



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2015
9:00 a.m. (EDT)

Indiana Government Center South
Auditorium
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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

Board Members Absent: Mr. Gordon Hendry (arrived at 9:20 a.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Superintendent Ritz called the meeting to order, the pledge of allegiance was recited, and roll was called. The roll reflected ten members present with Dr. Bertram participating by phone.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Superintendent Ritz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to move the SBOE Stakeholder Design Committee Recommendations for Educator Evaluation from an action item to discussion. Superintendent Ritz moved to add an item to the agenda for adjustments to the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ scores. Per Board operating procedures, the Superintendent determined an emergency existed to allow this action item to be added. With support of three additional members and without objection, the item was added. The Board approved the revised agenda unanimously by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Superintendent Ritz received a motion and second to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes by a voice vote.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR

- Superintendent Ritz praised the work of Hoosier students on recently released NAEP scores. She also said that she planned to add an item to the December meeting to discuss the data in greater detail, particularly as it relates to a decline in some math scores.

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Dr. Freitas attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting. Attendance doubled from recent meetings. He said members focused attention on quality teaching and the teacher shortage. He also mentioned that Dr. Byron Ernest will be joining the NASBE Board of Directors. Dr. Freitas also said that while Indiana may seem to be unique in dealing with many education issues, many other states are experiencing similar circumstances and groups like NASBE help leaders discuss policy options and solutions.
- Dr. Ernest reported that NASBE held many important discussions concerning diploma requirements, quality teaching, and addressing the teacher shortage. He also mentioned having positive meetings with U.S. Department of Education officials concerning Title I questions and he thanked the many people who contacted him about the new diploma proposals.

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

- P.J. Hamann, Principal at Danville Community High School, spoke about the math requirements in the new diploma proposals. He mentioned that Danville schools would be required to hire additional math teachers and urged the Board to consider ways to increase rigor without forcing schools to add staff.
- Paul Ash encouraged the Board to develop a diploma for students with disabilities. He said a Certificate of Completion is not an academic credential and does not provide students with a pathway toward getting a job.

- Kim Dodson, Executive Director of the Arc of Indiana, thanked the Board for the time and attention given to the new diploma proposals. The Arc of Indiana believes every student should have the ability to earn a diploma and urged the Board to reject the current proposals. They also asked that someone focusing on students with special needs be included on the committee further developing the proposal.
- *[comment made after Best Practices with approval of Superintendent Ritz and consent of Board]* Pamela Gemer, representing the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association, voiced concerns about the lack of world language requirement in new diploma proposals. She urged the Board to reject diploma proposals and urged the Board to make world languages a requirement in new diplomas.

Mr. Gordon Hendry arrived.

VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESSES

- The Board received a [presentation](#) by Five Star Life that focuses on character education.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- Three items appeared on the Board’s Consent Agenda.
 - Approval of Common School Loans
 - Approval of 2016-2017 Course Title Revisions
 - Latch Key Waivers
- Upon receiving a motion and second, the Board voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

IX. ADJUDICATIONS

- None

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION

A. Formative Grant Approval

- Dr. Walker presented [updated information](#) and proposed funding to schools participating in the formative grant program. She also informed the Board that funding will be available for schools wishing to offer formative K-2 assessments.

- Dr. Bertram said he believed the Board voted earlier to allot a specific funding amount for 3-10 formative assessments with the remainder being used to fund K-2. Dr. Walker said the new formula is based on revised enrollment figures and does not represent a significant change from formula approved earlier by the Board.

Upon receiving a motion and second on a resolution authorizing maximum formula amounts for formative assessments, the Board voted 11-0 to approve the resolution.

- Superintendent Ritz brought a motion and received a second on a resolution approving the list of schools and vendors to receive formative assessment grant funding. Mrs. O'Brien asked Board staff if she needed to abstain from the vote since her school corporation was on the list of schools to receive funding. John Snethen, State Board Executive Director, advised Mrs. O'Brien she did not need to abstain since she would not personally benefit from the vote. The Board voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the resolution.

B. Approval of the High School Diplomas to be implemented 2018-19 School Year

- Todd Bess, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of School Principals, expressed the concerns of his group that the new proposals will limit student flexibility. He expressed support for the resolution that refers the proposals to a committee for further work.
- Steve Baker, Principal at Bluffton High School, said, based on his research, schools would need to add math teachers to meet the needs of the new requirements. He also said that the addition of a math teacher would require a reduction of staff in another area. He said he believes more students would receive a general diploma rather than Core 40 due to additional math requirements. Dr. Yager stated the current proposal eliminates the General Diploma and asked which diploma students could seek who could not meet math requirements. Mr. Baker said he does not know which diploma students would be eligible to receive.

- Kevin Gerrity, President of the Indiana Music Education Association, opposed the removal of two Fine Arts credits from the honors diploma. He urged the Board to reject the current proposal and maintain the fine arts requirement for the honors diploma and add the requirement for other diplomas.
- John O’Neal, representing the Indiana State Teachers Association, thanked everyone involved in the process. He said some ISTA members have concerns about the diploma proposals and urged the Board to take a step back and address many of the issues raised in recent meetings.
- Lane Velayo, Executive Director of the Indiana Music Education Association, informed the Board of a change.org petition concerning the fine arts requirements in the new diplomas that has received over 3,000 signatures. He also said that music educators were not represented on the Core 40 Subcommittee of the Indiana Career Council, co-chaired by Superintendent Ritz and Commissioner Lubbers, which developed the new diploma proposal. Superintendent Ritz stated the membership of the committee was determined by law.
- Scott McCormick, Founder of AMP (National Association of Music Parents), spoke of the efforts to attract many national musical organizations to Indianapolis and the state’s commitment to music. He urged the Board to consider the many studies and data points that show students who participate in music have a better chance of graduating and a lower likelihood of dropping out or using drugs/alcohol. Dr. Freitas asked about the economic impact of music in Indiana. Mr. McCormick said when he left Bands of America/Music for All in 2010, they figured the Marching Band Grand National Championship had a \$16 million annual economic impact in Indianapolis.
- Superintendent Ritz stated that the Indiana General Assembly charged the Core 40 Subcommittee of the Indiana Career Council with recommending changes to course requirements for the General Diploma, Core 40, Academic Honors and Technical Honors diplomas to ensure students have the flexibility to pursue college and career goals that meet their individual needs and desires.

- Dr. Yager introduced and amended a [resolution](#) to refer the diploma proposals to a committee created by Superintendent Ritz, including significant input from the Board and Board Staff, and the Indiana Career Council for further refinement. The resolution lists six significant concerns of Dr. Yager with these proposals.
- Dr. Freitas commended the work by Superintendent Ritz, Commissioner Lubbers and members of the subcommittee that worked on the proposals. He asked the resolution be amended to include participation by representatives of fine arts, special education, world languages and character education groups. Dr. Yager agreed to the amendment.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski thanked committee members for their effort. She urged the Board to consider the proposals more closely and determine the fiscal impact on schools.
- Mrs. Whicker stated her preference that the Indiana Career Council continue to be consulted on the revised proposals.
- Mr. Hendry thanked the subcommittee members for their work. He asked staff for clarification that the Board is not required via state law to vote on these proposal by December 1. Superintendent Ritz confirmed the Board is not required to approve the proposals by December 1. Mr. Hendry voiced his concerns about the removal of the General Diploma option. He also voiced his support for the inclusion of fine arts and world languages in the diploma requirements, and suggested the requirement of a “C” grade average for an honors diploma is too low and questioned the physical education requirements.
- Dr. Yager added two additional groups to be included in the revised proposals: building administrators and high school guidance counselors. He also stated that we should not confuse rigor with more credits; added rigor comes from instruction.
- Superintendent Ritz received a motion to approve the resolution, as amended. Dr. Freitas seconded. The Board voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the amended resolution.

C. Approval of Online and Paper/Pencil Mode Effect Adjustments to the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ Scale Scores

- Dr. Walker, Cynthia Roach, Sr. Director of Accountability and Assessment with the State Board, and Dr. Edward Roeber, independent assessment expert, provided a summary of the comparability study between the online and paper/pencil assessments.
- Dr. Roeber noted their study found small differences in difficulty between the testing modes. In most cases the online assessment was slightly more difficult, but there were a few instances where the paper/pencil test was slightly more difficult. The experts made a [recommendation](#) of score adjustments to student scores to offset those differences.
- Dr. Walker informed the Board that the Department of Education informed the U.S. Department of Education of the recommendations and they viewed this adjustment as part of the state's due diligence.
- Dr. Yager moved to approve the recommendations. Dr. Freitas seconded the motion.
- Dr. Freitas asked to confirm that no student scores would be lowered through the process. Dr. Walker confirmed that student scores can only be adjusted up through this process.
- Dr. Walker thanked CTB for their work through this process and confirmed this process will not change the timeline for providing ISTEP+ results to parents and schools and should not alter the timeline for calculation of school accountability grades.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski thanked Mrs. O'Brien for her leadership on this issue, ensuring students are treated fairly regardless of their testing mode.
- Mrs. Whicker asked for confirmation that adjustments would be made on all modes of testing, including multiple versions of the paper test. Dr. Walker confirmed that all student tests would be equated.

- The Board voted unanimously 11-0 to approve the recommendations for score adjustment.

The Board took a short recess.

XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Turnaround Academy Update

- Rachel Hardy, Support Specialist with the Department of Education, provided an [update](#) to the Board on work with the turnaround academies.
- Mr. Hendry asked why Mass Insight did not begin work at Arlington earlier in the school year/transition to IPS management. Superintendent Ritz said it was not part of IPS's plan to work at Arlington until a later date. Mr. Hendry reminded the Board that members requested quarterly updates from IPS when it voted to transfer management of Arlington back to the school corporation. Mr. Hendry said given the number of concerns raised by the Department of Education, he requested that Superintendent Ferebee and other IPS officials appear at the December Board Meeting to discuss the operating situation at Arlington.
- Mr. Watts praised the work of Mass Insight and hopes their work will benefit throughout IPS.
- Superintendent Ritz asked for clarification from Ms. Hardy about the low attendance numbers from Edison schools in Gary. Ms. Hardy said she would seek additional information.
- Mr. Melton asked if transportation issues factor into the low attendance numbers. Ms. Hardy said she would work to provide that information as well.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked if future presentations could provide suspension numbers as a percentage of the population rather than just raw numbers.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked if the suspension numbers included unique students or multiple suspensions of the same student.

- Mr. Melton asked for information about the reason for the suspension in addition to raw numbers. He also asked for as much information as possible if the reason provided is labeled as “other.”
- Dr. Freitas asked to describe the role of the support teams. Superintendent Ritz responded the Department of Education provides both compliance monitoring and support to drive improvement.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked if Ms. Hardy has concern about schools, other than Arlington. Ms. Hardy said Arlington is the biggest concern. She also is helping the new principal at Broad Ripple High School transition into the role.

B. SBOE Stakeholder Design Committee Recommendations for Educator Evaluation

- Ashley Cowger, Chief of Staff for the State Board, provided an update to the Board on the work of a group of outside stakeholders examining educator evaluation systems for areas of improvement and how best to communicate with educators. The [recommendations](#) from that stakeholder group were presented to the Strategic Planning Committee and approved to be presented to the full Board for consideration.
- Superintendent Ritz asked if these recommendations should be provided to INTASS for review. Ms. Cowger said INTASS participated in the stakeholder design committee and are aware of the recommendations.
- John O’Neal, representing the Indiana State Teachers Association, reminded the Board that ISTA opposes any effort to define “significantly inform” in the use of objective measures in teacher evaluations. The ISTA prefers local control and flexibility in developing teacher evaluation models within the guidelines of state law. He recalled that two bills during the last legislative session to define “significantly inform” failed to pass the General Assembly and one bill that passed allowed the Board to recommend additional measures, but prohibited the Board from requiring new measures without legislative approval.

C. Assessment and Accountability Update

- Dr. Walker informed the Board that CTB would make ISTEP+ rescore information available at 6:00 a.m. on Friday.

- Dr. Walker also [updated](#) the Board on Pearson’s development of the 2016 assessment and working with schools to make sure their technology is ready to deliver the assessment.
- Dr. Walker informed the Board that during the December meeting, they will be asked to approve resolutions that provide a student who passes the End of Course Assessments (ECA), ISTEP+ 10th grade test, or the CCRA test to receive credit for passing their Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE).
- Mrs. O’Brien asked if the contract with Pearson has been signed. Dr. Walker said Pearson returned both the IREAD-3 and ISTEP+ contracts with changes. Those contracts are working through the approval process and should be signed by the end of the following week.
- Dr. Yager asked if Pearson remains on schedule for the delivery of the new assessments. Dr. Walker responded that all data files have been transferred and work remains on schedule for the new assessments.
- Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability with the Department of Education, provided the Board an [update](#) on the calculation of 2014-15 A-F school accountability grades. She confirmed that work remains on the schedule previously provided to the Board and provided a [timeline](#) for future work on the accountability grades.

D. Data Reporting Committee Update

- Danielle Shockey, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Ms. Cowger spoke to the Board about the depth of work being undertaken by the Data Reporting Committee. The Committee has a December 1 deadline to issue a report to the General Assembly and the Governor’s Office on its work. Additional recommendations will be presented to the Board during its December meeting.

XII. BOARD OPERATIONS

- Board operations not discussed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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