

May 11-12, 2011 Meeting Highlights

Note: all the materials listed below are available in the [online packet](#). The online packet now comes in two forms. The regular packet is assembled as a pdf portfolio. This is a larger packet, but preserves all the meeting documents in their native file formats, allowing users to easily print, copy, or amend documents as needed. The alternative packet is one pdf file containing all Board materials in pdf format. We recommend saving the online packet to your computer first rather than opening it up in the browser. Further instructions are provided at the link above.

On May 11-12, the [State Board of Education](#) (SBE) met in Pasco, Washington, at [Columbia Basin College](#) to:

- Tour Delta High School.
- Review effective, statewide math and science instructional strategies, courtesy of presentations from representatives of ESD 123 and the Cascade School District.
- Debrief the Required Action plan review and evaluation process.
- Receive an update on English Language Learners (ELL) programs and policies, as well as bilingual programs in, and the Parent Advisory Committee work for, the Pasco School District.
- Review district waiver applications and the implications of waivers provided in the case of statewide teacher compensation reductions.
- Discuss the recruitment and application process for the new Executive Director.
- Discuss the recruitment and application process for a new SBE member (to fill a vacancy).
- Review progress on SBE's [strategic plan](#) via the strategic plan dashboard.
- Discuss policy considerations and next steps for the Board's work on state education governance.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- The 180-day waiver requests for Lake Quinault, Longview, Lopez Island, Marysville, Napavine, Onion Creek, Orient, Othello, St. John/Endicott, Tacoma, and Zillah School Districts.
- Appointment of Kathe Taylor as Interim Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

DELTA HIGH SCHOOL TOUR

SBE members toured Delta High School in Richland, Washington. Delta opened its doors in 2009 to provide a learning environment emphasizing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Delta focuses on integrated approaches to teaching and learning that are research-based, standards-based, and project-based. Board members toured the school and interviewed students, project partners, and staff.

STATEWIDE EFFECTIVE MATH AND SCIENCE STRATEGIES

SBE received an update on effective math and science instructional strategies from Cascade School District staff and regional math and science coordinators from ESD 123. Guest speakers shared successful, school-based and region-based initiatives that have resulted in increased student performance, highlighting what can be done with sustained leadership, coherent vision, expertise, will, and resources.

In the Cascade School District, Icicle River Middle School's academic achievements are a direct reflection of committed leadership and dedicated resources to intentional, standards-based teaching and learning. The math and science coordinators from ESD 123 shared their successes in providing decentralized, coordinated professional development.

REQUIRED ACTION APPLICATION PROCESS DEBRIEF

At the January 2011 Board meeting, the Board designated the following four districts for Required Action:

1. Lakeridge Elementary School, Renton School District
2. Morton Junior-Senior High School, Morton School District
3. Onalaska Middle School, Onalaska School District
4. Soap Lake Middle and High School, Soap Lake School District

Those districts submitted Required Action Plans designed to create significant improvements in student achievement. SBE and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) reviewed those plans in March and April.

Staff and SBE members discussed challenges and recommendations for improving the process.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

Members reviewed statewide English Language Learners' (ELL) achievement scores and current assessment and accountability policies impacting ELLs, noting the gaps that have persisted over time among ELL and all other students in the academic areas measured by the state assessments.

Representatives from the Pasco School District Parent Advisory Committee talked with the Board about their involvement with the District and their collaborative efforts to improve the education of their migrant and/or bilingual children.

SBE VACANCIES

Eddie Harding, the five-year Executive Director of the Board, has accepted a job with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and will no longer be serving with SBE. Kathe Taylor, current Policy Director for SBE, will now serve as Interim Executive Director.

During the meeting, SBE members reviewed the job description for the Executive Director position. The position will be posted by May 20, with the closing date to be in mid-June (specific dates to be announced on the website).

SBE will also be filling a vacancy for departing elected representative Warren Smith. Applications for the position will be available on the SBE website by May 20. The position will be filled prior to the July Board meeting.

GOVERNANCE POLICIES AND NEXT STEPS

One of SBE's strategic plan goals is to advocate for an effective, accountable governance structure for public education in Washington.

At the May meeting, members reviewed and discussed:

- Governance case studies on three states (Massachusetts, Maryland, and Colorado).
- Barriers to governance in Washington.
- Potential avenues for governance reform.
- The schedule for governance work.

SBE will continue their work on education governance reform during the July Board meeting.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Marysville, Washington on July 12-14, 2011 beginning with the annual retreat on July 12 and the regular meeting beginning the afternoon of July 13.

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