

## MINUTES

State Board of Education Business Meeting

August 11, 2021 at 10:00 AM EDT

Conference Room B, Indiana Government Center South

302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204

<https://youtu.be/YxkQrQf0Gts>

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

Board Members Absent: Mr. Pat Mapes. (Mr. Peter Miller is no longer a member of the board.)

### 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 July 14, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

- a. July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - [Minutes](#)

IV. Statement from the Chair: Dr. Jenner thanked Indiana teachers for their hard work and preparation for the start of the school year. Indiana schools are in session and “Off to the races”! Also, Dr. Jenner announced additional data from the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA) and analysis of the Indiana Instructional Mode Data would be presented during today’s board meeting.

V. Board Member Comments and Reports: Dr. Byron Ernest congratulated the ten Indiana Teacher of the Year finalists.

VI. Public Comment: Kendra Johnson, Educational Advocate for Title 1 parents. In order to help children succeed academically during the pandemic, Ms. Johnson spoke on the need for technological instruction for parents and grandparents teaching virtual learning. Mr. Watts and Ms. Dilosa agreed parents and grandparents struggled with technology. Both commented on their schools’ use of E-learning labs and monthly Parent University practices.

VII. Consent Agenda: Mr. Watts recused himself from item j. Dr. Freitas recused himself from items e and f. The consent agenda was approved by roll call vote, 9-0. Consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- a. Teacher Preparation Program: Western Governor’s University - [Memo](#)
- b. Teacher Preparation Program: Teachers of Tomorrow - [Memo](#)
- c. Teacher Preparation Program: Holy Cross College - [Memo](#)
- d. Teacher Preparation Program: Huntington University - [Memo](#)
- e. Teacher Preparation Program: IU Northwest - [Memo](#)

- f. Teacher Preparation Program: IU Southeast - [Memo](#)
- g. Teacher Preparation Program: Marian University - [Memo](#)
- h. Teacher Preparation Program: Purdue Northwest - [Memo](#)
- i. Teacher Preparation Program: Valparaiso University - [Memo](#)
- j. School Technology Advance Applications (STAA) - [Memo](#)
- k. Petition for Chartering Authority: University of Southern Indiana - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)
- l. Initiate Rulemaking: 511 IAC 7; 511 IAC 10.1 - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#)

#### VIII. New Business

- a. Petitions for HEA 1003 Flexibility - [Memo 1](#), [Memo 2](#):  
Mr. Ranney presented. Fourteen schools requested waivers.
  - i. South Gibson School Corporation requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year and from the school corporation annual performance report. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waivers. Dr. Freitas inquired how the waiver proposal impacted students positively. Mr. Ranney stated the flexibility to repurpose instruction gives teachers time to hone in on areas where students are struggling, improving student performance. Mr. Ranney continued, each school's responses were assessed and taken into consideration for staff recommendations when called and asked for additional information on their plans to measure student positive impact. Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.
  - ii. North Adams Community Schools requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved 9-0 by roll call vote.
  - iii. Tri-County School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
  - iv. Eastern Pulaski Community School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
  - v. Danville Community School Corporation requested waivers from the school corporation annual performance report, bullying training, school corporation employee health coverage, criminal gang measures and 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. Approved by unanimous vote.
  - vi. North Gibson School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
  - vii. C A Beard Memorial School Corporation requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year and the media program. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waivers. Approved by unanimous vote.
  - viii. East Noble School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.

- ix. Covington Community School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
- x. MSD Pike Township requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year, the school corporation annual performance report, bullying training, child suicide awareness and prevention policy, minimum training requirements for school corporation police departments, criminal gang measures, reading plan and reading deficiency remediation plan. SBOE staff recommended approval of all waivers, except recommended denial of reading plan and reading deficiency remediation plan waivers. In regard to the annual performance report, Dr. Freitas asked if the waiver exempted Pike Twp. from having to complete the report. Mr. Ranney explained the report is produced by DOE and posted publicly on the DOE website. The waiver allows Pike Twp. the choice not to publish in the local newspaper of general circulation. Dr. Freitas continued he felt it would be more effective to report in multiple ways, also posting on the local school website and he did not support the waiver. MSD Pike Township waivers A-H, minus B, approved by unanimous vote. Ms. Rentschler and Ms. Dilosa both questioned if the board has approved in the past. Mr. Ranney responded yes, today with South Gibson and in past board meetings. Mr. Watts introduced the financial aspect of posting the report in the local newspaper, stressing dollars are better spent in the classroom directly on kiddos. Dr. Ernest asked to reclarify the waiver exemption. MSD Pike Township waiver B approved 7-2 by roll call vote.
- xi. Monroe County Community School Corporation requested a waiver from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
- xii. Beech Grove City Schools requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year and the media program. SBOE staff recommended approval of the waivers. Approved by unanimous vote
- xiii. Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year and the reading plan. SBOE staff recommended approval of the school year waiver and denial of the reading plan waiver. Approved by unanimous vote.
- xiv. Indianapolis Public Schools requested waivers from 180 instructional days requirements in order to count school days by minutes and hours for the 2021-2022 school year and the provision prohibiting school corporations moving \$12,500 from the general fund to the operational fund. SBOE staff recommended approval of the school year waiver and denial of the dollars moved from general to operational fund due to lack of clarity to the amount and use of funds. Approved by unanimous vote.

## IX. Discussion

- a. Indiana Instructional Mode Data - [Memo 1](#)  
Ms. Paino presented the linked slides. Various board members voiced the following questions and concerns.

- i. Dr. Jenner clarified the data is per student, rather than per school. Dr. Freitas asked if the 15% who did not participate in the data collection was due to technical reasons or lack of interest. Dr. Keller came to the podium and answered the reason was technical, they were not given an option not to participate. Going forward, DOE is collecting attendance weekly. Dr. Freitas and Dr. Jenner thanked Dr. Keller's team and school leaders for their work, citing Indiana is leading other states with this data collection.
- ii. Ms. Paino closed her presentation with the pledge to continue analyzing the data in order to best provide support to schools, especially virtual instruction. Mr. Watts thanked her for the valuable information and noted his takeaway of the importance of children being taught in our school buildings.
- iii. Dr. Freitas asked why racially and ethnically diverse students were likely to receive virtual remote instruction more than white students. He requested a list of the top ten Indiana schools in which this occurred and SBOE's role if a new Covid-19 variant arises. Mr. Watts requested, in addition, how many of these top ten schools were not allowed to be in session by their local health departments. Dr. Jenner stated instructional data on attendance rate and primary mode of instruction was provided last month. She stated further we should consider and ask how to support our local schools, local health departments, and communities so students are kept in school safely. Regarding racially and ethnically diverse students more likely to receive remote instruction, Mr. Durham noted this student population showed the least amount of in-person instruction and the highest amount of missing information. Ms. Dilosa echoed many students of black communities were not allowed to attend school in-person by health departments.
- iv. Mr. Watts added parents are still afraid and asking Superintendents why their children are in school. The data presented today shows children need to be in-person and Superintendents are now able to use this data as a tool.
- v. Ms. Paino concluded the executive summary report would be released to schools on Friday.

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