

MINUTES

Indiana State Board of Education Business Meeting

March 27, 2024

9:00 A.M. EDT

Auditorium

Indiana Government Center South

302 W. Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN, 46204

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=PfX25cOc2Wo>

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

Board Members Absent: None

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 07, 2024, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

- A. February 07, 2024 - [Memo](#)

IV. Statement from the Chair: Dr. Jenner congratulated Mr. Pat Mapes on his new position as Hamilton Southeastern Schools Superintendent. Continuing, she spoke of the February 14th Indiana Statehouse ceremony recognizing educators from 241 schools with scores of 95% or above on the 2023 administration of the IREAD assessment. Additionally, Dr. Jenner announced the State of Indiana is now accepting applications for Career Scholarship Account (CSA) programs and providers, connecting employers to Indiana students. The first-in-the-nation CSA program provides \$5,000 annually for tenth- through twelfth-grade students enrolled in eligible work-based learning programs. With the end of the 2024 Legislative Session, she thanked the General Assembly for their willingness to talk through solutions. Finally, Dr. Jenner announced eligible educators can now enroll in a free professional development course designed to help them earn Indiana's Literacy Endorsement. Eligible educators will receive up to \$1,200 in stipends for completion of the course.

V. Board Member Comments and Reports: Mr. Mapes asked if teachers are able to take the exam or all need to complete the program Dr. Jenner mentioned in order to meet requirements. Dr. Rebecca Estes responded all teachers will need 80 hours of professional development and in early April, IDOE will provide more details to account for previous training and other issues regarding Indiana's Literacy Endorsement.

Mr. Watts wished Mr. Jason Callahan well in his new job and stated he will be missed.

VI. Public Comment: Ms. Kendra Johnson's, Indiana Parents for Education, comments were centered around the April 8th Total Eclipse. Both, the opportunity for students to learn about astronomy and all sciences, and the opportunity for visitors to discover how great Indiana is and its rich history as the Crossroads of America. Ms. Johnson closed by expressing condolences to State Senator Jean Breaux's family.

Dr. Tara Bishop, Perry Central Community School Corporation Superintendent, expressed Perry Central Schools support for the redesign of the high school diploma in Indiana.

Dr. George Philhower, Eastern Hancock Community School Corporation Superintendent, expressed Eastern Hancock Schools support for the redesign of the high school diploma in Indiana.

VII. **Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

A. School Accreditation Petitions

1. Stepping Stones Education Academy (Elwood Elementary) - [Memo](#)
2. Stepping Stones Education Academy (Middle/High School) - [Memo](#)
3. Hebron Christian Academy - [Memo](#)
4. Eastside Christian Academy - [Memo](#)
5. Little Pioneers Academy - [Memo](#)

B. Latch Key Program Waiver - Milan Community Schools - [Memo](#)

C. HEA 1003 Waivers - [Memo](#) | [Memo](#)

D. Common School Loan Fund Applications - [Memo](#)

VIII. **New Business**

A. Initiate Rulemaking – Diploma Requirements - [Presentation](#) | [Resolution](#)

Rulemaking was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Philip Gordon, SBOE/IDOE General Counsel, presented the Rulemaking process. Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education, presented Rethinking High School: The Future of the Indiana Diploma.

1. Mr. Mapes asked if the state public hearings will be in-person or remote. Dr. Jenner responded, the public hearings around the state will be in-person, headed by Mr. Ron Sandlin as the key point person. Mr. Mapes followed up by asking if both public comment rounds will be presented to the SBOE board prior to final board approval. Dr. Jenner confirmed after each hearing round, public comments will be presented to the board for discussion.
2. Mr. Bess commented on other states watching and being interested in our work fundamentally changing the diploma options. "Isn't perfect, but we have to start..." Mr. Bess continued, doing the work will help us identify the issues we need to figure out and adjust. Mr. Callahan added with the seeds of work already planted across Indiana, he believes communities will discover, through further conversations, the opportunities to build out these flexible and relevant pathways for students.
3. Mr. Durham stated the importance of intentional messaging to parents, giving a clear understanding of what these changes will be for their students as they approach graduation.
4. Dr. Ernest commented strongly on the board's need to keep the alignment parts of this work at the forefront.
5. Ms. Mote expressed, as we work on components for Diploma Plus, it is essential for the employer community to be brought along at an equal pace, enabling them to provide good "demand" for the "supply" we are putting out.
6. Mr. Watts was excited about the single student information system helping both counselors and teachers. He agreed with Ms. Mote's comments regarding industry and students "moving on the tracks at the same time".
7. Mr. Mapes and Mr. Watts asked about the flexibility of some of the courses targeted at grades 9 and 10, spanning through grade 12. Dr. Jenner responded the courses are flexible. Mr. Mapes and Mr. Watts further asked about other course inclusions within the structure.

8. Acknowledging the tracking challenges and necessary solutions, Mr. Bess and Mr. Watts discussed how everything counts for students, e.g., clubs, extracurricular activities, part-time employment. The totality of a student's high school experience matters.
9. Ms. Rentschler asked how colleges and universities will accept our new, unique diplomas.
10. Mr. Mapes emphasized internships are both in-person and online.
11. Ms. Mote added to Ms. Rentschler's question, Higher Education, both inside and outside of Indiana, will need to adapt to our diplomas. Students will want to know which courses and work-based learning are of currency at their chosen institution of higher learning.
12. Mr. Gastineau spoke of students who, upon visiting a cadaver lab, discovered they do not want to be in the medical field. While only students aged 18 are allowed in these hospital settings, having these experiences at a younger age would be helpful in directing some students to their career paths.
13. Ms. Hammel is excited about the opportunities to open conversations with Higher Education. Change is necessary.
14. Ms. Rentschler inquired if students do not have time during the school year, could summer internships count, e.g., working with an attorney, leading summer camp programs.
15. Ms. Dilosa stated she is excited to hear the different public comments and solutions. In some cases, students are working inside their own schools, able to support teachers in the classroom.
16. Mr. Bess clarified Higher Education has the freedom to require whatever course work they want. A student will need to plan and hit the bar their school of choice demands. Another available option is competency-based learning, freeing up more time for work experience.
17. Dr. Ernest added there is a funding alignment needed with skills and competency-based learning. In addition, he asked when there are changes and improvements being made along the way, how will the board be able to iterate at a later time, without rulemaking again and again. Dr. Jenner said the flexibility to iterate needs to be written into the current process.

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

