



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2016

Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room A
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
1:00 p.m. (EST)

Committee Members Present: Gordon Hendry (Chair), Dr. Vince Bertram, Dr. David Freitas, Mr. B.J. Watts (via Phone).

Committee Members Absent: None.

I. Call to Order

II. Updates

On the topic of character education, Dr. Freitas expressed his concerns. He explained certain core characteristics are not being met by all employees. He suggested some improvements be made to better prepare the graduates.

In addition to improving the character education within Indiana, board members feel as though there is an opportunity to expand the Pre-K program in the state. Mr. Hendry believes we can make Indiana's Pre-K program more competitive with those in other states. Dr. Freitas offered suggestions on how to improve the program. Quality, is an important component Dr. Freitas feels we should focus on. However, without necessary funding, he explained, it will be difficult to provide adequate resources (e.g. state licenses for teachers) to improve the quality of the program. When it comes to refining the status of Pre-K programs, teacher training and preparation is a common theme from committee members. Mr. Hendry suggested not attending preschool is a social injustice for students. Mr. Hendry believes:

- preschool is vital to the state.
- we need to have adequate funding for preschool programs immediately.

Dr. Bertram explained that people use the poverty line without taking other conditions into consideration. Some people are actually afraid of going above the poverty line because they know that they will lose all their benefits.

Committee members seek a solution that enable families to afford textbooks and school supplies. The financial situation of families should be taken into consideration when assigning textbooks to students. Dr. Freitas would like a program established where families can receive textbooks, without having to pay hundreds of dollars. Dr. Freitas discussed the negatives of textbooks (and not just the financial burdens). Textbooks are extremely heavy and cause lasting physical effects on students, especially on their backs. His solution to this is to increase the use of online textbooks. His point is also backed up by the fact that online textbooks could be updated easier and more regularly.

Before the end of the meeting, Dr. Freitas wanted to touch on the assessment system that did not reach consensus. Regarding testing, he asked how Indiana education will move forward next year – will a new test be created, will the same test from this year be utilized or are there other options? Mr. Murphy stated that the panel should offer a recommendation for the board by December to base their decisions.

III. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved by voice vote.