:
  - 1. Howe Military School.
  - 2. Calvary Christian School.
  - 3. Community Christian School.
  - 4. Clinton Christian School.
  - 5. Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services.

D. Recommended designation of unreserved Common School Loan funds for construction and technology loans.

E. Initiation of rulemaking to repeal 511 IAC 11.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Action**

I. Charity Flores, Assessment Program Coordinator, provided information on and requested approval of IREAD-3 cut scores.

Mrs. O'Brien moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Blacketor asked to have information at a future meeting as to the purpose and value of setting cut scores.

J. Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval of emergency rule implementing IC 20-43-7.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Ms. Flores and Mr. Bruce provided information on and requested approval of the requirement that schools administer ISTEP+ online at two grade levels in 2011-2012.

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bennett said the interruptions that occurred with previous online testing have been resolved and the Department has been assured by CTB there will be significant enhancements made for the 2012 online test.

M. Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval of emergency rule implementing IC 20-43-7. [Agenda item X, J]

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. Board Operations**

It was the consensus of the Board to have a working lunch for the special Board meeting on August 29, 2011.

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Mr. Pettibone moved for adjournment. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:358 a.m.