

July 10-11, 2013 Board Meeting Highlights

On July 10-11, the State Board of Education (SBE) hosted a Board meeting in Spokane, Washington, at the office of the ESD 101.

During the meeting, members discussed the following:

- Progress on the SBE's 2013-2014 Strategic Plan
- Development of an Accountability Framework pursuant to the requirements of Senate Bills 5329 & 5491, including revised Index submission
- Performance tracking and goals-setting for former English Language Learner students
- Charter School Authorizer review and approval process update
- Proposed Rules for Charter Schools
- Basic Education Act Waivers
- Next Generation Science Standards

Board members Peter Maier and Mara Childs were sworn in on July 10. Members recognized the work of Jeff Vincent, who is stepping down as the Chair of the Board. The Board will discuss leadership roles at the September meeting and hold election of leadership positions at the November meeting.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Submission of the Index Redesign to U.S. Dept. of Education
- Filing of CR102 - Charter School Rules
- Filing of CR101 - revision of SBE Rules
- Adopting an 'Ever ELL' cell in the Index
- BEA Waivers of nine school districts
- Recommending approval of Next Generation Science Standards to the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Private Schools for the 2013-14 School Year
- Letter to AAW on Accountability Framework for their August meeting

WORK SESSION - DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SENATE BILLS 5329 & 5491, INCLUDING REVISED INDEX SUBMISSION

SBE considered what constitutes a coherent accountability framework for the state. This broad state accountability framework is likely to encompass the specific requirements of both E2SSB 5329 - Transforming persistently failing schools, and ESSB 5491 - Establishing statewide indicators of educational health. The Board broke in to small groups to discuss three topics: requirements of E2SSB 5329, requirements of ESSB 5491, and Framework Guiding Principles. Members came back for a large group discussion of key points from the small groups.

The Board also deliberated on the final details of the revised Achievement Index, starting with discussion of the feedback on the Index received at the June special meeting. The public comment was very valuable and focused on concerns about how Focus Schools are handled,

negativity of the term “struggling”, Student Growth Percentile methodology, and timeline constraints.

Member Peter Maier presented the option of adding a sixth tier to the revised Index between “fair” and “struggling”. This would move Focus Schools from the Struggling tier to the new tier. It recognizes the differences between Priority and Focus Schools. After discussing what to name the two lowest categories, the Board decided to modify the Index to add a sixth tier, label the lowest tier “Priority – Lowest 5%”, and label the second lowest tier “Underperforming”. Also, Focus schools (Title and non-Title) are subject to a tier ceiling of “Underperforming”.

PERFORMANCE TRACKING AND GOALS-SETTING FOR FORMER ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS

The SBE discussed a proposal to include an ‘Ever ELL’ cell in the Revised Achievement Index submission to the U.S. Dept. of Education. It looks at the full picture of students who are currently ELL or have ever been ELL, including active, current, former, recent, and transitional ELL students. Tracking former ELL students provides accountability for how well the programs prepare students to transition out of the program and achieve academic success. Members discussed the pros and cons of an Ever ELL cell versus Current ELL and Former ELL cells and decided to replace the ELL subgroup cell in the Index with an Ever ELL cell.

Board members also considered annual performance targets for ELL which align federally-required Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) and state performance targets into one integrated system.

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS – STATUS UPDATE

Board members reviewed progress of the charter school authorizer process. Thirteen school districts submitted notices of intent. Spokane School District applied to be an authorizer by the July 1, 2013 deadline. SBE will select two external application reviewers, schedule an interview with Spokane charter leads, and approve or deny the application at the September meeting. If members approve the authorizer, the Board will then execute an authorizing contract within 30 days of the Board decision. The second round timeline includes: notices of intent due on October 1, 2013, SBE posts application by October 1, 2013, applications due on December 31, 2013, SBE decision by April 1, 2014.

PROPOSED RULES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

RCW 28A.710.100(4) requires each charter authorizer to submit an annual report to the SBE according to a timeline, content and format specified by the Board. Rulemaking is required to set the date by which the report must be submitted, to specify the required information to be submitted, and to establish the form and manner in which the report must be submitted. The rules apply to all authorizers -- both school districts approved by the SBE under RCW 28A.710.090 and the Washington Charter School Commission.

The draft rules presented to the Board:

1. Set a due date of November 1 for the authorizer reports.
2. Direct the SBE to develop and post a standard form to be used in submitting the report.

3. Add a requirement for an executive summary.
4. Provide for certain information about authorizers and their charter portfolios to be included in the report, in addition to that required in statute.
5. Add detail and clarity to the content required in statute, focusing most on the academic performance of operating charter schools overseen by the authorizer, including the progress of the schools based on the authorizer's performance framework.

Board members would also like to see language that requires disaggregation of data in authorizer reports and requires staff to post the authorizer reports.

BASIC EDUCATION ACT WAIVERS

The Board considered requests from 13 school districts for Option One waivers from the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year. Six of the requests are resubmittals of requests presented but not approved at the May meeting, with additional information provided by each district as requested in May. The Board approved the requests of nine districts: Battle Ground, Lyle, Nespelam, Riverside, Auburn, Columbia (Hunters), Kelso, Ocean Beach, Reardan-Edwall, and Davenport. The Board directed staff to provide written notice to Columbia (Walla Walla), Fife, and Seattle districts that their requests were not approved.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS – ADOPTION CONSIDERATIONS

The SBE heard about considerations for recommending adoption of NGSS from Jessica Vavrus, Assistant Superintendent, and Ellen Ebert, Ph.D., Science Director, Teaching and Learning (both from OSPI). Members were updated on the NGSS review process, statewide support, assessment transition, bias and sensitivity workgroup, standards comparative analysis, and next steps.

Board members engaged in a panel discussion with representatives of science educators and employers, including: Ms. Sandi Everlove, Chief Learning Officer, Washington STEM; Dr. Dana Riley Black, Director of the Center for Inquiry Science, Institute for Systems Biology; Ms. Midge Yergen, Teacher, West Valley Junior High School, and Past President, Washington Science Teachers Association; and Mr. Jeff Estes, Division Director, Science and Engineering Education, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

The Board recommends the Superintendent of Public Instruction adopt the Next Generation Science Standards for Washington.

**The next State Board of Education meeting will be September 10-12 in
Yakima, Washington, at the Offices of the ESD 105.**

Visit our website (www.sbe.wa.gov/materials.php) for additional information or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.