

## MINUTES

### State Board of Education Business Meeting

March 09, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. EST

Conference Room B, Indiana Government Center South

302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204

<https://youtu.be/K23JIWpL88w>

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote, Vice-Chair (by video), Mr. William Durham Jr., Secretary, Mr. Scott Bess, Ms. Erika Dilosa (by video), Dr. Byron Ernest, Mr. Greg Gastineau, Ms. Kristin Rentschler (by video) and Mr. B. J. Watts (by video). Board Members Absent: Dr. David Freitas and Mr. Pat Mapes

- I. **Call to Order**
  - A. Roll Call: A quorum is present.
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes for the February 09, 2022 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
  - A. February 09, 2022 - [Memo](#)
- IV. **Statement from the Chair:** Dr. Jenner announced the Indiana General Assembly closed the 2022 short session, March 08, 2022. In addition to commenting on the Omicron variant and the February ice storm, Dr. Jenner sent out thoughts and prayers to Ukraine. Dr. Jenner advocated for Crossing the Finish Line initiative. For the second consecutive summer, thousands of Indiana high school students will have the opportunity to accelerate the completion of a high-quality credential, including the Indiana College Core, an associate degree, or a career and technical education (CTE) certificate, for free. The initiative is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Education, the Commission for Higher Education, the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University.
- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports:** Dr. Ernest commented many of the students eligible for Crossing the Finish Line initiative are, most likely, due to the pandemic. He asked if the number would be this high if we were not in a pandemic. Dr. Jenner pointed out how the new Dashboard high school indicators would help in strategically tracking the credits earned.
- VI. **Public Comment:** Ms. Kendra Johnson, highlighted the significance of transparency and partnership among leadership, educators, parents and students. The pandemic showed the importance of technology in order to communicate. Dr. Jenner agreed the best way to educate a child is for educators and parents to work together as partners. She also pointed out the parent portal arm of Indiana Learning Lab offers support to parents.
- VII. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote. Consent Agenda consisted of the following.
  - A. Teacher Preparation Program- Calumet College of St. Joseph - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#), [Memo 3](#), [Memo 4](#)
  - B. Third-Party Recognition Petition for the Association of Christian Schools International - [Memo](#)

- C. Third-Party Recognition Petition for the International Christian Accrediting Association - [Memo](#)
- D. Common School Loan Amendment - [Memo](#)
- E. Common School Fund Applications - [Memo](#)
- F. 2022-2023 Indiana Assessment Windows-Amended - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)

VIII. **Discussion** - [Memo](#)

- A. Special Education Data Update
- B. Literacy and STEM Initiative Update
  - i. Mr. Brandon Myers gave an overview of the Special Education Child Count Data Trends. Mr. Durham asked if the share of total adjusted pupil count (APC) for Developmental Delay category began in 2018 and where were students previously? Mr. Myers responded, due to the change in law (PL 75-2017), Indiana law allowed students to maintain developmental delay eligibility through age eight. The first count was December 1, 2018. The Developmental Delay category is growing rapidly as students identified with a development delay are continuing to be identified as such, rather than being re-evaluated into a different primary disability category or dismissed from special education services. Dr. Ernest stated the changes in PL 75-2017 aided earlier identification and services. What needs to be done to make it better? Brandon responded, school evaluation resources are under stress due to backlog.
  - ii. Next, Ms. Karrienne Polk-Meek presented current Literacy and STEM Data. Mr. Watts believes the DOE and Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) partnership on Teacher Prep in the Science of Reading is in policy and asked for confirmation. Dr. Jenner asked Mr. Ranney to research and respond after the meeting. Dr. Jenner also referenced new legislation regarding a micro-grant for parents to use for student reading enrichment. In response to Mr. Gastineau's question regarding the selection of coaching candidates, Ms. Polk-Meek stated school districts are providing and offering coaches to support student needs and DOE is vetting. Many of the K-2 space currently have coaches in place.
  - iii. Finally, Ms. Lynn Schemel presented IREAD-3 as Early Indicator. Dr. Ernest asked if a student passes IREAD-3 in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, will he or she be able to read in Middle School? Ms. Schemel answered, Reading Standards Early Foundation Skills need to be built upon in future grade studies. Dr. Ernest, is there a plan past 3<sup>rd</sup> grade? Dr. Charity Flores came to the podium and explained the DOE team is targeting K-2 first, then the team will work on support after 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and build upon the Science of Reading. In response to Mr. Bess mentioning the challenges of teacher retention, Dr. Flores responded DOE is deploying next month areas of focus in defining essential standards. Dr. Jenner also commented this is an important nation-wide challenge which may have a future presentation at an upcoming board meeting. Mr. Durham asked if the determination of Good Cause Exemption is made in the case conference committee. Ms. Schemel answered, "yes". Mr. Durham followed up, what if the student is not Special Education? Ms. Schemel responded 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades can retake IREAD-3 in spring and summer. Dr. Jenner stated this is a frequently asked question at DOE. The only students eligible for the Good Cause Exemption are Special Education, English Learners and students who have been retained twice. Schools have two options for students who do not qualify for the Good Cause Exemption and do not pass IREAD-3, keep child in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or promote to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and continue to provide 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading instruction and require student to retest.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.