



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2016
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 (by phone), 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 eleven members present with Dr. Vince Bertram participating by phone.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Superintendent Ritz received a motion to approve the meeting agenda and a second. The Board approved the agenda unanimously by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Superintendent Ritz received a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2015 Board meeting and a second. The Board unanimously approved the minutes by a voice vote.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR

- None

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Mr. Melton thanked the Department of Education outreach team for their work during the previous week on a tour of schools in Northwest Indiana engaged in turnaround activity. He specifically mentioned ongoing problems with failure of the heating system at Theodore Roosevelt College and Career Academy. He expressed concern about the problem recurring over the past four years and forcing closure of the school. He asked the Department of Education and Board to find a solution to the problem. He thanked Gary Community School Corporation Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Pruitt and Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson for working to repair the problem, but noted the lack the funds to find a long-term solution. Superintendent Ritz mentioned the Department of Education has meetings scheduled with the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) to discuss the issue.
- Mr. Hendry mentioned last year the Board closed a school in Gary due to lack of performance and financial problems at the district. He called the current situation a failure by the school district and urged the Superintendent, Board and other stakeholders to act quickly on behalf of these students.
- Mr. Melton mentioned funds allocated by the General Assembly to help turnaround schools and urged the Department of Education to consider using those funds to address the situation.
- Mrs. O'Brien voiced her concern that K-2 formative grant funding has still not been distributed by the Department to local schools and urged the Department to provide a timeline to the Board when those funds would be sent to schools. She also raised concerns about reports stemming from the recently completed ISTEP+ stress test and encouraged the Department and vendor to provide more communication to schools to avoid problems with the test.

- Dr. Yager agreed with Mrs. O'Brien's comments and added that he recently met with many educators and none reported that the test went well. He mentioned new flexibility provided to the states under the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and asked for an update on the state's plan to use this new federal legislation to move away from the ISTEP+. Superintendent Ritz mentioned pending legislation before the General Assembly to form a panel to look at those issues. Dr. Yager also welcomed P.J. McGrew as the new Chief of Staff to the Board.
- Ms. Kwiatkowski asked if the new federal regulations still require summative assessments. Superintendent Ritz responded yes. She also added that she expected the U.S. Department of Education to provide more guidance on the new law in March.
- Mr. Hendry welcomed a presentation on the new law and mentioned a webinar from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) that provides useful information.
- Mr. Melton asked if the Board and Department of Education can develop a solution for the Roosevelt heating issue by the February 3 meeting. Superintendent Ritz responded the issue is complex and she may not have a solution ready by that time.

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

- J.T. Coopman, Executive Director of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, asked superintendents attending the meeting to stand and be recognized. He thanked state leaders for passing SEA 200 and HEA 1003 to hold harmless schools and educators from the lower ISTEP+ scores.
- Superintendents from eight (8) districts of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents spoke encouraging the Board to use new flexibility under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to improve assessments and accountability, and support public schools.

- Mr. Hendry asked when results will be provided from the 2015-16 ISTEP+ test. Dr. Michele Walker, Director of Assessment with the Indiana Department of Education, informed the Board the results should be ready by early June, depending on the number of pencil/paper tests used for Part II. This would not include grade 10 since that is a new exam and cut scores will need to be established.
- Erma Lardyell, former parent advocate for Title I in northwest Indiana, encouraged the Board to work with parents to help make changes in education to benefit the children.
- John Ritzler spoke about the proposed accountability model and offered suggestions concerning measuring student growth.

VII. BEST PRACTICES – INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION – STUDENT SUCCESSES

- None

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- None

Mrs. O'Brien asked to take Action Item A out of order to accommodate Ashley Cowger's schedule. Superintendent Ritz and Board agreed by consent.

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION (taken out of order)

A. Resolution Recognizing Ashley Cowger

- Mrs. O'Brien moved and read the [resolution](#) recognizing former State Board of Education Chief of Staff, Mrs. Ashley Cowger. Resolution received a second from Dr. David Freitas.
- The Board voted unanimously, 11-0, to approve the resolution.

IX. ADJUDICATIONS

A. Dismissal of Cause No. 08-092015

- Upon receiving a motion and second, the Board unanimously approved dismissal by voice vote.

B. *Dismissal of [Cause No. 09-092015](#)*

C. Upon receiving a motion and second, the Board unanimously approved dismissal by voice vote.

D. *Dismissal of [Cause No. 10-102015](#)*

E. Upon receiving a motion and second, the Board unanimously approved dismissal by voice vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION *(continued)*

B. *Adoption of Final Placement of School Categories*

- Cynthia Roach, Senior Director of Assessment and Accountability for the State Board of Education, presented the results of the validity study performed on the 2014-15 ISTEP+ test. The report determined that weaknesses in the assessment did not invalidate the test and determined that 2014-15 ISTEP+ results are valid for use to determine student proficiency.
- Superintendent Ritz requested the Board make a decision about the 52 schools that did not qualify grades during the 2013-14 school year, but did qualify to receive a grade for 2014-15.
- Brian Murphy, General Counsel to the State Board, made a recommendation from Board Staff, based on legal/legislative review, that the Board place these schools into a grade category if the school received an A-C accountability grade during the 2014-15 school year and allow schools to keep their null rating if they received a D or F accountability grade during the 2014-15 school year.
- Dr. Freitas moved to adopt the Board Staff recommendation. Dr. Ernest provided a second. The Board voted 10-1 (Mr. Hendry voted no) to approve the staff recommendation.
- Mr. Hendry explained his vote saying he did not support dividing the schools by grade and preferred every school remaining null or receiving their grade.

- Superintendent Ritz introduced the information for final placement of schools for the 2014-15 school year with the hold harmless provisions of SEA 200 applied. Maggie Paino, Director of Accountability with the Department of Education, informed the Board of two corrections with North Jr. High School (Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation) should be listed as a “C” and Brown County Intermediate School (Brown County School Corporation) should be listed as an “A”.
- Mr. Watts moved to approve the school placement. Dr. Yager provided a second. The Board voted unanimously, 11-0, to approve the placement of schools.

C. Resolution on Schools Eligible for 2014-15 Intervention

- Dr. Yager introduced a [resolution](#) and asked that it be amended to include that the State Board will continue interventions with charter schools that might qualify for state intervention.
- Superintendent Ritz moved to accept the amendment and it received a second.
- Dr. Ernest recused himself from the discussion and vote on the amendment and resolution due to potential conflict of interest.
- Dr. Freitas asked if the State would continue to support the schools involved in this resolution. Superintendent Ritz said support would continue and they are working to schedule hearings with those schools before the Board. She also clarified that this resolution would not stop the accountability clock for these schools, it would continue the current interventions.
- Mr. Watts recused himself from the resolution for a possible conflict of interest.
- Mrs. O’Brien stated her support since we are holding other schools harmless.
- The Board voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the amendment.
- Upon receiving a motion to approve the resolution, as amended, and a second by Dr. Freitas, the Board voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the resolution.

XI. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Assessment Update

- Dr. Walker provided an update to the Board on the formative assessment grants, ISTEP+, and IRead-3.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked how quickly the money from the formative assessment grants would be received by schools. Dr. Walker said it should only take a few weeks following approval of the final grant amounts by Board on February 3.
- Dr. Walker updated the Board on the most recently completed stress test under Pearson. She reported the Pearson system did not ramp up as quickly as expected and that issue has been discussed with Pearson and the company plans to make adjustments to correct the issue. She also announced another statewide stress test that will take place on Friday, January 29, 2016.
- Ms. Whicker suggested the state encourage more use of paper/pencil since many of the schools don't have updated technology and that seems to be where many problems arise.
- Dr. Walker highlighted positive changes in online vs. paper/pencil test administration under Pearson, including making each section of the test individual in Part I, which allows schools to choose the topic areas they want to administer online vs. paper/pencil not requiring the entire Part I to be one mode over the other.
- Mrs. O'Brien asked about Pearson's proctor cache technology and whether it is required to be used by schools. Dr. Walker said schools are required to use proctor cache which is designed to limit disruptions during the test.

B. Accountability Update

- Not discussed

XII. BOARD OPERATIONS

- Not discussed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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