

## MINUTES

### State Board of Education Business Meeting

December 15, 2021 at 9:00 AM EST

Auditorium, Indiana Government Center South

302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204

<https://youtu.be/mbP531--33g>

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote, Vice-Chair (by phone), Mr. William Durham Jr., Secretary, Mr. Scott Bess, Ms. Erika Dilosa (by phone), Dr. Byron Ernest, Dr. David Freitas (by phone), Mr. Greg Gastineau (by phone), Mr. Pat Mapes, Ms. Kristin Rentschler (by phone) 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 November 10, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
  - A. November 10, 2021 - [Memo](#)
- IV. **Statement from the Chair:** In light of the upcoming holiday break, Dr. Jenner asked one and all who serve in our schools across the state of Indiana to take time to relax and enjoy family and friends. Reflecting on the past year, Dr. Jenner stated Indiana schools' remarkable job of navigating Covid-19. She continued with a review of the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and their partnerships' past year of victories and concluded with upcoming 2022 Literacy and STEM initiatives and Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed (GPS) information.
- V. **Board Member Comments and Reports:** None.
- VI. **Public Comment:** Mr. John O'Neal, Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), stated ISTA members' support of multiple measures of accountability and the Dashboard indicators shift away from a heavy reliance on standardized testing. Mr. O'Neal listed members concerns and recommendations regarding the Dashboard. He summarized with a request for the Dashboard to be viewed through a racial and socio-economic lens and a reminder that ISTA members are overwhelmed by Covid-19 and past IDOE changes, necessitating adjustment time for the new major shifts. Dr. Jenner assured Mr. O'Neal the GPS Dashboard is student centered and future focused. And, the most transparent in Indiana in terms of indicators with regard to student population.

Justin Ohlemiller, Stand for Children, summarized Stand for Children’s mission as working with Indianapolis parents to increase engagement in their children’s education and to help families understand their unique power to drive change and improvement in our public schools. Stand for Children supports the GPS Dashboard and appreciates their engagement in the process. Mr. Ohlemiller recommended two headline measures, Raising 9<sup>th</sup> Grade on Track and FASFA completion. Furthermore, Mr. Ohlemiller emphasized and gave data supporting the need to close the achievement gaps between race and income.

LaToya Hale-Tahirou, Stand for Children parent, supports closing the achievement gaps between race and income as a headline metric. Ms. Hale-Tahirou believes all children are capable of learning with the proper support and passionately advocates for parents to be able to easily find high-quality schools that close the achievement gaps. A-F grading system does not currently show achievement gap measurements.

Eugenia Murry, Stand for Children parent, advocates to maintain a transparent A-F letter grade school rating and include closing achievement gaps between race and income as a headline metric. After learning School 93 was rated F, Ms. Murry helped to bring the Project Restore model to the school.

Rachel Wright, Stand for Children parent, supports including closing achievement gaps between race and income as a headline metric within the A-F school grades. Ms. Wright believes closing the achievements gaps will lower crime rates and give students opportunities to display their highest potentials. The A-F model is easy to use and understand. She stated measurements of closing achievement gaps are vital information and should count towards A-F school grades.

Dontia Dyson, Stand for Children parent, stated the A-F system has changed his daughter’s entire life. After she was bullied at one school, Mr. Dyson moved his daughter to a neighborhood school. Later he learned of the A-F system and found the neighborhood school to have an F rating. The A-F system is easy to understand and allowed him to find the best school for his daughter. Mr. Dyson advocates to close achievement gaps due to income and race and asks the board to improve the A-F school grading system by adding as a headline metric that counts towards the school letter grade on the A-F dashboard. He closed by stating he wants to live in an equitable state that values all.

Dr. David Marcotte, Indiana Urban Schools Association (IUSA), supports the Indiana GPS conceptual model. He stated IUSA’s belief test scores alone do not define the totality of academic achievement of any child. It is critical for schools to have the ability to publish the many indicators demonstrating student achievement in a manner easy to understand. A broad data system of accountability will accomplish this goal and benefit Indiana citizens.

VII. **Consent Agenda:** Ms. Mote recused herself from item A. Mr. Watts recused himself from item D. Dr. Freitas recused himself from items L, O and P. Mr. Bess recused himself from Item S. The consent agenda was approved by roll call vote, 11-0. Consent agenda consisted of the following items:

A. DWD CTE Funding - [Memo](#)

- B. 2022 Summer School Program - [Memo](#)
- C. 2022-2023 Indiana Assessment Windows - [Memo](#)
- D. Common School Loans - [Memo](#)
- E. Common School Loan Amendment - [Memo](#)
- F. Extending State Accreditation - Hanover College Department of Education - [Memo](#)
- G. Extending State Accreditation - Manchester University Department of Education - [Memo](#)
- H. Extending State Accreditation - Vincennes University Education Department - [Memo](#)
- I. Southern Indiana Education Center - Career Specialist Pedagogy Component - [Memo](#)
- J. Purdue University Fort Wayne - Communications Disorders - [Memo](#)
- K. Purdue University Fort Wayne - Elementary STEM - [Memo](#)
- L. Indiana University Southeast: Fine Arts: Visual Arts (P-12) - [Memo](#)
- M. Purdue University Fort Wayne: Elementary Transition to Teaching (K-6) - [Memo](#)
- N. Purdue University Fort Wayne - Secondary Transition to Teaching (5-12) - [Memo](#)
- O. Indiana University Northwest: Transition to Teaching, Special Education - All Grade (P-12) - [Memo](#)
- P. Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis: Graduate Level Addition, Special Education: Mild Intervention - All Grade (P-12) - [Memo](#)
- Q. Purdue University Fort Wayne: Transition to Teaching, Special Education - All Grade (P-12) - [Memo](#)
- R. University of Indianapolis: Transition to Teaching, Special Education - All Grade (P-12) - [Memo](#)
- S. Excessive Homeschool Exits - [Memo](#)

## VIII. **New Business**

- A. Indicators Aligned to Indiana GPS - [Memo](#)

Dr. Jenner thanked the General Assembly for the passage of HB1514 and the many stakeholders who came to the table to provide feedback and assist in the process of rethinking Indiana education accountability measures.

Dr. Todd Bess, Indiana Association of State Principals (ISTA), supports the Indiana GPS dashboard for its ability to move and more fully describe the success of our schools and students beyond the single letter grade. By considering multiple metrics that do not factor into the school grade formula, the Indiana GPS provides opportunities for schools and communities to fully grasp what is occurring and the schools' role in that success. These metrics move well beyond test scores that defined schools for many years. While acknowledging it is a long-standing, tough issue to resolve, educators do not want to ask the question, "Will the student who doesn't meet the cut score impact my [school] grade?"

Dr. Jenner clarified, "We are not rulemaking today for A-F."

Mr. Jason Callahan and Mr. Ron Sandlin gave an overview of the progress that has been made on the five characteristics and the proposed indicators used to assess success for

these characteristics. The board was asked to approve the headline indicators. Approved by roll call vote, 11-0.

- I. Dr. Byron Ernest commented on two issues, High School Graduation on Track and the achievement gaps addressed by public comment today. Dr. Ernest asked how we share accountability regarding High School Graduation on Track. Mr. Sandlin responded, while premature, he believed business rules could accommodate school impact on mobility, tracking of individual student credits and how many credits students acquired within a given year. Dr. Ernest requested the board heed public comment and look at achievement gaps.
  - II. Mr. Scott Bess suggested looking at business rules in detail for what a parent needs to see to decide on their child's education and placing red flags by those indicators for ease of use.
  - III. Mr. Pat Mapes agrees with color coding as we are familiar with color coding during Covid-19. Mr. Mapes spoke to his concerns about locking students into high school courses after eight grade decisions. Bring CTE back to IDOE.
  - IV. Mr. B.J. Watts agreed wholeheartedly with color coding, red, yellow and green and the "ten-second" glance of the dashboard. Ms. Katie Mote affirmed.
  - V. Mr. William Durham Jr. advocated for the dashboards ease of use for parents and agreed with Mr. Mapes comments regarding "on and off ramps" for students.
  - VI. Dr. Jenner closed by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday.
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.