

MINUTES

Indiana State Board of Education Business Meeting

October 04, 2023

9:00 A.M. EDT

Conference Room B
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

<https://youtu.be/KN3-qsr9bnc>

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote, Vice-Chair (by video), Mr. William Durham Jr., Secretary, Mr. Scott Bess (by video), Ms. Erika Dilosa, Dr. Byron Ernest (by video), Mr. Greg Gastineau, Mr. Pat Mapes, Ms. Kristin Rentschler (by video), and Mr. B.J. Watts (by video).

Board Members Absent: Ms. Iris Hammel

- I. **Call to Order:**
 - a. Roll Call: A quorum is present.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** The Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** The Minutes, for the September 13, 2023, meeting, were approved by unanimous vote.
 - a. September 13, 2023 - Memo
- IV. **Statement from the Chair:** Dr. Jenner commented on the successful September 13, 2023, Work Session and stated that stakeholder meetings are currently being held, prior to the 2024 session of the Indiana General Assembly. Additionally, Dr. Jenner stated, Governor Holcomb announced October 16 through 20, as Indiana Principals Week, and the 2024 Teacher of the Year had been announced. Mr. Eric Jenkins, Franklin Community High School, was given the honors by IDOE. Also, Dr. Jenner announced the top eleven Blue Ribbon Schools were made public, as well as, the recipients (112 schools, 2500 teachers) of the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Powered Platform Pilot Grant.
- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports:** None
- VI. **Public Comment:** None
- VII. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.
 - a. Rulemaking: Teacher Preparation Programs and Science of Reading - Memo
 - b. Approval of Governing Body Change: Crawford County Community School Corporation - Memo
- VIII. **Discussion:** Dr. John Keller, Chief Information Officer, IDOE, presented Student Attendance & Indiana's New Early Warning Dashboard.
 - a. School Attendance - Presentation

- i. Ms. Mote asked Dr. Keller if the information on children in the foster youth programs and the juvenile justice system were available, and, if so, what does success look like? Dr. Keller responded he did not have the numbers but would give Ms. Mote the information. Ms. Mote stated she believes the ability to impact performance is likely different within those groups and should be broken apart.
- ii. Mr. Mapes told Dr. Keller the information presented was “great data” to show another reason why we need to reimagine high school and make it relevant to students.
- iii. Regarding the 84 Indiana schools with chronic absenteeism rates, Ms. Dilosa asked if there were commonalities among the schools e.g., transportation. Mr. Mapes added the national shortage of bus drivers as a segment of the transportation problem. Dr. Jenner responded commonalities would be shared at a later date.
- iv. Mr. Durham affirmed the information presented can be utilized to make progress. Mr. Durham asked for the academic performance numbers of the 69.3% of black students who are not chronically absent. Dr. Jenner stated that is the next level of analysis.
- v. Dr. Ernest thanked Dr. Keller for the report and implored the board and legislators to not have knee-jerk responses to the report. The information is very complex, and the root causes need to be studied.
- vi. Mr. Durham stated he does not know how, but in his opinion, parents should be held accountable for minors not attending school.
- vii. Regarding the current culture, Mr. Gastineau asked if a TV campaign could be created to reach Indiana parents, stressing the importance of both, their children attending school and parents reading to their kids. Dr. Jenner replied, there are reading PSAs currently on radio and TV, and she would ask the IDOE communications team to research how to expand to other information. Mr. Gastineau further commented on using social media to spread the word.
- viii. Ms. Dilosa believes parents need to receive data and Indiana scores in order to see the impact chronic absenteeism has on education. Covid may have stuck parents in the wrong mindset, that my child doesn’t need to be at school as frequently.
- ix. Ms. Rentschler suggested linking the importance of school attendance during the early years of education and the ability to pass IREAD-3 and moving forward to a successful career. Early school attendance promotes less struggles in school and less absenteeism down the road.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.