



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

August 5, 2015
9:00 a.m. (EDT)

Indiana University Memorial Union
Georgian Room
900 E. 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

Board Members Present: Superintendent Glenda Ritz (Chair), Dr. Byron Ernest (Secretary), Dr. Vince Bertram, Dr. David Freitas (by phone), Mr. Gordon Hendry, Ms. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Mr. Edward Melton, Mrs. Cari Whicker, Mr. B.J. Watts, and Dr. Steven Yager.

Board Members Absent: Mrs. Sarah O'Brien (Vice Chair).

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Superintendent Ritz called the meeting to order, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and roll was called. The roll reflected nine members present with Dr. Freitas and Mrs. O'Brien absent.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Superintendent Ritz received a motion and second to approve the agenda. Superintendent Ritz requested to take the agenda out of order when a representative from CTB/McGraw-Hill arrived to make a presentation. The Board approved the agenda by unanimous voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Superintendent Ritz received a motion and second to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2015 meeting. The Board voted to approve the minutes by unanimous voice vote.

John Applegate, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Indiana University – Bloomington made welcoming remarks to the Board. Mr. Hendry thanked Mr. Applegate and Indiana University for hosting the Board meeting and noted that Forbes recently listed Indiana University as one of the top 25 universities in the country.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR

- Superintendent Ritz informed the Board that Indiana received a three-year waiver from some of the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act by the U.S. Department of Education. She also noted her department was closely monitoring the debate in Congress of the renewal of the No Child Left Behind Act. The Superintendent discussed the launch of a new mobile application that can be downloaded from the department's website. Superintendent mentioned that she participated in three e-learning conferences that attracted thousands of educators and she is forming a blue-ribbon commission to look at attracting and retaining teachers in the state.

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Ms. Kwiatkowski reported to the Board about M.S.D. of Warren Township winning a federal "Race to the Top" grant and how that funding would be used to personalize learning, provide alternative educational pathways for graduation, and to create culturally relevant PBIS in the township schools.
- Mr. Melton asked for thoughts and prayers following the loss of two Gary Community School Corporation students.
- Mr. Hendry commended the community and leaders at Goshen Schools for changing the name of their school mascot and called on other schools with mascot names that could be considered insensitive to consider changing their names as well.
- Dr. Ernest reported that he recently attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting and was elected to serve on the NASBE Board of Directors representing new members. He also reported working with the Institute for Quality Education catalyst grant program and commended those who submitted proposals for their innovation. Finally, Dr. Ernest requested the Superintendent gather the appropriate stakeholders for a meeting to discuss questions about Title I funding for charter schools.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (public comments on specific agenda items are taken at the time each item is before the Board)

- Todd Bess, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Principals, voiced concern over the credentialing process for dual-credit teachers and suggested that delays may prevent Hoosier children from being able to access dual-credit courses due to lack of qualified teachers.

- Kerry Steiner, Executive Director of the Indiana Native American/Indian Affairs Commission, noted to the Board that Governor Pence reconstituted the Commission, applauded the decision of the Goshen School Board to change the school's mascot, and encouraged the Board to consider Native American languages when developing rules for Indiana's new bi-literate diploma program.

VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESS

- Naomi Swiezy, Ph.D., made a [presentation](#) to the Board about the HANDS in Autism program.

Dr. Bertram returned to the comment on dual-credit credentialing from the General Comment section to praise dual-credit courses in their ability to help students more quickly attain degrees and lower cost of higher education. He also asked for data to see if dual-credit students perform worse in college based on teacher not receiving a dual-credit credential and if same credential requirements would apply to other courses that are also accepted for credit by colleges and universities.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- Five items appeared on the Board's Consent Agenda.
 - Readoption/Expiration of Rules
 - Redrawing District Boundaries for Census
 - SBOE Operating Procedures
 - Freeway Schools Accreditation
 - Dismissal of cause 04-042015
- The Board moved and seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The Board approved the Consent Agenda unanimously by voice vote.

IX. ADJUDICATIONS

- None

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION

- Review of data from June 2015 standard setting studies and preliminary approval of adjusted teacher licensure cut scores*
 - Risa Regnier, Assistant Superintendent of School Support Services, made a [presentation](#) to the Board recommending the adjustment of cut scores for specific teacher licensing exams. Assistant Superintendent Regnier asked the Board to give preliminary approval to the recommended cut scores, which would be followed by a public comment period and then be returned to the Board at a future date for final approval. Assistant Superintendent Regnier noted that should the Board grant final approval, per rule, the new cut scores would not go into effect until 90 days after final approval.

- Mrs. Whicker commended the Department of Education, test vendor Pearson, and State Board staff for working together to propose these adjustments and in drafting the rule which would reduce the amount of time between final approval of new cut scores and the effective date.
- Superintendent Ritz requested and received a motion and second to give preliminary approval on the recommended new cut scores.
- Dr. Bertram asked if the Board was being asked to approve these changes because the assessment is not accurately reflecting what teaching candidates should know or whether an instructional problem exists with teaching candidates not being taught what the state believes they should know? Assistant Superintendent Regnier responded, the Department of Education is continually examining both possibilities to ensure teacher preparation programs and the assessments are aligned to Indiana's standards.
- Mr. Hendry asked the Department of Education if there is a problem with the assessment? Superintendent Ritz and Assistant Superintendent Regnier responded, no. Mr. Hendry questioned why the Department of Education and teacher panels were recommending an increase in the pass rate for certain tests.
- Mrs. Whicker, having served on similar panels, commented that reviewers do not know current cut score or passing rates, they make their recommendations based solely on the content that prospective teachers should know in order to pass.
- Superintendent Ritz described the process as agnostic and informed the Board that reviewers do not look at pass/fail rates of previous test takers; they make recommendations based strictly on the content.
- Mr. Watts added the review panel is not convened to raise or lower the score or adjust percent of prospective teachers passing the test. They strictly review the material and recommend what a prospective teacher should know in order to receive a license.
- Nathan Estel, representing the evaluation systems group at Pearson, informed the Board how the company selects review panels and the role those panels play in determining cut scores in relation to Indiana standards for receiving a teaching license.
- Dr. Yager stressed to the Board these recommendations come from teachers and educators in the field. It represents their expertise about the knowledge a new teacher should possess when entering the field.

- Ms. Kwiatkowski stated that teachers believe the licensure assessment tests knowledge at a much deeper level and encouraged teacher prep programs to adjust their models to take that added rigor into account. Superintendent Ritz added that many Indiana colleges and universities are adjusting their teaching models to help prepare students to pass this exam and succeed in the classroom.

Dr. Freitas joined the meeting by telephone

- Dr. Freitas thanked Pearson for offering to provide more information to the Board on test development and requested to join those meetings when they occur.
- The Board voted to give preliminary approval to the adjusted cut scores, as recommended, on a vote of 9-1 (Mr. Hendry voted no).

The Board took a short recess.

B. Charter School Grant and Loan Program

- John O'Neal, representing the Indiana State Teachers Association, voiced the group's opposition to the Charter School Grant and Loan program.
- Superintendent Ritz requested and received a motion and second to approve the Charter School Grant and Loan Program.
- Mr. Melton asked if opportunities are available for traditional public and public charter schools to partner in use of this program. Superintendent Ritz responded by stating traditional public schools can access funds from the Common School Fund. James Betley, Interim General Counsel for the Board, informed the Board the law allows existing innovation network schools, which are a collaboration between traditional public and public charter schools, to participate in the program and further clarification may be sought in future legislative sessions to allow for new innovation schools.
- Dr. Bertram asked for the current interest rate for loans from the Common School Fund. Superintendent Ritz reported the rate is four percent.
- Dr. Ernest asked how the loan requests would be prioritized should requested amounts exceed monies available. Mr. Betley responded that once schools begin applying for the program, Board Staff will be able to determine level of interest and will bring recommendations for prioritization back to the Board in September.

- Dr. Ernest inquired about the role of the charter school authorizer in the Charter School Grant and Loan Program. Mr. Betley responded that the application required the authorizer to affirm that they have no intention to close the school and acknowledge they are aware the operators plans to seek a loan.
- Dr. Ernest also asked about the required security interest in obtaining a loan. Mr. Betley responded that Board Staff, various stakeholders, and other state agencies are working on a case-by-case basis to determine adequate security for specific loan requests.
- Dr. Bertram asked whether there was a chance the Board would spend more than the \$50 million allotted by law? Mr. Betley said that Board Staff would return next month concerning prioritizing requests. The Board Staff is also recommending a fixed application window, rather than a rolling program, so the Board can ensure it won't spend more than allowed.
- Dr. Bertram also commented that since public charter schools do not have access to property tax revenue, like traditional public schools, they don't have the same amount of money for capital investments. He continued that charter school students are public school students, the State should support those students like they do traditional public school students.
- Superintendent Ritz further questioned about the possibility of requests exceeding the \$50 million allocated by the State. Chad Timmerman, Director of Education Policy in the Office of Governor Mike Pence, told the Board that Board Staff will collect loan applications and determine the total amount being sought. If that total exceeds monies available, Board Staff will recommend to the Board a policy to prioritize those requests.
- The Board voted to approve the Charter School Grant and Loan Program on a 9-0-1 vote (Superintendent Ritz abstained).

XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS *(Taken out of order)*

B. Assessments and A-F Accountability

- Ellen Haley, President of CTB/McGraw-Hill, provided an update to the Board on the scoring of the 2014-15 ISTEP+ test. Ms. Haley told the Board the test remains solid, but CTB/McGraw-Hill encountered a problem with scoring some of the technology-enhanced questions. She informed the Board that some students expressed correct answers in ways the computer didn't recognize and the company is currently inputting those responses in order for students to receive credit for their correct response.

- Ms Haley added that normally these types of adjustments would be made during a field test year on a new test, but since CTB and the Department of Education administered an operationalized field test, these updates must be made during the live scoring process. Ms. Haley predicted this update would delay the cut score setting process from mid-September to October.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked Ms. Haley if this problem stemmed from not-piloting the test. Ms. Haley affirmed that statement. Ms. Kwiatkowski suggested that moving forward the Department should conduct a pilot test with Pearson to avoid this problem next year.
- Superintendent Ritz stressed the importance of ensuring students receive credit for their correct responses.
- Mr. Watts inquired about the validity of the test. Ms. Haley stressed this test remains valid and these corrections ensure validity and reliability. Mr. Watts also asked about piloting of the 2015-16 ISTEP+ test with the new vendor. Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Student Assessment with the Department of Education, reported to the Board the Department expects to have enough items for an operational test in grades 3-8. The Department is currently working to decide the parameters in the development of the grade 10 assessment and an operational pilot for grade 10 next spring.
- Mr. Watts inquired about the impact of the current scoring delay in the formulation of the A-F school accountability grades. Dr. Walker stated it will take 8 weeks after the cut scores are set in October to finalize reports and they are unsure when to expect A-F grades.
- Dr. Bertram asked CTB, given its years of experience developing assessments, to explain how they could not anticipate student responses. Ms. Haley responded this issue currently is limited to technology-enhanced questions and this is a new area of assessment being developed nationally without much data on student responses.
- Mr. Hendry asked about the timeline and when will schools know their A-F accountability grade. Dr. Walker suggested the date of October 14 to set cut scores, eight weeks later student-level results would be known by educators and parents, and suggested that January or February 2016 would be when schools receive their A-F grade. Mr. Hendry expressed his concern that teachers and educators won't know the results of tests for nearly a year after the students took the test. Dr. Walker said the delay in scores is not acceptable and the Department hoped to have scores finalized for the 2015-16 test in August of 2016. Mr. Hendry also asked the Department if there were any contractual rights to seek remedial action from CTB/McGraw-Hill.

- Ms. Kwiatkowski commented on the delay impacting teacher evaluations. Mrs. Whicker added that teachers, educators, students and many others have had to make changes and encouraged CTB/McGraw-Hill to make the changes necessary to resolve the issue and deliver a valid and reliable assessment results to Indiana.
- Dr. Ernest asked if the State had any opportunity to seek liquidated damages from the company over this delay. Superintendent Ritz responded that the Department of Education would look at the contract.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski relayed concerns from the field about the length of the 2015-16 assessment and inquired when we would know the length of next year's test. Dr. Walker said the Department of Education and Pearson are currently selecting test items and she would let the Board know the estimated length of the test in the future.
- Dr. Yager thanked Ms. Haley for appearing before the Board, but expressed lack of confidence in the company and its performance. He recalled recent assessment disruptions and problems with CTB/McGraw-Hill. He commented these problems are impacting teachers and Hoosier girls and boys. He also encouraged the State to seek contractual options to impact payment due to the company.
- Dr. Freitas mentioned other states placing limits on the amount of student testing time. He asked Superintendent Ritz if she would support the concept of limiting testing in a subject to no more than three hours. The Superintendent reiterated her support for streamlined testing that is valid, reliable and covers Indiana standards.

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION *(Resumed)*

C. *Data Reporting Committee Recommendations*

- Superintendent requested and received a motion and second to approve [recommendations](#) from the committee.
- The Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations 10-0.

D. *Authorizing the development of cut scores under IC 20-32-5-4(a)(2)*

- Superintendent Ritz requested and received a motion and second to approve the development of cut scores.
- Dr. Walker and Cynthia Roach, Senior Director of Assessment and Accountability for the Board, made a [presentation](#) about the cut score setting process.

- Dr. Bertram asked whether impact data adjusts cut scores. Ms. Roach said the data is used to verify the preliminary recommendations from educators and reinforces the score is appropriately set. Dr. Walker added that cut score panels are shown impact data for transparency reasons but told that impact data should not be used to adjust cut scores.
- The Board voted unanimously to approve the development of cut scores 10-0.

The Board took a short recess.

XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS *(Resumed)*

C. Advanced Placement Report *(Taken out of order)*

- Superintendent Ritz called the Board's attention to the [report](#). There was no additional comment.

D. Science Standards *(Taken out of order)*

- Jeremy Eltz, Assistant Director of College and Career Readiness with the Indiana Department of Education, made a [presentation](#) to the Board about the process of developing new science standards. Mr. Eltz highlighted the proposed addition of computer science skills to Indiana's K-8 science curricula. He also encouraged teachers interested in participating in the review process to contact the Department. The first round of proposed standards have been completed and open to feedback. Further reviews and public comment periods will follow. Mr. Eltz projected the Board would be asked to finalize the new science standards in early 2016.

A. Strategic Planning Committee Update

- Mr. Hendry, Chairman of the State Board Strategic Planning Committee, informed the Board that feedback has been received by over 6,000 educators on improvements to the educator evaluation system. The Board has also contracted with INTASS at Indiana University to implement a system of recommendations and improve educator evaluation across the state. The committee is also working with the Department to ensure all Hoosier children have equal access to effective educators. Superintendent Ritz added the U.S. Department of Education has invited the State to present its plan at a national conference and an upcoming NASBE meeting.

B. Assessment and A-F Accountability *(continued)*

- Danielle Shockey, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced to the Board the Department's new Director of Accountability, Maggie Paino. Ms. Paino discussed the work of her team and encouraged Board members to contact her with questions about A-F accountability.

- Dr. Walker updated the Board on the scoring process for the 2014-15 ISTEP+ assessment. She continued with discussion of the formative assessment grant process and streamlined application for grants. Schools will have a 30-day window to apply for the grant from mid-August to mid-September. The Department is also meeting with formative test providers to enter into master agreements that local schools can use if they prefer not to negotiate their own contracts. Dr. Yager thanked the Department for taking that step on behalf of local school districts.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked when local school districts would know if they are approved for the grant and its possible impact on K-2 formative assessments. Dr. Walker said the Department would send out a statewide communication on assessments with instructions and more information.
- Dr. Walker also gave the Board an [update](#) on the development of the Grade 10 ISTEP+ assessment. The update focused on how test development officials determine what information should be covered in an assessment, the blueprint for the 2015-16 test, and an explanation of the difference between a Testing Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Bertram inquired about the process used to determine if a student is career ready, beyond the few areas that are currently tested. Dr. Walker responded that while some skills such as collaborative skills are difficult to assess, they can be taught and are a very important part of the curriculum.
- Ms. Whicker asked when Pearson would appear before the Board to discuss its steps to prepare the 2015-16 ISTEP+ test. Dr. Walker suggested they be invited to appear in October.

E. Career Pathways Pilot Program

- Superintendent Ritz called the Board's attention to a brief [memo](#) concerning development of the program. There was no additional comment.

XII. BOARD OPERATIONS

- Board operations not discussed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Upon motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn by voice vote.