



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 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 1:04 p.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Jo Blacketer, Steve Gabet, David Shane, Sara O'Brien, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Daniel Elsener, James D. Edwards, Vicki Snyder, and Neil Pickett were present. Board member Mike Pettibone was not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett thanked Board members for adjusting their schedules after an ice storm caused the cancellation of the February 2 meeting.

Dr. Bennett discussed the Career and Technical Education awards ceremony he attended earlier and said this is another shining example of what happens when we take a look at how we deliver education for children and prepare them for a high-skilled, high-waged economy. As the students from the student organizations came up and introduced themselves, they talked about their plans to attend Purdue University and major in agricultural economics and political science. Some discussed plans to become fire fighters and paramedics, and some planned to study mechanical engineering technology. Dr. Bennett said this shows that a robust system that allows multiple pathways for career and college readiness is an instrumental part of our K-12 system. We must continue to push for that. Dr. Bennett thanked Meridith Thompson, Executive Director, Indiana Career and Technical Education Districts for inviting him to attend the ceremony and for the work he is doing during the legislative process to bring career and technical education into a place where it elevates Indiana's K-12 system.

Dr. Bennett mentioned the list of bills given to Board members and, said we are on the cusp of taking Indiana to the pinnacle of education reform by building a system to educate Indiana's children that is like no other system in the country. Indiana has the opportunity to demonstrate the courage to build that system around a child, and around the needs of our children, and not think solely about how it affects institutions, schools, and school corporations. Dr. Bennett said these bills will face with fierce opposition. We must remain vigilant and remember that the child is at the center of the discussion.

Dr. Bennett made the following statement: "And so, as we sit today and as we continue this debate over the next few days, we should encourage everyone to engage in the debate, with the focus on 'yes we can.' Yes, our children deserve more, and here's how we can do it. Not 'no but,' but let's talk about 'yes and...'"

Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform, said he will be adding a bill to the list that was given out earlier. There was a hearing earlier in the morning in the House Education Committee on HB 1584, which is a deregulation bill. The department has worked with Chairman Behning on this bill. It streamlines the accreditation process and broadens this boards' authority to waive statute and rule. It has the potential to be very good legislation, and it goes along with the suggestion the department made, in the accountability section of the discussion agenda, to embark on a new round of deregulation by reviewing our rules and seeing what we can eliminate.

Board members discussed SB 497, higher education scholarship. Suggestions were made that there be conversations with universities about whether or not they would be comfortable accepting a student who had, for example, less than four years of English or math. How will this work in practice? Dr. Bennett said the department will need to talk to universities about how to address this issue.

Board members also asked about HB 1337. Dr. Bennett said one evaluation rubric has been through its ninth reiteration. This is only a model. It is not a mandate. The department's proposal really is that school corporations become centers of innovation when it comes to evaluation and compensation of teachers.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

V. Board Member Comments

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

- A. Anna Shultz and John Wolf, Reading Consultants, presented LSA Document #10-635, a proposed rule to implement the requirements of IC 20-32-8.5 and approval of the Reading Framework and recommended five amendments.

Mr. Zaring read a statement (see attachment) from Mike Pettibone.

Mr. Pickett moved to adopt amendments one through four. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Elsener moved to adopt the rule as amended, along with the fiscal impact statement and Reading Framework. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Discussion

Terry Spradlin and Rodney Whiteman, Center for Evaluation and Education Policy (CEEP) discussed the 2010 Public Opinion Survey on K-12 Education in Indiana. CEEP has conducted the survey in seven of the last eight years to provide information on the public perception of Indiana schools and related issues. The survey was conducted by telephone November 18 through December 4, 2010. Six hundred twelve residents, all 18 years of age or older participated. The survey focused on questions regarding use of a letter grade rating system to rate schools; the academic performance of public schools; placement of academic probation if schools do not meet annual goals for student academic growth; funding for public education in Indiana; expense of health insurance; the option of obtaining a teaching license by participation in a teacher-preparation program through a state-approved non-profit organization instead of a college or university; teacher evaluations; teacher compensation and virtual learning.

The conclusions of the survey were:

- Favorable ratings of schools are down slightly, with more Hoosiers viewing overall quality of schools across the state as average and showing no improvement.
- Respondents still highly regard their own community schools.

- Most say the quality of schools across the state has stayed the same, but more respondents say overall quality has “gotten worse” than those who said schools were “getting better.”
- Taxpayers’ dollars should remain in public education.
- More respondents said current level of funding for public education is not enough.
- School districts should have flexibility to find cost options for health insurance plans and should only join the state plan if less expensive options are not available.
- There is support for more options for teacher preparation programs and multiple measures/criteria for teacher evaluations and compensation.
- Respondents were very supportive of the use of virtual education.

Mr. Spradlin said more information about CEEP and the entire survey can be found at the following web site: <http://ceep.indiana.edu>.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on accountability and said interviews have been held with Turnaround School Operators. The next step will be school visits. When the vendors made their proposals, they sent in the “A-team,” and now the department wants to see what their programs look like in action, at schools chosen by the department.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of textbook adoption for science. [Agenda item X, B]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request approval of the December 1 special education child count. [Agenda item X, C]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of application period for Common School Fund loans for technology and construction. [Agenda item X, D]

D Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of Common School Fund loans for technology and construction. [Agenda item X, E]

Mr. Shane moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

A. Mr. Zaring requested approval of proposed rule language for new school improvement and performance categories under IC 20-31-8.

Mr. Gabet moved for approval of the proposed language and to begin the formal rule making process. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Michele Walker, Director of Assessment, requested approval of ISTAR Biology I standard setting cut score recommendations.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Zaring said Board meetings for the next three months will be held at alternate locations while the DOE building undergoes renovation.

Mr. Gabet moved for adjournment. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.