



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2015  
9:00 a.m. (EDT)

Indiana Government Center South  
Conference Room B  
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, Ms. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Mr. Edward Melton (by phone), Mr. B.J. Watts, Ms. Cari Whicker, and Dr. Steven Yager.

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Gordon Hendry

### 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 participating by phone.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Superintendent Ritz made a motion to move Discussion and Report Item C, Turnaround Overview, to ahead of the Action section of the agenda to accommodate the schedule of the presenters. The Board approved the change to the agenda by consent. 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 28, 2015 special Board meeting and the November 4, 2015 regular business meeting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes by a voice vote.

**IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR**

- Superintendent Ritz updated the Board on work to reauthorize the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA). She also mentioned that she and the Lt. Governor spoke to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) about dual credit issues. The State will be able to seek a five-year delay before new standards implemented by the HLC begin in Indiana. The Superintendent also recognized Indiana's Principals of the Year: Mora Clark, Maplewood Elementary with M.S.D. of Wayne Township (Marion County), James Voelz, Doe Creek Middle School with Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County, and Steve Hope, Penn High School with Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation. Superintendent Ritz also congratulated Melody Coryell, an I.B. English Teacher at Shortridge High School (Indianapolis Public Schools) for receiving the Milken Award and \$25,000 from the Milken Foundation.

**V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

- Mrs. O'Brien thanked Ashley Cowger, Chief of Staff with the Board Staff, for her work on behalf of the Board. Ms. Cowger is departing to take a position with Indianapolis Public Schools. Mrs. O'Brien also expressed her concern about ISTEP+ information only being shared with parents in English. She expressed her hope that Pearson would develop bi-lingual communication options in the future.
- Ms. Whicker said while she shares concerns about the impending release of A-F and ISTEP+ scores by the Department of Education, she said she was encouraged the scores were not as low as originally predicted. She reiterated that Governor Pence and leaders in the Indiana General Assembly have said they will look to modify the A-F grading system to account for the drop in scores, but encouraged people not to discard the entire system because of this year of transition.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski raised concerns that principals can no longer request rescoring of ISTEP+ data.

- Dr. Yager commented on the creation of the diploma task force that Superintendent Ritz and Dr. Yager will co-chair. Superintendent Ritz said the Department of Education will bring together necessary experts to advise in the creation of the new diploma proposals and IDOE appointments would be shared with State Board Staff.

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

- Ernie Simpson, Clay Community Schools, voiced concerns about Indiana’s new academic standards, assessments, and the corresponding drop in proficiency scores. He also informed the Board that IDOE and CTB/McGraw-Hill have misplaced data from North Clay Middle School which currently has 0% passing certain ISTEP+ tests.

**VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESSES**

- The Board received a [presentation](#) from Ben Carson and students at Arsenal Technical High School (Indianapolis Public Schools) about their coding and partnership initiative.

*The Board took a short recess.*

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- Four items appeared on the Board’s Consent Agenda.
  - Latch Key Waiver
  - Approval of Grace College Teacher Preparation Program
  - Approval of Summer Funding Categories
  - Approval of Common School Loans
- Upon receiving a motion by Mr. Watts and second by Dr. Bertram, the Board voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

**IX. ADJUDICATIONS**

*Superintendent Ritz recused herself as Chair. Vice Chair Sarah O’Brien assumed the role of Chair.*

**A. State Tuition Support Withholding for Turnaround Academies**

- Mrs. O’Brien summarized the [resolution](#) authorizing state tuition support withholding for turnaround academies from Indianapolis Public Schools.
  - Dr. Ernest moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Watts seconded.

- The Board voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the resolution (Superintendent Ritz abstained).
- Mrs. O'Brien summarized the [resolution](#) authorizing state tuition support withholding for turnaround academies from Gary Community School Corporation.
  - Dr. Ernest moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Watts provided second.
  - The Board voted unanimously 9-0 to approve resolution (Superintendent Ritz abstained).

*Mrs. O'Brien relinquished role as Chair to Superintendent Ritz.*

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

### **C. Turnaround Overview**

#### **a. Arlington Update**

- Dr. Lewis Ferebee, Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), provided an [update](#) to the Board on the performance and steps taken to improve performance at Arlington High School.
- Dr. Ferebee thanked the Board for giving IPS the opportunity to take the lead on the turnaround at Arlington High School. IPS took over maintenance at Arlington during the previous school year and took over operation of the school during the current school year. IPS has made investments to improve the facility, hosted community meetings and is working to improve the learning environment.
- Dr. Ferebee introduced Dr. Wanda Legrand, Deputy Superintendent for Academics at IPS, to continue the presentation including enrollment, student demographics, academic goals and challenges at Arlington.
- Dr. Freitas asked about specific challenges facing Arlington and IPS's response. Mr. Stan Law, principal at Arlington, responded by discussing steps to improve climate/culture, staffing, and facility issues. Mr. Law said major progress has been made in terms of climate, security and student behavior in the past month. Dr. Freitas expressed his continued concern about Arlington.

- Dr. Bertram asked Dr. Ferebee about his thoughts on Indiana education policy and how it relates to improving student performance. Dr. Ferebee said he is encouraged by the national discussion about testing and accountability.
- Superintendent Ritz asked about the IPS partnership with alumni. Mr. Bass, president of the Arlington Alumni Association, spoke to his group's involvement and compared the turnaround of Arlington to a construction site. He encouraged people to look beyond the construction to see the benefits of what is being built.
- Dr. Ernest thanked the alumni for their involvement at Arlington and encouraged them to stay involved to help the students succeed.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski inquired of Mr. Law their plans to fill vacant teaching positions at Arlington. Mr. Law listed the current vacant positions, tracking of vacancies, and mentioned an upcoming teacher fair that he hopes will identify candidates to fill available positions. Dr. Legrand informed the Board that IPS has a talent coordinator that seeks to identify and attract best qualified teachers.
- Mr. Watts commended IPS for its work to recruit and retain great teachers.
- Dr. Bertram questioned the strategy of trying to find passionate people to fill vacancies and the need for structural changes to help incentivize teaching in the state's challenging schools. Dr. Ferebee mentioned the district's move toward transformation zones, extra financial incentives, and partnerships with area colleges and universities to build a pipeline of new teachers for its schools.
- Mr. Melton commended IPS and its partners at Arlington for its work to improve the school and student performance. He asked for greater detail on reconfiguration of the Arlington facility to improve culture/climate at the school. Mr. Law said officials closed the first floor and areas that were not in use in order to ease student movement and reduce the space required to host students. Mr. Melton asked about wrap-around services. Mr. Law listed a number of partner organizations that work with students and staff at the school.

- Superintendent Ritz asked Dr. Ferebee to discuss challenges IPS faces regarding student mobility. Dr. Ferebee said student mobility is a challenge for the district and it has formed a team to develop a plan to reduce the challenges posed by students transitioning in and out of schools. Superintendent Ritz encouraged Dr. Ferebee to reach out to Washington Township Schools, where she previously worked, for ideas to positively reduce the impact of student mobility.

*The Board took a recess due to activation of a fire alarm in the building.*

*b. Charter Schools USA Update*

- Jon Hage, CEO at Charter Schools USA, and Sherry Hage, Chief Academic Officer at Charter Schools USA, provided an [update](#) to the Board on its operation of three turnaround academies on behalf of the Board.
- Dr. Freitas commended Charter Schools USA for its data-based presentation and recommended that as other schools appear before the Board, they follow this model in updating progress to improve student learning.
- Dr. Ernest asked about issues that concern Charter Schools USA. Ms. Hage spoke to student mobility and the need of consistency for students. She also spoke about Howe 7<sup>th</sup> grade students arriving with 4<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency.
- Dr. Bertram mentioned the recurring topic of student mobility. He mentioned this problem is partially caused by district boundary setting and encouraged school leaders to rethink the history of drawing district lines and putting thought to transportation which can limit the disruption caused by student mobility.

**X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION**

**A. Resolution to Form a Standing Technical Advisory Committee**

- Upon receiving a motion and a second by Dr. Freitas, the Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the [resolution](#).

*B. Resolution to allow students who pass Grade 10 ISTEP+ or CCRA (Alg 1 or Eng 10) to count as their GQE*

- Upon receiving a motion and a second from Mrs. O'Brien, the Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the [resolution](#).

*C. Approval of Biliteracy Proposed Rule*

- Upon receiving a motion and a second by Mr. Watts, the Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the [resolution](#).

*D. Approval of the Formative Assessment Grants for K-2*

- Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Assessment with the Department of Education, provided the Board an [overview](#) of the grant awards for K-2 formative assessments.
- Upon receiving a motion and a second from Mrs. O'Brien, the Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the grant awards.

*E. Approval of Data Reporting Committee ASSIST Template*

- Superintendent Ritz moved to approve the Data Reporting Committee [recommendation](#).
- The motion failed to be brought before the Board due to a lack of a second.

*F. Approval of the Data Reporting Committee's Recommendations for DOE's Membership (ME), Special Education (SE), English Learner and Immigrant (LM), Special Education for Vouchers (SV), and Membership for Vouchers (MV) reports*

- Upon receiving a motion and a second by Mr. Watts, the Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the first part of the Data Reporting Committee [recommendations](#).
- The Board voted unanimously 10-0 to approve the second part of the recommendations.

*G. Approval of the Data Reporting Committee's Recommendation for the Annual Performance Report (APR)*

- John O'Neal, representing the Indiana State Teachers Association, informed the Board his organization supports inclusion of class size data in the APR.

- Ms. Kwiatkowski said the Committee determined that class size, as reported, was not very accurate and that drove the committee to remove the requirement. Mr. O’Neal agreed it was not accurate but it was important and urged leaders to find a way to increase accuracy and explore new ways to report.
- Superintendent Ritz asked Michelle Tubbs, Data Collection Manager at the Department of Education, to explain how class size is calculated. Ms. Tubbs told the Board the Department only collects information on teachers in core subjects which skews the data since non-core teachers are not included in the count.
- Mrs. O’Brien agreed with Mr. O’Neal about the importance of monitoring class size, but it is important to get accurate data.
- Dr. Bertram moved to remand the recommendation back to the Data Reporting Committee to address the class size issue. Mr. Watts seconded.
- Dr. Freitas asked if the recommendation included removing the requirement of the APR being published in a local paper. Mike Moore, Counsel with the Department of Education, said it would remove the newspaper requirement and the cost to schools to pay for that publication, but the APR would continue to be published on the Department’s website and local school websites.
- The Board voted unanimously 10-0 to remand recommendation back to the Data Reporting Committee.

## **XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

### **A. Assessment Update**

- Dr. Walker introduced Mark O’Malley, NAEP Specialist with the Department of Education. Mr. O’Malley gave an [overview](#) of Indiana’s results from the most recent NAEP assessment.
- Dr. Freitas asked why NAEP and ISTEP scores do not trend in similar fashion. Mr. O’Malley said NAEP only includes a sample of students and is used to see statewide progress, while ISTEP measures every individual student.

- Dr. Walker provided a [timeline](#) to the Board on a release of data concerning the 2014-15 ISTEP+ assessment and implementation of the 2015-16 IRead-3 and ISTEP+ assessments.
- Dr. Yager inquired whether Pearson is receiving all of the information they need to administer the 2015-16 ISTEP+ assessment. Dr. Walker said the timeline is tight but the process remains on schedule.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked a representative from Pearson whether there will be a Spanish language format for the parent network. Pearson said that was a topic the company was exploring. Superintendent Ritz asked if Spanish was offered in the past and Dr. Walker confirmed it was not. Mrs. O'Brien said it is important for the information to be accessible since this is the first year that only parents can request rescores.

*The Board took a short recess.*

B. Accountability Update

- Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability with the Department of Education, and Cynthia Roach, Sr. Director of Accountability and Assessment with the State Board, updated the Board on the progress of delivering accountability grades for the 2014-15 academic year and gave an [overview](#) of the development of the growth calculation to be used during the 2015-16 school year. Ms. Paino anticipated providing draft growth tables, including a recommended table, to the Board for consideration in January. Following initial approval by the Board, the table will be posted online and made available for public review and comment. It is anticipated the table will be returned to the Board for final approval in March.
- Dr. Yager asked if the Department of Education still anticipated using 2014-15 data and calculating A-F grades under the 2015-16 model to give local superintendents an idea of how the new model might affect their schools. Ms. Paino said that was the plan once the Board gives final approval to the growth table in March.
- Mrs. O'Brien agreed with providing local schools data on the new model, once the growth table is approved, but stressed the data should be sent to schools so they can add their input during the public comment period.

- Superintendent Ritz expressed support for providing information to local schools pertaining to all of the proposed tables, not just the one given preliminary approval by the Board.
  - Mrs. O’Brien recalled the last time the Board approved a growth table they were given sample statistics on the various growth table projections, not school specific projections, to help inform the Board’s decision.
  - Dr. Bertram mentioned that if the Board provided school specific information, every local administrator would pick the model which best fits them – not necessarily which is the best policy for the entire state.
  - Superintendent Ritz urged the Board to strike the balance between policy and public comment while also ensuring that a decision is promptly made so the Department of Education can begin work implementing the new model, since it is the accountability system for use during this current academic year.
- C. Turnaround Update (continued)
- Ashley Cowger, Chief of Staff to the State Board, provided a [historical overview](#) of turnaround activities for new Board members.

## **XII. BOARD OPERATIONS**

- Board operations not discussed.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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