

MINUTES

State Board of Education Business Meeting

July 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM EDT

Conference Rooms A, B & C, Indiana Government Center South

302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204

https://youtu.be/MYyT_Nx4ME

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote, Vice-Chair, Mr. Pete Miller, Secretary, Ms. Erika Dilosa, Mr. William Durham, Jr., Dr. Byron Ernest, Dr. David Freitas (by phone), Mr. Greg Gastineau, 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 June 02, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

- a. June 02, 2021 - [Memo](#)

IV. Statement from the Chair:

Dr. Jenner announced the reappointments of Mr. William Durham, Dr. Byron Ernest and Mr. Greg Gastineau to the board. Dr. Jenner celebrated Mr. William Durham as the new Executive Director, 100 Black Men of Indianapolis, Incorporated. Also, Dr. Jenner welcomed Dr. Damian Betebenner, Senior Associate, National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA).

V. Board Member Comments and Reports:

- a. Dr. Byron Ernest stated the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Virtual Annual Conference will be held October 7, 2021 and October 8, 2021.

VI. Public Comment: None

VII. Consent Agenda: The consent agenda was approved by roll call vote. Consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. Common School Loan Extensions - [Memo](#)
- b. Initiate Rulemaking: Article 7; REPA - [Memo](#)
- c. Formative Assessments - [Memo](#)
- d. ICAP Guidelines - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)
- e. Accessibility and Accommodations Manual - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)
- f. 2020-2021 Updates to Assessments Policy Manual - [Memo](#)
- g. WIDA Guidance - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)

- h. Transfer Tuition: MSD Wabash v School City of East Chicago - [Memo](#)
- i. Null Grade Designations - [Memo](#)
- j. School Accrediting Organization Recognition for Residential Treatment Facilities - [Memo](#)

VIII. New Business

- a. School Accreditation: International Soccer Academy of America (ISAA) - [Memo](#) : Mr. Ranney presented. SBOE staff recommended denial of the accreditation. Dr. Ernest requested reasons for the staff denial. Mr. Ranney stated: 1) Demonstration of curriculum alignment with state requirements, 2) Use of formative benchmark assessments, 3) School instructional methods and opportunities to earn Indiana diplomas. Mr. Ethan Hunt, Founder and Director of ISAA, addressed the board, along with representatives of teaching staff and parents. Various board members voiced questions and concerns. ISAA accreditation was denied 11-0 by roll call vote.
 - i. Mr. William Durham inquired of ISAA's vision. Mr. Hunt answered soccer students of varied economic levels will both play soccer and receive an education at the same institution.
 - ii. Mr. Hunt responded, no, to Dr. Jenner's inquiry if ISAA was in operation last year.
 - iii. Dr. Ernest asked if the school had scholarships for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Hunt stated the scholarships he spoke of were unfunded grants. Also, Mr. Hunt responded to Dr. Ernest that Algebra I curriculum was in place and aligned to Indiana's requirements.
 - iv. Mr. Durham asked if Mr. Hunt had anticipated a special needs student population. Mr. Hunt hopes to utilize Penn High School staff or ISAA staff will take additional education courses to meet the demands. Ms. Dilosa later stressed the need for having a strong special needs program already in place.
 - v. Mr. Gastineau asked whether the school days would be interrupted by soccer games. ISAA plays ten colleges within Indiana only on weekends, no out-of-state high schools.
 - vi. Mr. Mapes requested information regarding sponsors and fundraising. ISAA has a 2021-2022 budget of \$350,000.00 and have fund-raised \$100,000.00, with additional sponsorships and fund-raising events planned.
 - vii. Ms. Mote spoke her concerns regarding preparation in the event a future Covid lockdown is mandated. If necessary, ISAA will support virtual learning and provide computers for 30% of students.
 - viii. Mr. Hunt clarified to Ms. Dilosa, upon a student discovering playing soccer is no longer their goal while attending ISAA, students have the option of changing to Sports Business or opting out of the school, not a four-year commitment.
 - ix. In response to a question from Mr. Miller, Mr. Hunt clarified that 2 of the 22 prospective students were in 12th grade.
 - x. Dr. Ernest, Dr. Jenner and Mr. Watts all invited Mr. Hunt to come back to the board next year to provide the board assurances of ISAA's fiscal and academic responsibilities.
- b. School Accreditation: Life Christian STEAM Academy - [Memo](#) : Mr. Ranney presented. SBOE staff recommended approval of accreditation. Life Christian STEAM Academy accreditation was approved 11-0 by roll call vote.
- c. Homeschool Exits - [Memo](#) : Mr. Ranney presented. Mr. Watts complimented the Homeschool Exits audit process. Homeschool Exits was approved 11-0 by roll call vote.

IX. Discussion

- a. Assessment: Discussion items A and B were combined into a single presentation.
- b. COVID Accelerated Learning - [Memo](#) : Dr. Jenner made some introductory comments. Although we should continue to provide experiential learning pathways in high school, we must ensure that the foundations are solid, such as literacy by 3rd grade, STEM, and project-based learning. She also emphasized three key points: 1) this data cannot be an indictment on anyone, anything, or any school considering the effects of the global pandemic; 2) these are not problems that anyone can fix overnight; and 3) while student learning was impacted across the board, our most at-risk students had persistent learning and educational achievement gaps even prior to the pandemic. Dr. Betebenner gave an overview, noting Indiana has one of the most comprehensive set of data that he's seen. He cautioned against simply subtracting the year-to-year proficiency rates to measure the academic impact. Dr. Flores then presented the linked slides and Dr. Betebenner interjected throughout. Various board members voiced the following questions and concerns.
 - i. Mr. Mapes, Mr. Watts and Ms. Mote discussed the difference in instructional time impacting data results due to differing Indiana local Covid-19 mandates and using 2020-2021 school year as the baseline for the data results. Mr. Watts asked Mr. Keller if the attendance codes were broken down into in-person, hybrid and virtual attendance. Mr. Keller responded eight attendance codes are being used. Dr. Jenner confirmed 2020-2021 school year is the baseline used for data reference and each following school year will be analyzed for a period of time.
 - ii. Mr. Durham asked if the process to train educators on accelerated strategies has been considered. Dr. Jenner stated the Department of Education will support local leadership in this effort. Dr. Flores added the need for thoughtful consideration of every instructional minute.
 - iii. Rates of learning required for recovery are unprecedented at the scale required to return to where students or groups of students would be under normal learning conditions. Dr. Flores emphasized now is the time to engage in new bold and innovative strategies to accelerate learning, utilizing the federal and state education funding resources.
 - iv. Mr. Miller repeated that the status quo is not sufficient; one size doesn't fit all, and there is a need to be bold. He suggested that local schools be incubators for innovative methods, and that IDOE be a clearing house for the most effective models. In any case, going back to normal is not an option.
 - v. Mr. Watts asked Dr. Betebenner if the impact of Covid-19 on diverse learning loss levels happened before on a smaller scale e.g. Katrina. Dr. Betebenner compared Katrina as an exodus and Covid-19 as a shut-down and emphasized Covid-19 is new, but not new in the fact there have always been children in the educational system that needed accelerated models of learning to catch up. Some research has advocated for high intensity, supplemental tutors as one method to increase the level of learning.
 - vi. Ms. Mote commented K-12 education could explore the parallel model community colleges use to help students learn at freshman level, remedial and 100 level classes taught together at the same time. Dr. Betebenner voiced his concerns of high school juniors and seniors not having as much time to recover, leaving the K-12 educational system without catching up.
- c. Dashboard - [Memo](#) : Mr. Sandlin presented the framework for the Performance

Dashboard. He noted the unprecedented amount of funding which will enable us to structure the system to reflect the dynamic needs of students as opposed to putting the onus on teachers to overcome a system that treats all students the same. Regarding the Performance Dashboard, Dr. Jenner plans to speak with each board member prior to the August board meeting.

X. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.