



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2015

Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room 9
302 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
8:30 a.m. (EDT)

Committee Members Present: Gordon Hendry (Chair), Dr. David Freitas, and B.J. Watts.

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Vince Bertram

I. Call to Order/ Meeting Minutes Approval

The Chair, Mr. Hendry, called the meeting to order. Mr. Hendry invited a motion to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2015 committee meeting, and upon a motion by Dr. Freitas and a second by Mr. Watts, the motion was passed unanimously.

II. Update on Scientifically Valid Family and Community Surveys

Mr. Hendry invited Ms. Cowger from the Board staff to the podium to present information on behalf of LeRoy Robinson, from the Department, regarding the framework of IDOE's scientifically valid family and community surveys¹. The survey corresponds with the SBOE Strategic Plan Goal 3. The purpose of this goal is to have the survey launched by this fall so that parents can respond to how their students are being treated in schools.

Ms. Cowger addressed the committee next for questions. Mr. Hendry asked a question regarding how the Department had determined the scientific validity of the survey. Mr. Hendry would like to ensure that survey is conclusive and that it is accessible to every school district.

Mr. Watts asked a question regarding the number of surveys a school district must complete in order for the results to be valid. Mr. Watts stressed the importance of reaching all parents and not the population who is extremely satisfied or extremely dissatisfied with their school district. Ms.

¹ The framework for the IDOE's scientifically valid family and community survey memo can be viewed at <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Data-Tools-Portal/About-Data-Tools/Parent-and-Family-Involvement-Survey/ODE-Family-Involvement-Instructions-and-Survey.pdf.aspx>

Cowger responded that she did not have a clear understanding of the Department's strategy with regards to the city, rural, and suburban populations and said that she would speak to Mr. Robinson to get more information regarding their strategy. Ms. Cowger continued that it would have to be a voluntary survey and approved by the Data Reporting Committee.

Dr. Freitas inquired that the chair, Mr. Hendry, should consider setting a goal for the survey and submit it to the Department that designates a specific percentage rate of return for the survey. Dr. Freitas stressed the importance of identifying the demographics of the school populations to be represented in the survey (i.e. Rural, City, and Suburban). Additional questions asked by Dr. Freitas include 1) the ability to adapt the survey to be reflective of Indiana schools and 2) the number of questions on the survey. He also questioned how the Department would encourage school districts to make changes as a result of the survey feedback results.

Mr. Hendry echoed that overall the committee was supportive of the Department's efforts and they look forward to hearing back to from Mr. Robinson in the future.

III. Quarterly Update from INTASS/ Indiana University Educator Support

Mr. Hendry invited Dr. Cole and Dr. Murphy to the podium to present information regarding the quarterly update from INTASS, and organization hired to support educator evaluation training and support. Dr. Murphy addressed the committee by stating that they have an outline for the scope of work with dates and timelines. He stated that they have submitted the data request to the Department and are waiting to hear back. Dr. Murphy also stated that the online training is available and stressed the importance of this training.

Dr. Cole echoed what Dr. Murphy said and stated that they have stressed the importance of teachers taking the online training modules and have seen results.

Dr. Murphy informed the committee that there have been meetings with people who they call their "INTASS Associates" as well as the ESC's to help provide technical assistance and move forward with the training various training modules in the scope of work. There has been an alignment between the ESC, SBOE, IDOE, and INTASS to establish expectations and outcomes.

Dr. Freitas asked a question regarding the data share agreement with the Department and how the role the state board would have in it since the contract is between the State Board and INTASS. Ms. Cowger addressed this question stating that it would be in the best interest of the Board to have the Department enter into an agreement with INTASS. She added that it is an ongoing process to establish expectations and to ensure that the data is received in a timely matter in order for INTASS and the Board to do their work. Dr. Freitas expressed the importance that the members of the Board Staff will have access to the data.

Mr. Hendry expressed his excitement for the work that INTASS is doing and he looks forward to the future steps that will occur.

IV. Update and Recommendations from SBOE's Stakeholder Design Committee

Ms. Cowger addressed the committee with an update on the work of the Stakeholder Design Committee. She informed the committee of the vision, theory of action, and belief statements recommended by the Stakeholder Design Committee. She stated that her role was to facilitate the learnings of the committees and that time was adequately used to bring forth recommendations. She also stated that TNTP was an integral part of the Stakeholder Design Committee to support Board Staff to bring together all of the recommendations. The final set of recommendations are to approve the vision, belief statements, and theory of action for educator evaluation. In addition, there are also further recommendations regarding more research on objective measures that Dr. Murphy is currently working on.

Mr. Hendry interjected to state his concern regarding the scientific validity and reliability of the objective measures. Dr. Freitas also stated his concern for the multiple measures being valid and reliable in order to be fair and accurate, further echoing what Mr. Hendry had stated. Dr. Freitas asked a question concerning the categories of acceptable objective measures referring to the third measure of climate and culture and questioned the fairness of adding that criteria for individual teachers. Ms. Cowger responded that climate and culture are important for the success of turnaround schools and Mr. Murphy echoed Ms. Cowger's response.

Dr. Freitas then stressed that he would like to look at the valid and reliable objective measures that are fair to all teachers. Ms. Cowger addressed the concern of Dr. Freitas by responding that the term objective measure had been defined, making it clear that the term does not only include ISTEP or ECA. She also addressed that the Stakeholder Design Committee was looking at what is currently considered an objective measure, but the committee did not include the weights for the specific objective measures. Ms. Cowger indicated that more work is still needed to have a consensus not only on teacher evaluations, but all educator evaluations.

Mr. Hendry asked if the term objective measures should be broken down to include other subcategories. Ms. Cowger and Mr. Murphy stated that more research is needed before making premature conclusions as these decisions would be largely arbitrary.

Mr. Watts urged not diving too deep into the recommendations in order to give the locals the most power in decision making. Ms. Cowger addressed this issue by pointing out that the responsibilities of the state versus the local school boards is largely misunderstood by the public which is addressed in the Stakeholder Design Committee recommendation memo.

Dr. Freitas recommended that compensation models tied to teacher evaluation should be studied further by the Stakeholder Design Committee.

Mr. Hendry had to step out a half hour early due to prior engagements and turned the meeting over to Mr. Watts to finish next steps.

Ms. Cowger explained the final areas of recommendations which included communications around educator evaluation and resources available as state and local resources. The primary recommendation is that there should be a constant chain of communication linked directly to

licensed educators and streamlining it into one area. She stated this new channel of communication will start at the beginning of the New Year. Dr. Freitas urged the importance of tracking teacher participation and opportunities for teachers to provide feedback. He sees it as a two way communication. Mr. Watts questioned if there was a way to have direct communication between the Board and the educators by compiling all of the email addresses of educators in the state. Ms. Cowger noted that Board Staff and IDOE Staff are working on a solution to streamline Board and Department communications to licensed educators per the Stakeholder Design Committee recommendations.

Dr. Freitas motioned for an approval of the Stakeholder Design Committee recommendations and Mr. Watts seconded it.

Mr. Watts then asked Mr. Robison, from the Department who joined the meeting later, to give an executive summary of the scientifically valid family and community survey to address questions members of the committee had. Mr. Robinson stated that the Department has many avenues to distribute the surveys with the purpose of the superintendents facilitating the outreach to the communities for the survey. Dr. Freitas questioned how the Department will reach each region with the survey and Mr. Robinson responded that while the survey is voluntary, he is open to recommendations to get more of a response rate.

Dr. Freitas recommended that the school superintendents be the first point of contact once the survey data is gathered.

V. Next Steps

Since the committee only meets every other month, Ms. Cowger asked the committee would like to establish any preliminary goals for the scientifically valid survey to build into the Board's Balanced Scorecard. Dr. Freitas would like to have a goal set for the survey to establish a twenty percent response rate.

An online poll will be sent out by Ms. Cowger to determine future meeting dates as there was not clarity among committee members when the next meeting would occur. Mr. Watts and Dr. Freitas stated that meeting dates work best when they occur the day after state board meetings occur.

VI. ADJOURN

Dr. Freitas made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Watts seconded the motion. The committee voted 2-0 to adjourn.