



# Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 6, 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, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Steve Gabet, James D. Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present. Vicki Snyder and Neil Pickett were not present.

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

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Dr. Adell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Bennett advised that he and another Commissioner of Education recently met with the US Secretary of Education. The meeting was interesting, informative, and they discussed what states believe they can do to make the most of a waiver process that will position states to initiate strong reforms and take advantage of much needed flexibility.

Dr. Bennett reported on the public hearings held in the past several weeks and said the last hearing would be held in Gary. The hearings have been informative. Public comments have included both support for and opposition to state intervention. Some indicated that while they appreciate the pressure from the IDOE, they do not want to lose control of their schools.

Dr. Bennett introduced James Larson as the new Director of School Turnaround.

IV. **Spotlight on Learning** – No spotlight on learning was presented.

V. **Board Member Comments**

Mrs. Blacketer gave Board members a copy of a letter regarding her thoughts on South Bend Community Schools and accountability issues.

VI. **Adjudications and Hearings**

VII. **Public Comments**

Board members were provided with an email from Steven Tripenfeldas, Principal of Munster High School, with his comments regarding the methodology for determining P.L.221 placement designations for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Tripenfeldas was unable to attend the meeting in person.

VIII. **Discussion**

Wes Bruce, Chief of Assessment, gave an assessment update. The 2011 ISTEP+ results have been posted online for parent, schools and corporation access. The final administration of the Graduation Qualifying Examination retest for the Class of 2011 was March 8 – 10, and results are now available online. As schools complete testing for end of course assessments (ECA), the results are being posted online. Final ECA results will be posted by July 15 and printed reports will follow.

Mr. Bruce talked about IREAD-3 and said the standard setting was held on June 28-30 with a panel of 24 educators. Recommendations will come before the Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Bruce gave Board members copies of a report regarding an investigation into Atlanta Public Schools cheating scandal, by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Mr. Larson reported on accountability and said the final public hearing will be held July 18 at Roosevelt High School in Gary. Intervention plans will be presented to the Board in August. The Department is currently analyzing five years of student data including ISTEP, ECA, GQE, attendance graduation rates, and diploma types. A profile of each school is being prepared so that the Department knows each school's specific needs to ensure that the most specialized and targeted intervention recommendations will be made. Mr. Larson said the release of this year's P.L. 221 accountability information is scheduled for July 22.

Dr. Bennett said the Board will approve the categorical placements at the August 3 meeting and statistically, some schools could come off the year six list. There will also be a window of opportunity for schools to appeal their P.L. 221 results.

Mrs. Blacketor commented that if she sees a school that has 50 percent of their students failing ISTEP, she will probably abstain on a vote that gets them out of failing solely because they show a three percent improvement.

Mr. Shane discussed the scenario of schools that show two-thirds of their students are still failing under the old technical implementation of the law, but manage to come off the year six probation list, and said the Department needs to make sure the community doesn't get the impression that everything is ok. Two-thirds is not acceptable and community members need to know this.

Molly Chamberlain, Chief Accountability Officer, gave an update on accountability. A memo was sent to schools letting them know the status of the P.L.221 methodology revisions. Because the new methodology has not yet been finalized, IDOE must utilize the existing methodology for A-F designations for 2011. The new A-F methodology will be used for 2012 accountability.

Will Krebs and Dan Clark gave an update on SEA 1, the teacher evaluation/compensation plan. The bill requires school corporations to have an evaluation plan with the following three key elements, no later than July 2012:

- Include an annual evaluation for all certified staff;
- Include data as a significant factor; and
- Use the follow rating categories: highly effective, effective, improvement necessary, and ineffective.

The Department is also developing a model teacher compensation plan that schools may use. The Department will also be responsible for determining if local school corporation's salary provisions are compliant with the law. If the Department decides that a school corporation's salary provisions are not compliant, the State Board of Education is responsible for ensuring compliance. The law requires this all be done by December 2012, but the Department is on track to complete this a year earlier. A user manual is being developed for the compensation plan model and will be shared with Board members at a later date.

Neil Ruddock, Director of Choice Programs, gave an update on HEA 1003. Mr. Ruddock said the DOE is required to have the Choice Scholarship program ready for the 2011-2012 school year. For school year 2011-2012 enrollment is limited to 7,500 students and capped at 15,000 students for the 2012-2013 school year. Household

income is a factor in determining eligibility. Students accepted into the program also must have spent the past two semesters in a public school, unless they received a school scholarship from a Scholarship Granting Organization in a previous year.

A “Frequently Asked Question” document can be located on the Department’s *Putting Students First* page. The DOE is currently accepting school applications, and student applications will be accepted in the near future.

Parents and schools will jointly sign a distribution endorsement form before any payments are made. Participating schools will receive payments in October and February.

Dr. Bennett thanked Mr. Ruddock for the hard work he has put into this program.

Ms. Bowman discussed a memo given to Board members from Marcie Brown, Chief Policy Advisor, regarding HEA 1002. At some point in time, the Board may have some responsibility with respect to accountability for charter school sponsors.

## **IX. Consent Agenda Items**

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

- A. Metropolitan School District of Warren County v. Indianapolis Public Schools Transfer Tuition Pursuant to I.C. 20-26-11-15; I.C. 20-26-11-8. Hearing Number 1103004. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Approval to initiate rulemaking to implement SEA 1 regarding teacher licensure. [Agenda item X, D]
- C. Approval to initiate emergency and permanent rulemaking to implement HEA 1341 regarding expenditure of state special education funds on services to nonpublic school students with disabilities. [Agenda item X, E]

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

**X. Action**

A. Mr. Bruce presented a request for approval of testing dates for IREAD 3.

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

B. Mr. Bruce presented a request for approval of proposed rule on test (ISTEP+) security.

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

C. Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval to initiate rulemaking and of proposed rule to implement SEA 1 regarding teacher evaluations.

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

**XI. Board Operations**

Ms. Bowman said the next scheduled Board meeting will be held on August 3, and Board members will meet on August 29 for a special meeting to discuss school intervention measures.

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Mrs. Blacketor moved for adjournment. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

