



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 30, 2012

Department of Education

James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room

151 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

9:00 a.m.

Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, James D. Edwards, Tony Walker, Jo Blacketor, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Cari Whicker, B.J. Watts, Sarah O'Brien, Neil Pickett and Daniel Elsener were present.

James Edwards moved to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2012, Board meeting. Jo Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Dr. Bennett introduced B.J. Watts, a teacher from Evansville, as the newest member of the Board. Dr. Bennett reported on accountability, noting that the significant downward longitudinal trend in the number of failing schools demonstrates that accountability is working and has been effective in driving improved student performance. He also indicated that, because this is the first year using the new accountability metrics, preliminary grade designations for schools had been delayed in order for the Department to ensure accurate determinations. With regard to REPA II, Dr. Bennett noted that Department was reviewing more than 700 comments and wanted to be very deliberative in making recommendations for final rule language. As a result, REPA II would not come to the Board until at least the December meeting.

Dan Elsener affirmed the Department's leadership on accountability, noting the thousands of students who have benefitted from these efforts. He also reiterated a previous request that the Board and the Department recognize the significant growth that some schools make, despite not making the expected grade. Dr. Bennett indicated that information about the school's grade designation would be provided in two formats: a more quantitative data report and a more narrative explanation (bullet point list). Neil Picket requested that the Department provide information at the next meeting on the schools who fit into the category Mr. Elsener described.

Mike Pettibone commended the work done with the A-F metrics that allows "A" schools to avoid an automatic "C" for not making AYP. He also commended the deliberation being taken with REPA II, noting that the Department should work as closely with the field in developing licensure requirements as they did in developing the A-F metrics for high schools.

Tony Walker acknowledged the work Edison has done in transforming Roosevelt High School in a relatively short time, and commended Department staff for going above and beyond their DOE responsibilities in helping to get the building ready for students.

Fran Thoele, former superintendent of New Harmony, provided the Spotlight on Learning, describing the efforts that went into the successful consolidation with MSD North Posey.

No public comments were made.

Jim Larson provided an update on the Lead Partners, noting that they have kicked off a new year at the two high schools. In future Board meetings, members will be provided with written updates – a data dashboard that includes annual goals and progress on benchmarks – to guide the Board's conversation. The Professional Learning Community schedules will also be provided to members should they want to attend.

Charter Schools USA, Edison Learning, and EdPower provided updates on their status in terms of enrollment, staffing, successes, and opportunities for improvement. Overall, enrollment numbers are down from the September 2011 ADM count. Edison and EdPower

report being fully staffed, while Charter Schools USA still has a few vacancies to fill. Edison notes parental support and buy in as a success, as well as opportunities to improve in the areas of technology, physical plant, and professional development for the “late hires.” EdPower described successes of improved safety, teacher training, acuity assessments, and core values, while transportation issues, training for “new hires,” and equipment needs present opportunities for improvement. For Charter Schools USA: (1) Emma Donnan successes are a safe and orderly environment and increased enrollment since the first day of school, while citing continuing to increase enrollment and supporting the social-emotional needs of the students as opportunities for improvement. (2) Manual successes include increased enrollment since the first day of school, and the opportunity for improvement is to reduce the daily student absence rate of 25%. (3) The Howe Ambassador Program was cited as a success, while creating a safe and respectful school culture was noted as an opportunity for improvement. Dr. Bennett asked that TSO goals, deadlines, timelines, and metrics for each area of TSO responsibility. “Data dashboards” will be provided to Board members in advance of future meetings.

The Board, in its consent agenda and by unanimous vote, approved: (1) the governing body selection plan changes for New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated Schools; (2) State Technology Assistance Advances; (3) testing dates for the 2013-14 school year; and (4) withdrawal of LSA #11-562.

Jon Gubera requested approval of the school grade designation of “F” for John Marshall Community High School, conditioned upon the grade remaining unchanged after the opportunity for appeal. Neal Pickett moved to approve the grades, and Dan Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Jim Larson presented the Department’s recommendation that a lead partner be assigned as the intervention for John Marshall Community High School. The recommended intervention complements IPS’s turnaround efforts in the fourteen schools that feed into John Marshall by utilizing the same vendors – Voyager Learning in conjunction with the Vallas Group. A mid-year review of the lead partner’s progress will be conducted, and if necessary, modifications to the intervention will be recommended. If the lead partner does not achieve the established

goals by the end of 2012-13 school year, the Department recommends that a turnaround school operator be assigned. Mike Pettibone moved to approve the recommended intervention. Tony Walker seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Wes Bruce requested approval of a requirement that schools utilize online ISTEP+ testing for the multiple-choice portion for all grade levels of students in all schools having the required equipment and verified infrastructure. Mike Pettibone moved to approve the requirement; David Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. At Mike Pettibone's request, Mr. Bruce also addressed the security and integrity agreement required for anyone involved in the ISTEP+ process.

Becky Bowman presented recommendations for the Board's adoption regarding accountability metrics for the Indiana School for the Blind and the Indiana School for the Deaf as required by HEA 1367. After some discussion, Neil Pickett moved to table the item until the next board meeting, and David Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dr. Bennett asked that approval of the proposed changes to 511 IAC 6.2-3-1 be tabled until the December Board meeting. Dan Elsener moved to table the item as requested, and David Shane seconded the motion. The motion to table the item passed unanimously.

Becky Bowman requested Board approval to readopt 511 IAC 4-1.5. Mike Pettibone moved to approve the readoption, and Neil Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mike Pettibone moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dan Elsener seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.