



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2016
9:00 a.m. (EST)

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, Dr. Byron Ernest, Dr. David Freitas, Mr. Gordon Hendry, Ms. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Mr. Edward Melton, Mr. B.J. Watts, Ms. Cari Whicker, and Dr. Steven Yager.

Board Members Absent: None

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 Mr. Melton absent.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Superintendent Ritz asked to move the INTASS presentation under the Strategic Planning Committee Update prior to the resolutions on the Action Item agenda. The agenda was amended by consent. The Board approved the amended agenda unanimously by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None

IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR

- Superintendent Ritz informed the Board the Diploma task force recently met and has two additional meetings scheduled. The task force discussed new math requirements and plans to continue the discussions concerning math while also discussing world languages and special education.
- The Superintendent also told the Board the state will join other states across the nation in celebrating National School Counseling Week. She also announced a number of awards and designations for schools connected to school counseling.

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Mrs. O'Brien asked Superintendent Ritz about her request to remove the accountability growth chart from the agenda and call a special meeting to approve the growth chart. Superintendent Ritz said her staff is working out details with Board staff.
- Mr. Hendry asked if removing the growth chart from the agenda will create issues with the timeline for finalizing the 2015-16 accountability system. He expressed his concern about the need for a special meeting due to scheduling conflicts with Board Members. Superintendent Ritz said delaying the growth chart discussion today was due to the need to adjust calculations in the chart.
- Dr. Ernest said he attended the executive session of the Indiana Association of School Principals. He said a recurring theme from that meeting was the need for good communication with people in schools and classrooms.

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

- Erma Lardy dell offered congratulations to state's counselors and commented on the great work by math teachers and principals. She also sought an update on the heating issues facing students and staff at Roosevelt College and Career Academy in Gary.
- Brad Lindsay, Marion Community Schools, commented on the increased poverty, mobility, and special needs facing students and staff in recent years. He expressed his desire for local accountability.

- Scott Simpson, Marion High School, voiced his opposition to proposed legislation that would allow some teachers in high-need areas the ability to negotiate their own salary and his opposition to test-based teacher accountability.

VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESSES

- None

Mr. Melton arrived

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- Three items appeared on the consent agenda.
 - i. Special Education Child Count Verification
 - ii. Approval of March 16 and May 11, 2016 Business Meeting Dates
 - iii. Career Specialist Pedagogy Provider Approval – NAFC School Corporation
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

IX. ADJUDICATIONS

- None

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

A. Strategic Planning Committee Update – INTASS Update

- Dr. Sandy Cole updated the Board on the work to improve teacher evaluation.

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION

A. Resolution to Recognize Fairfield Community Schools Recognition as an Exemplary District for Educator Evaluation Systems

- Mr. Hendry read a [resolution](#) honoring Fairfield Community Schools.
- Steve Thalheimer, Superintendent of Fairfield Community Schools, thanked the Board for the recognition and the work of INTASS for helping to build the district’s teacher evaluation system.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

B. Resolution to Recognize Bartholomew Consolidated Schools Recognition as an Exemplary District for Educator Evaluation Systems

- Mr. Hendry read a [resolution](#) honoring Bartholomew Consolidated Schools.
- Dr. John Quick, Superintendent of Bartholomew Consolidated Schools, thanked the Board for the recognition and the work of the partners who came together in the district to develop their teacher evaluation system.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

C. Approval of Proposed Teacher Preparation Program Rule

- Superintendent Ritz introduced the [resolution](#) and noted technical corrections that will be made during the rule approval process.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

D. School Quality Reviews

- Superintendent Ritz introduced a [resolution](#) outlining the process between the Department of Education and State Board of Education Staff for school quality reviews.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

E. Formative Assessment Grants

- Superintendent Ritz introduced a [resolution](#) detailing the allocation of formative assessment grants.
- Mrs. O'Brien noted that additional money remained after allocating the grants and asked what would happen to those funds. Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, Danielle Shockey, told the Board they hoped that money would remain in the account for formative grants and be available for use during the next school year. Michael Moore, Director of Legal Affairs with the Department of Education, told the Board they are in communication with the State Budget

Agency about the remaining funds and their desire to use them in following years, but have not received a decision yet. Mrs. O'Brien asked the Board be informed once a decision by the State Budget Agency is reached.

- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

F. Approval of School Corporation Grades

- Superintendent Ritz introduced the 2014-15 school corporation grades, reflecting the hold harmless provisions enacted under SEA 200 and signed into law by Governor Mike Pence.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

G. Final Determination Hearings

- Superintendent Ritz introduced a [resolution](#) outlining the process for holding hearings in schools entering their fifth year of intervention.
- Mrs. O'Brien encouraged the Board and Department of Education to schedule these hearings, as soon as possible, so those schools have as much time as possible to prepare for potential transitions prior to the 2016-17 school year.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski suggested the public hearings be scheduled at a time convenient to parents, educators and community leaders in order to maximize public participation.
- Mr. Melton inquired how long it would take after the public hearing for the Board to reach a decision. Brian Murphy, General Counsel to the State Board, said staff would work with all deliberate speed to reach recommendations for Board action.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted unanimously (11-0) to approve the resolution.

XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS *(continued)***B. Assessment Update**

- Ms. Shockey presented date change requests for ISTEP+ testing windows from 57 local districts. The Department of Education has authority from the Board to approve requests that are not greater than seven days beyond the windows approved by the Board.
- Ms. Shockey updated the Board on the most recently completed ISTEP+ stress test. She stated that Pearson did not experience any widespread issues during the test. Dr. Yager, Ms. Whicker, and Ms. Kwiatkowski relayed ongoing concerns they have heard from the field concerning technology-related issues.
- Rich Young with Pearson answered questions from Board Members about the use of technology and readiness for the upcoming ISTEP+ assessment. Ms. Shockey informed the Board that schools have until February 5 to request paper/pencil administration of Part I of the ISTEP+ and IRead-3 exams.
- Mr. Young informed the Board that Pearson has teams in the field helping school districts prepare for administration of the ISTEP+ exam. Not all school districts are ready, but the company said it is working to remedy issues before the testing window opens.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski urged Pearson and the Department of Education to send information to schools about properly setting up proctor rights so teachers can manage online test systems as necessary.
- Dr. Bertram urged Pearson and the Department of Education to rethink the focus on online-only testing. He challenged everyone to solve the problem.
- Dr. Freitas encouraged Mr. Young to apply lessons learned from around the country to the technology problems facing Indiana. Mr. Young recounted many issues and successes experienced in other states. Dr. Freitas asked about the downside of potentially going to an all paper/pencil test. Mr. Young said the cost of the test would increase considerably, it would take additional time to score the tests and return results, and the philosophical issue of using technology to test students on the types of systems they will be expected to use in the future.

- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked, given Indiana’s assessment issues during the last three years, if Pearson did everything possible to make sure the first stress test went well. Mr. Young said they thought they were prepared, but they did learn from the first stress test and applied it to reduce problems during the second test.
- Dr. Ernest suggested some of the problem lies with lack of training and information to educators in the buildings about the assessment system. Mr. Young agreed success requires good communication.
- Dr. Bertram challenged the contention that administering a paper/pencil test rather than online would alter a student’s mastery of technology. He also asked the difference in cost between scoring a paper/pencil test vs. online. Mr. Young said to it costs \$6-\$8 more per student to score a paper/pencil test. He continued by adding that scoring pencil/paper exams takes an additional month. Dr. Bertram asked Mr. Young which mode provided a fair, accurate, and reliable test. Mr. Young said he had greater confidence in the online assessment.
- Superintendent Ritz asked if the new flexibility provided by the Board to schools concerning when they administer various aspects of the test would impact the load on the Pearson system. Mr. Young replied it would have no impact.
- Dr. Yager encouraged state leaders to thoroughly contemplate new testing flexibility under federal law. Mr. Young agreed and also encouraged state leaders to fully consider the impact of another new test on the field.

The Board took a short recess.

C. Accountability Update

- Superintendent Ritz mentioned the Board recently approved the 2014-15 school corporation grades and work continues on the growth tables to be brought before the Board at a later date.

E. TAC Update (Taken Out of Order)

- Cynthia Roach, Senior Director of Accountability and Assessment with the State Board, outlined the plan for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) including upcoming meetings and areas of focus.

F. ESSA Update (Taken Out of Order)

- John Snethen, Executive Director of the State Board, and Brian Murphy, General Counsel of the State Board, provided an overview of the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), recently enacted by the federal government. At this point federal rulemaking is just beginning on the new law with a plan that the new law is fully implemented for the 2017-18 school year.
- Dr. Bertram encouraged the Board to take a leadership role in developing a new accountability system for the state under the flexibility provided by ESSA. Superintendent Ritz suggested the Board begin discussions about the inclusion of multiple measures in grades 3-8.

D. Pearson Update

- Mr. Young returned to update the Board on progress on the 2015-16 ISTEP+ exam.
- Dr. Yager asked if Pearson has received all the information it needed from CTB for the new exam. Mr. Young said they are still waiting for permissions for a couple of the writing passages and some training materials related to scoring science exams. Mr. Young said both of those items are not critical and should not negatively impact the exam.
- Mr. Young said materials are shipping to schools and practice tests are being given and everything remains on track for the new exam. He also mentioned the contract has been finalized.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked about amendments still needing to be made to the contract. Mr. Young said the amendments are still being finalized and discussions with the Department of Education continue.
- Mr. Hendry asked for Pearson's thoughts on pending legislation that would end the ISTEP+ exam after 2017. Mr. Young said Indiana should focus on continuity to the field and limiting disruption. He said Pearson looks forward to working with the state as it moves forward beyond ISTEP+.

- Ms. Whicker asked about the state potentially seeking damages from CTB due to scoring errors and delays delivering the 2014-15 ISTEP+ results. Mike Moore, Director of Legal Affairs for the Department of Education, said a lawyer with the Attorney General’s Office has been assigned to explore the matter. They are currently looking at the contract and potential remedies.

Mr. Melton, who was not present during Board Member Comments, thanked the Superintendent of Gary Community Schools for repairing the broken boiler at Gary Roosevelt College and Career Academy and said he looked forward to working with Superintendent Ritz and the Department of Education to find long-term solutions and funding to address the problem permanently.

XII. BOARD OPERATIONS

- Not discussed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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