



# Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 1, 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, Vicki Snyder, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketer, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Steve Gabet, Neil Pickett, James D. Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present.

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

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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

Dr. Bennett discussed the A-F grade designations for PL 221, noting that determination of the grade designations for the 2010-2011 school year will be made utilizing the same methodology used for the previous category designations. The Department continues to work on the new methodology, looking at how we structure metrics, weighting growth and performance and how we structure the growth on any new school that opens.

Mr. Pickett stated his support for moving to the new category (letter grades of A-F), and there's an argument for getting to it as quickly as possible. However, a lot of thought needs to go into this regarding how we are going to communicate this to everyone involved.

#### **IV. Spotlight on Learning**

Amy Marsh, State Coordinator for AP, IB and Dual Credit, introduced Union High School's Advanced Placement Program as the Spotlight on Learning.

Brian Cadle, Principal Union High School, Rebecca Willis, AP teacher, and Clayton Ramer, former AP student, talked about the AP program.

In 2008 the school board put the charge out that they wanted their AP program to grow. Brainstorming began on how the school could use existing staff and explored student interests in AP course offerings.

In 2009-2010 four AP courses were taught: AP English Literature, AP US History, AP Calculus AB and AP Biology. Over twenty-one percent of the 2010 graduating class scored a three or higher on at least one of the AP examinations, making this one of the highest increases in student AP success in the state.

#### **V. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Pettibone congratulated Ms. Snyder, Principal, The Signature School, on being ranked eighth in the nation for the Washington Post High School Challenge.

Mr. Edwards discussed the IAACE Conference he attended three weeks ago. He is very impressed with how rapidly they have assimilated to the changes of the merger of adult education, formerly part of the Indiana Department of Education, and now with the Department of Workforce Development. Mr. Edwards said there is a high focus on adult education because this is where the need is the greatest.

Mr. Edwards discussed an economic development project created in southern Indiana. A grant was obtained to create two technology centers in two high schools. The program was immediately successful and has evolved in a Project Lead The Way program (funded by Lilly Endowment) at one of the schools. Mr. Edwards said it is vital that we continue to find funding to pay for the innovative projects that raise awareness to new heights.

Mr. Edwards gave Board members a packet of information on the Southwest Indiana Network for Education (SINE) and introduced Mary K. Cardinal, the president of SINE who has been with the organization since its inception. Ms. Cardinal described the correlation between attainment of higher education levels and the potential annual earnings increase and the enormous benefit to the economy in southern Indiana.

Ms. Blacketor discussed the National Organization for Online Distance and Virtual Learning coming in November to Indianapolis and said this would be a good opportunity for Board members to attend.

Mrs. Blacketor congratulated Dr. Bennett for being asked to head Chiefs for Change and the influence it brings to all the states. She also asked that the Department revisit assigning people to the National Association of State Boards of Education and to reengage with that group again.

Mr. Pickett thanked Dr. Bennett for his hard work and tireless effort on behalf of an extremely aggressive and exciting education reform agenda. Mr. Pickett said Dr. Bennett worked very hard with the legislative leaders and this was an enormous accomplishment for the state of Indiana.

Dr. Bennett said Heather Neal, Chief of Staff deserves a tremendous amount of credit for her personal commitment to working with the legislators, chairs of the education committees, education organization leaders and bringing people to the table. Ms. Neal was tireless in making the legislation move, getting the right amendments and did a phenomenal job. Dr. Bennett also thanked Ashley Gibson, Legislative Director for all her hard work during the 2011 legislative session.

Dr. Bennett announced a resolution for Jeffery P. Zaring, former State Board of Education Administrator. Dr. Bennett said Mr. Zaring has worked with four State Superintendents, has seen the Department through a lot of transitions, has taken the Board through a lot of difficult reform decisions, and his service to the State has been incredible.

Mr. Zaring thanked everyone in the room and their predecessors for an extraordinary opportunity. Mr. Zaring discussed his past 33 years of service with the Department of Education.

Dr. Bennett asked the Board to formally pass a resolution, recognizing Mr. Zaring for 33 years of service, leading the State Board of Education as State Board Administrator, serving the state of Indiana, and most importantly, the children in the state of Indiana, and his tireless efforts in his 33 years of service.

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

## **VI. Adjudications and Hearings**

A. Matt Voors, General Counsel, presented a recommended decision in the matter of K.Y., Petitioner, and Crown Point Community School Corporation, Respondent, along with the Respondent's objections and the Petitioner's response. Mr. Voors recommended changes to the final decision.

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

## **VII. Public Comments**

Public comments were provided by LuAnn Troxel, Julianne Charlesworth, Tim Guise, and David Hollenbeck.

## **VIII. Discussion**

Ms. Bowman, State Board of Education Administrator, reported on strategic planning and items that will come before the Board at future meetings:

- Deregulation.
- Readoption of rules scheduled to expire January 1, 2012.
- ISTEP+ test security.
- Annual performance report format and content.
- Criteria for PL 221 performance categories (A-F.)

Wes Bruce, Chief of Assessment, thanked Mr. Zaring for all the help he has given assessment and said they were very thankful for his years of service at the Department of Education.

Mr. Bruce gave an assessment update. The 2011 ISTEP+ student test results were posted online over the weekend. Parents will have access beginning June 2 and school and corporation summary reports will be posted by June 12.

CTB recently conducted an investigation into the online test interruptions that occurred for three days at the end of April. An analysis of the test results of the students whose

testing was interrupted was also conducted and based on that analysis, some students test results were invalidated. Dr. Bennett noted that CTB has absorbed all added costs associated with the investigation and analysis resulting from the interruptions, and this does not absolve CTB from any additional damages.

The Graduation Qualifying Examination (GQE) retest for the Class of 2011 was held March 8-10, and those results are available online. Mr. Bruce said this was the final administration of the GQE.

The first semester testing window for End of Course Assessment (ECA) is April 25 – June 8, and results are being posted online as schools complete testing.

Lee Ann Kwaitkowski, Director of School Turnaround reported on accountability and said two public hearings have been held and thanked Mrs. Blacketer for attending the South Bend hearing, and Mr. Shane, Mr. Pickett, and Mr. Elsener for participating at the Broad Ripple High School hearing. Comments from the public are being taken and these comments will be used to help the Board make decisions.

Ms. Kwaitkowski discussed a timeline and said the public hearings will end with the last one scheduled for early July. The Department will collect assessment data and school corporation verification of attendance throughout June and July as part of PL 221 and AYP determinations.

Ms. Kwaitkowski described two potential interventions including assigning a Turnaround School Operator (TSO) or a lead partner. If a TSO is assigned, the TSO would begin the transition year in September. Ms. Kwaitkowski said a request for information is out for what we are calling a lead partner. A lead partner might be used for a school that is heading in the right direction, but still needs some support or some oversight. The plan is to have lead partners identified within a couple of months.

Board members discussed the need to have a special meeting in August to address only school turnaround issues.

Ms. Bowman provided Board members with an updated table of legislation and the Board's responsibility resulting from the legislation.

**IX. Consent Agenda Items**

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

- A. East Porter County School Corporation v. Plymouth Community School Corporation Transfer Tuition Pursuant to I.C. 20-26-11-15; I.C. 20-26-11-8. Hearing Number 1102003. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Common School Fund Advancement for Construction and Technology Programs for the School City of Hammond. [Agenda item X, A]
- C. Freeway School Petition for Demotte Christian School. [Agenda item X, E]
- D. Freeway School Petition for Horizon Christian Academy. [Agenda item X, F]
- E. Freeway School Petition for Jay County Christian Academy. [Agenda item X, G]
- F. Freeway School Petition for Oakland High School. [Agenda item X, H]
- G. Freeway School Petition for Cornerstone Christian College Preparatory Day and High School. [Agenda item X, I]
- H. Freeway School Petition renewal for Columbus Christian School. [Agenda item X, J]
- I. Freeway School Petition renewal for Covenant Christian High School. [Agenda item X, K]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Blacketor asked for an update on freeway schools at a future meeting, as it relates to school vouchers.

- J. Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval of the rulemaking process to repeal 511 IAC 9 on textbook adoption. [Agenda item X, L]

**X. Action**

- B. Ms. Marsh presented a request for approval of High School Test Preparation Course.

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

- C. Kelli McGregor, ETE Specialist, presented a request for approval of course descriptions and academic standards for Human Body Systems and Medical Interventions and for a course title change of one of the biomedical courses.

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

- D. Schauna Findlay, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented a request for approval of language arts lab and mathematics lab course descriptions for middle school.

Mr. Edwards moved for approval. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Zach Foughty, Secondary Math Specialist, and Matt Fleck, Director of college and Career Preparation, presented a request for approval to amend 511 IAC 6-7.1.



Mr. Elsener moved for approval. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. The request for approval of consideration of school consolidation proposal from Cass School Township and Dewey Prairie Consolidated School Corporation, tabled at the May 2011 meeting, was presented.

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

## **XI. Board Operations**

Board members approved by consensus to have a meeting on July 6.

Mr. Pettibone moved for adjournment. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.