Washington State Board of Education

Working to Raise Student Achievement Dramatically

May 14-15, 2008
Meeting Highlights

On May 14-15, the State Board of Education met at Whatcom Community College to review the final report from David Heil and Associates on the recommendations for the K-10 Science standards' revision, the Strategic Teaching report on Algebra I and Geometry high school math standards; the draft rule for the third credit of math for high school graduation; and potential changes to graduation requirements including:

- A new draft credit framework "CORE 24", considerations for the Culminating Project and High School and Beyond Plan;
- An update on the work of the consultants on the Board's accountability work including studies on the policy barriers to student achievement and state/local partnerships for struggling schools;
- Plans for public outreach on the Board's work.

The Board listened to presentations from the Bellingham School District on its revised high school graduation requirements and from staff on the status of online learning opportunities for K-12 students in Washington.

Board Actions

Direction for Third Math Credit

Staff has completed work with stakeholders on the third math credit rule that would go into effect for the class of 2013. The proposed rule will now be filed with the Code Reviser to prepare for Board consideration and adoption at its July Board meeting.

Direction for Strategic Plan Framework

The Board has developed a strategic plan framework, which will be refined in more detail. The following goals are included:

1. Improve achievement for all students.
2. Improve graduation rates.
3. Improve student preparation for success in postsecondary education, 21st century world of work, and citizenship.

Approval Items

- David Heil and Associates Final Report on Recommendations for K-10 Science Standards.
- Delegation of authority to the Executive Director for administrative duties.
- Contract for extension of Strategic Teaching to complete standards revisions.

- Contract to the BERC Group to conduct a transcript study of 100 high schools.
- 180 day waiver requests for 15 school districts.

Public Outreach

Staff and Board members have been meeting with key stakeholders on the Board's work around high school graduation requirements and accountability. The Board will continue public outreach, which will include early June meetings in Spokane, Yakima, and Seattle, in June as well as online surveys and additional, targeted meetings with stakeholders.

Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- **Spokane on Monday, June 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**
  Spokane Community College
  1810 North Greene Street
  Student Center, Building 6
- **Yakima on Tuesday, June 3, 4:00-6:00 p.m.**
  Yakima Convention Center
  10 North 8th Street
- **Seattle on Wednesday, June 4, 3:30-5:30 p.m.**
  University Heights Center, Room 209
  6301 University Way Northeast

Meaningful High School Diploma Update

Board Lead, Eric Liu, summarized progress of the work on the graduation requirements package that had taken place since the March meeting, when the CORE 24 credit framework was introduced. At an April 22 work session, Board members heard presentations from three school districts about their Culminating Projects and High School and Beyond Plans, and revisited the CORE 24 framework. An online survey on the Board's Web site will be up by the end of May.

The Board is scheduled to approve a graduation framework package at its July 23-24 meeting, but will make that package contingent on funding. With the exception of math, no rules for graduation requirements will be written until the conclusion of the 2009 legislative session.

The Board has scheduled a work session for June 5 to continue discussions on the graduation requirements package.

Accountability Update

The Board has contracted with Northwest Regional Education Laboratory to conduct a policy barriers study. The barriers to be examined are: structure and organizations for assistance, financial and data resources, human resources, and effective use of time. The Lab staff is interviewing 40 key policy stakeholders as well as the staff (teachers, principals, and central office) in the following school districts: Seattle, Moses Lake, Everett, Yakima, Vancouver,

Shelton, and Sedro Woolley. The Northwest Regional Education Lab will also work with the Board on potential changes to its school improvement rule.

The Board has contracted with Mass Insight to examine current strategies for state and local partnerships for school turnaround as well as new ways to create partnerships. Mass Insight is conducting stakeholder interviews, teacher/principal interviews on specific ideas to help with school turnaround and union members, and is working with a design team of Washington educators to craft and respond to proposals.

Additional work is proceeding on the accountability index with the assistance of Pete Bylsma. The Board will look at incentives, such as school awards and ways to refine the process for identifying schools and districts in need of greater assistance.

The Board will hold a work session on June 19, to examine the work of its consultants on these topics. The Board plans to approve an accountability package at its September meeting.

Math Standards Update

Strategic Teaching provided a report on its work with the Algebra I and Geometry standards revisions. They are beginning work on the revisions for the standards for Algebra II. Strategic Teaching will meet with the Math Panel on June 12 for feedback on its report. A final report including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II standards will be completed on June 23. The Board will hold a work session in July to examine the Algebra II standards in more detail. At its July 23-24 meeting, the Board will take public comment and consider approval of the final report on the high school standards and by July 31, consider approval of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction high school math standards based on the Strategic Teaching report for adoption in a special Board meeting.

Third Credit of Math and Implementation Issues

Staff has drafted language and worked with stakeholders on a new rule for three credits of high school math beginning with the Class of 2013. This rule aligns with the Board's specified purpose of the high school diploma—to prepare all students for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship.

A third math credit will be required for all students. They must complete this third credit of math in an Algebra II course that aligns with the new math standards. This course requirement can be completed through an approved career and technical education course of study that is comparable in course content but allows the student to earn more than one credit to complete. A student may, upon completion of Algebra I and Geometry, elect a different third math credit. This elective choice shall allow the student to replace the Algebra II requirement with a third math credit that furthers their career path defined in their High School and Beyond Plan. A defined process for this elective choice will include the student, his/her family or designee, as well as a representative from the high school.

The Washington State School Directors Association has sent out a letter asking its school board presidents and their districts to respond to online surveys from the State Board of Education and Professional Educators Standards Board. These surveys ask for feedback on implementation topics such as teacher supply and potential costs for this third math credit, as well as the

potential of adding another, or different science credit. The Board plans to advocate for the additional costs that would be incurred to implement this and other graduation requirements.

Science Standards Review

The Board initiated a review of the K-10 science standards in late fall of 2007. The review was led by the consulting team of David Heil and Associates in conjunction with a Board-appointed Science Advisory Panel of local Washingtonians. The recommendations recognized the strengths of the current science standards and focused attention on policy and implementation issues that could make them even better. One key recommendation is to extend the standards to grade 12. The Board approved the recommendations and will forward them to OSPI to lead the revision process. Revisions will be completed by December 1, 2008.

For additional information and Board meeting materials go to: www.sbe.wa.gov or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.