

State Board of Education
Special K-20 Meeting
Billings Conference, OSPI, Olympia
Various Sites around the State
January 9, 2007

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Chair Mary Jean Ryan.

Members Present: Dr. Bernal Baca, Dr. Terry Bergeson, Dr. Steve Dal Porto, Steve Floyd, Dr. Sheila Fox, Phyllis Bunker Frank, Linda. W. Lamb, Eric Liu, Dr. Kristina Mayer, Mary Jean Ryan, Jack Schuster, Warren T. Smith Sr., Jeff Vincent (via telephone) and Student Representatives Zac Kinman and Tiffany Thompson

Members Excused: Amy Bragdon

Staff Present: Edie Harding, Evelyn Hawkins, Laura Moore, Sarah Bland

Chair Ryan reviewed the protocol for the meeting as this is a K-20 video conference. No public comment will be taken at this meeting. There will be a public comment period at the January 25-26 meeting at North Thurston School District.

Superintendent Terry Bergeson noted that, after the last meeting of the Board, she began working on a bill with the Governor's office that she hoped the Board will sign on with her and Governor Gregoire. The proposal would allow students who have not passed the mathematics WASL or one of the alternatives to graduate without the Certificate of Academic Achievement. There is a mathematics course under development to help students be able to graduate. All courses have to be equal to the standards and maintain rigor. They are also looking at incentives to earn the CAA. There is money being proposed by the Governor in her budget to help with mathematics and science program development.

Chair Ryan reviewed some of the actions that have been taken since the last State Board meeting. The Board needs to have a clear position on these issues. She also reviewed the proposed changes to the high school graduation requirements in mathematics that will be discussed at the January 25-26 meeting.

ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS CLASSES

Mr. Floyd suggested working through the items as presented. He stated that the committee's intention was not to have two additional years of mathematics be an alternative assessment for students who failed to meet standard on the high school WASL.

Motion: Moved by Mrs. Lamb and seconded by Mr. Floyd that the additional high school mathematics classes are an interim requirement for students in the graduating Classes of 2008-2010, but the classes are not considered an alternative assessment to meet the high school mathematics standard.

Motion carried on a roll call vote of 12 yes, 2 excused.

CLASS OF 2008

Mr. Floyd noted that the Class of 2008 will only have one opportunity to take a mathematics class. He is advocating that all three graduating Classes of 2008-2010 take two additional credits of mathematics to graduate. Ms. Ryan noted that, in the legislation being proposed by Governor Gregoire and Superintendent Bergeson, they are requiring the Class of 2008 to do one more credit in mathematics; Classes 2009-2010 would earn two credits. Mr. Schuster stated that there are problems with the definitions of course and credit; the language should read a "credit".

Mr. Smith liked the idea of having students take two additional mathematics credits. There is a problem in the field of having enough highly qualified mathematics teachers to teach the students. Ms. Frank raised the question on whether or not this would hamper districts awarding credits based on performance. In response to a question, Ms. Ryan stated that the segmented WASL would be made available to districts this fall by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Mr. Smith raised concerns about the ability of the system to teach students and have them be successful. Mr. Vincent felt that this was a clarification of what was adopted by the Board in November. Mr. Floyd felt that students would have the opportunity to take the two additional credits of mathematics and that districts can waive the additional credits the districts require. Dr. Dal Porto raised the concern that students may not have the flexibility in their schedules to take the additional mathematics courses; the districts may not have the resources or staff available to provide the additional credits courses. By the time the legislation is adopted, it may be too late in the planning process for the smaller high schools. Ms. Lamb stated that it is possible using zero hour, after school classes, and summer classes with the ability to appeal to a board of directors to make exceptions for unusual circumstances or hardship cases.

Dr. Fox expressed her frustration about the lack of discussion on a well-educated citizen. The discussion needs to include science, the arts, career-technical, et al. She hoped that the discussion would take place soon. Mr. Smith noted several road blocks to the additional credits. He suggested tabling this discussion to the January meeting.

In response to a suggestion from Ms. Thompson, Ms. Ryan stated that most of the educator groups that had been talked to favored the proposed motion before the Board. In response to a question, Ms. Ryan stated that the language is in the original document. Mr. Liu noted that this has been discussed at Board meetings and in other venues including Washington Learns—this has become a Manhattan Project level of urgency. He doesn't want to punish the students for the system failure.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Liu and seconded by Mr. Schuster that the graduating Class of 2008 will successfully earn one additional high school mathematics credit after the students' 11th grade year designed to increase the individual student's math proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the mathematics standard assessed on the high school Washington assessment of student learning and to continue to take the appropriate mathematics assessment at least annually. The graduating Classes of 2009-2010 will successfully earn two additional mathematics credits after the student's 10th grade year designed to increase the individual student's mathematics proficiency toward meeting or exceeding the mathematics standard assessed on the high school Washington assessment of student learning and to continue to take the appropriate mathematics assessment at least annually.

Motion carried on a roll call vote of 10 for, 1 against and 2 excused.

SEPARATE CAA OR CIA FROM DIPLOMA

Ms. Ryan reviewed the comments of Superintendent Bergeson regarding the separation.

Mrs. Lamb asked how the designation would be made. She spoke against separation from the diploma. Dr. Fox questioned the separation and the value of separating them and then starting them again after 2010. The high school diploma covers all aspects of the high school years including the CAA and CIA. In response to a question, Ms. Ryan stated that this proposal to separate is different from what was adopted in November.

Mr. Smith spoke against the designation that separates one student from another. The system needs to be improved to help students. Mr. Vincent agreed with Mr. Smith—but, that pressure on the system is still needed. He is strongly opposed to splitting the CAA from the diploma.

Mr. Floyd stated that businesses don't look at the diploma, but the transcript. The reason behind the Certificate of Mastery (Certificate of Academic Achievement) was to establish standards across the state. He is not in favor of putting anything on the diploma.

Dr. Dal Porto thought the Legislature would have to make the separation or any changes in the law regarding the earning of the CAA which is in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). Employers ask for transcripts. He agrees that there is problem with the system. Mr. Liu holds the same position. It is also a matter of public trust. He would rather see that the CAA be devalued rather than punish students.

Mr. Smith stated that what is required of students today is far different than 30 years ago. Neither the WASL nor the CAA was designed to distinguish superior students from other students. Ms. Thompson stated that she would rather be stamped on the forehead with CAA or not than not getting a diploma. She also stated that the Board voted on this

in November and to change it now would be to engage in political back peddling. Dr. Baca felt the same—that the CAA should mean something and expressed concern about how to better prepare our students.

Dr. Fox stated that no one has spoken in favor of the proposed change. She agrees with others that this is a system failure.

Motion: Moved by Mrs. Frank and second by Dr. Baca that for the graduating classes of 2008-2010, those students who do not pass the mathematics WASL or one of the mathematics alternative assessments needed for the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) will be eligible for a diploma, but not a CAA or CIA if the student earns the additional mathematics credit(s) and meets all other required standards and meets other state and district graduation requirements.

Ms. Ryan stated that she is not in favor of the position, but she has listened to the rationale from others who favor this action. She expressed respect for Governor Gregoire and Superintendent Bergeson as they work through this.

Mrs. Frank, after some consideration, withdrew the motion with consent of the seconded, Dr. Baca. Ms. Ryan felt the Board should take a vote.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Liu and seconded by Mr. Vincent that for the graduating classes of 2008-2010, those students who do not pass the mathematics WASL or one of the mathematics alternative assessments needed for the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) will be eligible for a diploma, but not a CAA or CIA if the student earns the additional mathematics credit(s) and meets all other required standards and meets other state and district graduation requirements.

Motion failed on a vote of 10 against, 1 for and 2 excused.

Motion: Moved by Mrs. Lamb and seconded by Mr. Floyd that the State Board of Education votes not to separate the CAA/CIA from the diploma.

After discussion by the full Board, Mrs. Lamb felt her motion was no longer necessary and withdrew the motion with consent of the second, Mr. Floyd.

Ms. Ryan thanked the members and staff for the work done for today's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Adopted as Amended: January 25, 2007