



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 4, 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 9:03 a.m. Board members Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Steve Gabet, Neil Pickett, James D. Edwards, and Daniel Elsener were present. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, and Vicki Snyder were not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Mr. Pettibone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

Mr. Pettibone introduced Becky Bowman, State Board of Education Administrator. Jeffery P. Zaring, former State Board of Education Administrator is now the Executive Director, Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, Inc. Mr. Pettibone thanked Mr. Zaring for coming to the meeting during this transition. Mr. Pettibone said when he found out Mr. Zaring was leaving the Department of Education (DOE), he called and thanked him for the time he has given and appreciated the continuity he has brought to the Department.

Mr. Pettibone discussed education reform in the past and present. In 1986 Governor Orr created the A+ Program which became the first piece of ISTEP+. The Department has now crossed another bridge of education reform. The bargaining law of the 1970's has over extended its purpose and has been modified to allow administration the opportunity to lead in an increasingly competitive environment of charter schools and vouchers. Courage has been taken to address schools that have not had academic success. We are now looking at Common Core Standards and Assessments. Mr. Pettibone said he would ask that everyone cautiously look at the decisions and understand the consequences of the most recent changes that education is going through now. There is much success in our public schools, and we do not want to disrupt this with the changes that are coming forward.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Stacey Hughes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, said the Spotlight on Learning focuses on Danville High School which has been very successful in preparing students to succeed on the Algebra I End of Course Assessment (ECA), and introduced Mr. Denis Ward, Superintendent, Danville Community Schools.

Mr. Ward said the program currently used at the high school began before he arrived three years ago and thanked the very courageous building principal and teachers.

P. J. Hamann, Danville High School Principal, introduced Jamie Young, Annette McEwen, Jenny Kwon, and Christie Leeman.

Ms. Kwon said the high school ECA scores from 2006-2008 were not good and obviously going in the wrong direction. The decision was made that change was desperately needed and they could not continue to do the same things and expect different results. They did research and found a school in Louisville, Georgia, that was doing standard based mastery learning. Several Danville High School personnel went to Louisville to see what Louisville teachers were doing and what was going on in their school. They brought back their program and believed it would be an excellent fit for Danville High School. The first year they used mastery learning they had remarkable results.

Ms. McEwen explained that mastery learning Algebra I was divided into four parts, containing eight – nine indicators. Students need to master each indicator at 80 percent or higher. Students are also required to complete all homework prior to taking tests. As students pass all indicators in each module at 80 percent or higher, they move into the next module. For students needing help, tutoring programs are offered from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Monday through Friday.

Mr. Hamann explained that assessments were written first, and then they used them to develop their lessons, specifically toward those tests. As they go forward, the expectations of learning the material has become the standard, in that each student must know the material before they can move on. An important aspect of this program is students have to do their homework before they take the indicator tests. Homework allows the teachers to get a much broader view of what the students know.

Mr. Hamann said the plan for Danville High School is that while moving forward they will continue to develop all of their courses around the mastery concept.

V. Board Member Comments

Mr. Edwards gave Board members a copy of a powerpoint presentation from Pike Central High School “Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam.” Pike Central High School students

involved in this program made a presentation to State Board members several months ago. Mr. Edwards said the program consists of freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors and this is project based learning at its ultimate. The students developed a disaster relief shelter that could be put on a skid and dropped down on site in a disaster area. The relief shelter includes two beds, a water source, and power supply. The students have gone through several judging cycles at MIT, received an award that was created by Bill and Melinda Gates, who sponsored the award ceremony, and this culminates with students going to MIT for four days. Mr. Edwards said Pike Central was one of more than a thousand schools that competed for the award, and a couple of weeks ago the school was advised they were in the final four. Mr. Edwards said this is a very powerful statement of what can happen in education in Indiana.

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by David Wolf, Cass Township resident.

VIII. Discussion

Ms. Bowman reported on strategic planning and said updates will be coming in June on deregulation and response to the 2011 legislation.

Wes Bruce, Chief of Assessment, reported on ISTEP and said paper testing has gone very well, with the exception of the areas of the state impacted by flooding. A number of schools have been closed and in some cases, closed for several days. The impact has been relatively small, and issues with those schools impacted by flooding are being dealt with on a case by case basis.

Mr. Bruce asked for approval on a case by case basis, to extend the testing window, for both paper and online testing, up to two additional days, for those schools and

school corporations who have been impacted by flooding or the interruption in the online testing system.

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

Mr. Bruce said the target for online testing was 120,000 students but approximately 182,000 students are participating in online testing. Although some minor interruptions in online testing are not uncommon, an unexpected interruption occurred last week. During a three day period, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., the online testing system stopped working in many areas. An issue with the application servers occurred, the application servers “took a time out,” and thousands of student’s tests were interrupted, due to a failure of our system. Mr. Bruce said this was unacceptable; and Ellen Haley, President of CTB, would discuss the issue with Board members.

Mr. Bruce talked about the validity of those students’ tests and that the Department has plans in place to look at every student’s tests that experienced the online testing interruptions. Those will be matched with students whose testing was not interrupted, and they would compare the results.

Ms. Haley discussed what CTB found and the actions taken. She also introduced Bruce Marcus, Chief of Technology for CTB. Ms. Haley said that Marcus and Jason Thacker, DOE’s Chief of Information Technology, were meeting today to discuss the technical details as to what happened. Ms. Haley also apologized to Board members for the interruptions that some students experienced and said everyone involved was taking this matter very seriously. She reported that after the interruptions, students were finally able to login on, but in some cases it took several attempts. They did not lose any data and were able to pick up right where they left off. Ms. Haley said careful data analysis will be done, and CTB does not expect there will be any negative data on the test results. CTB will review all findings with the Department of Education, and test results for all students will be back the end of May.

Lee Ann Kwaitkowski, Director of School Turnaround, gave an update on accountability for schools that are on year five of probationary status. The public hearings will be conducted in May and June. Letters have been sent to each of the superintendents and meeting dates, times, and places where hearings are to be held have been scheduled. School districts will be providing the notices to their parents and community members. The turnaround team will also work with the local media to help get information to the community. Most Board members have signed up to participate in a hearing. There are still three sites that need a Board member to be present – Northwest High School, East Chicago High School, and George Washington Community School.

Meetings were held last week regarding the request for the proposal for the Turnaround School Operators (TSO). The list has been narrowed down from the five that the team conducted onsite visits. They now have three TSO for whom they have further questions. Ms. Kwaitkowski said they are close to being able to put all this information on the Department's web site.

Dale Chu, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Legal, gave an update on legislation and said this was a very successful session of the General Assembly. Mr. Chu provided highlights from key education bills, including legislation that:

- Moves driver's education from the DOE to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.
- Ensures that state special education dollars generated by nonpublic school students are spent on services to those students.
- Gives teachers and schools more latitude with their textbooks.
- Moves career and technical education from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to the DOE and moving adult education to DWD.
- Provides clarity in terms of language and authority, in terms of school turnaround for schools the facing possibility of state intervention.
- Increases funds of full day kindergarten.
- Adds a teacher performance.

- Provides for annual teacher evaluations. The DOE is working on a pilot for the evaluation process and 32 school corporations have applied to be part of the pilot.
- Limits collective bargaining to salary, wages and wage related benefits. In the past when corporations needed to reduce the number of teachers, the primary factor was seniority and now seniority cannot be the overall primary consideration.
- Established the Indiana School Charter Board. More authorizers in the state will be able to open up charter schools but at the same time, greater accountability for charters. The bill also ends the virtual pilot program. Those virtual pilots are able to apply to become a charter. A provision in the bill also allows a school in the lowest performance category for a number of years to apply to become a charter.
- Provides for school scholarships, including a tax deduction for a parent who sends a child to a private school or home schools the child. This also holds nonpublic schools more accountable for performance. If a nonpublic school wants to participate in the choice scholarship program, it must administer ISTEP to all of its students.

Mr. Chu said this is a new day for education in Indiana; we have never seen such a breadth and depth of educational reform. The challenge now will be the implementation process.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Ms. Bowman presented a request from Whitko Community School Corporation to change its Education Service Center assignment. [Agenda item X, A]
- B. Ms. Bowman presented a request for acceptance of the April 1 Special Education child count. [Agenda item X, B]

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

X. Action

- C. Ms. Bowman presented a request for approval of the rulemaking process to repeal 511 IAC 5-1 (GED Testing.)

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

- D. Ms. Bowman presented a request for recognition of accrediting agencies for purposes of IC 20-51 and IC 21-12.

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

- E. Matt Fleck, Division of College and Career Preparation, presented a request for approval of ratifications, certifications, assurances, and other actions necessary to reflect designation of the Indiana State Board of Education as the "Perkins IV eligible agency" pursuant to HEA 1340-2011.

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

- F. Ms. Bowman presented a request for consideration of school consolidation proposal from Cass School Township and Dewey Prairie Consolidated School Corporation.

The following individuals made oral presentations:

- Dave Hollenback, attorney for Cass Township.
- Monica Conrad, attorney for Dewey Prairie Consolidated School Corporation.

- Dr. Norm Kleist, Superintendent, LaPorte Community Schools.
- Dr. Robert Boyd, Indiana State University.
- Doug Wolf, Cass Township parent.
- Chris Smith, Superintendent, South Central Community Schools.
- Dave Guist, former superintendent at South Central Community Schools.

Board members asked a number of questions

Mr. Shane made a motion to table this matter to provide Cass and Dewey Prairie with the opportunity to provide additional information to help further the Board's understanding of what they are proposing and to demonstrate that it fits within the statutory language. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mrs. Blacketor moved for adjournment. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:26 p.m.