



Indiana State Board of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Indiana State Board of Education

April 3, 2013

Indiana Government Center – Conference Room A
302 West Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Study Session

9:00 a.m.

Board members Glenda Ritz, Jo Blacketor, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Cari Whicker, Tony Walker, Neil Pickett, B.J. Watts, Jim Edwards, and Dan Elsener were present. Sarah O'Brien was absent.

As part of the broad topic of statewide accountability for schools, Superintendent Ritz led Board member discussion on issues of assessment and measures of student growth and achievement. Board members identified a number of things that they believe are important characteristics of accountability: clear measures, high standards, innovation, addressing continually failing schools, making sure students are college or career ready, encouraging leadership needed to develop the human capacity to make the needed improvements, and action-oriented school improvement. The discussion also touched on formal and informal assessments, including how assessment information is used to inform instruction, intervention, and accountability, and various methods for measuring student growth and achievement. Members agreed future study sessions would be beneficial.

The Superintendent adjourned the Study Session at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Regular Business Meeting

10:45 a.m.

Board members Glenda Ritz, Jo Blacketor, Mike Pettibone, David Shane, Cari Whicker, Tony Walker, Neil Pickett, B.J. Watts, Jim Edwards, and Dan Elsener were present. Sarah O'Brien was absent.

Upon a motion by Neil Pickett, second by Tony Walker, and unanimous vote of the members, the minutes from the February 6, 2013, Board meeting were approved.

Superintendent Ritz noted that the Discussion item regarding the Connectivity Grant had been withdrawn at Mike Pettibone's request. He will work with the Department on the issue. The Superintendent also updated the Board on some recent activities: the STEM Robotics competition at Purdue; new Career and Technical Education initiatives, including the newly established Works Council; the School Safety Committee meeting; the upcoming Department sponsored literacy initiative; and her April 27, 2013, Summit on School Improvement.

Ken Willard from the National Association of State Boards of Education made a presentation on the benefits and services available to the Board should the Board decide to become a member of the Association.

Subsequent to the presentation, Neil Pickett made a motion that the Board join the Association. Tony Walker seconded the motion, and the motion passed by consensus. Board members also made a request for consideration of individual member travel allotments from the Board appropriation. The Superintendent agreed that travel allotments could be considered from the next appropriation.

Cari Whicker reported on her participation in standard setting for some of the tests to be used for teacher licensing, also noting that a number of Indiana teachers were also involved in the process. Tony Walker voiced the need for an Indiana statute to mandate compulsory attendance in and funding for full day kindergarten.

Nancy Wenger and Steve Baker provided general public comment.

Keith Fessler, Principal of New Palestine High School, along with Miles Hercamp, Caroline Clayton, and Laura Rigsbee provided the Best Practices and Innovations in Education presentation, highlighting the efforts that have made the high school a National Blue Ribbon School. Superintendent Ritz provided Board members with the names of the seven other Indiana schools that were recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools.

In reviewing the updates from the Turnaround School Operators and Lead Partners, Neil Pickett made two requests: (1) that the updates provided to the Board utilize a consistent executive summary format with raw data available behind the summary, and (2) that an in-depth year-end report on the progress in each of the turnaround academies. Tony Walker inquired about the status of and requested a copy of the Department's written agreement with the Mayor's office regarding oversight of the Indianapolis Turnaround School Operators. He also indicated concern about ongoing issues between Edison Learning and Gary Community School Corporation regarding Roosevelt College and Career Academy. Gary Superintendent Cheryl Pruitt and Edison Learning representative Todd McIntire both addressed the Board, advising that they were engaged in mediation in an attempt to resolve the issues.

Dana Jones, Early Learning Specialist, presented information on the Early Learning Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards for Young Children.

After some limited discussion, approval of Board meeting operating procedures was removed from the Consent Agenda. The operating procedures will be a topic for a future board meeting. Mike Pettibone moved to approve the consent agenda, and Tony Walker seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the Board approved the request to designate \$50 million of the unreserved Common School Fund balance for construction and technology loans and the Freeway Petition for Delaware Christian School.

The Director of Special Education requested approval to initiate rulemaking to amend 511 IAC 7-33 to align Indiana's requirements regarding parental consent for the use of public funds or insurance to pay for special education and related services with the new federal requirements. Mike Pettibone moved, David Shane seconded, and a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor of approving the request.

The Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement and Growth requested approval to initiate rulemaking and for the proposed amendments to 511 IAC 6-7.1-4(c)(6) as provided. Neil Pickett moved, B.J. Watts seconded, and a roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor of approving the request.

The Department requested approval to initiate rulemaking and for the proposed language provided for Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (“REPA II”). Dan Elsener moved to approve the request, and David Shane seconded the motion. After some discussion, a roll call vote was taken. The following members voted in favor of the motion: Jo Blacketer, David Shane, Cari Whicker, Tony Walker, B.J. Watts, Jim Edwards, Dan Elsener and Neil Pickett. Mike Pettibone and Superintendent Ritz voted against the motion.

A Study Session will be a part of each Board meeting, and Board meetings will continue within the established meeting hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Neil Pickett asked that, to the extent possible, Study Session materials be provided in advance of the meeting. Dan Elsener asked that ISTEP and growth information be an item on a future agenda.

Superintendent Ritz adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.