

July 17, 2009 Meeting Highlights

On July 17, the State Board of Education (SBE) met in Gig Harbor, WA, at the Inn at Gig Harbor to:

- Review the [process for filling the SBE member vacancy and upcoming Board elections and appointments](#).
- Receive an update on the 2009 Federal Fiscal Stimulus Package and other potential federal grants.
- Receive an update of [ESHB 2261](#) implementation- the 2009 Education Reform Bill.
- Review the [process of revising/amending rules of the State Board](#).
- Review the pilot program for waivers from the 180-school day requirement, the new [“Flexible Calendar” pilot waiver](#).
- Review the [proposed amendment](#) of the three credit math rule for high school graduation.
- Receive an update on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s (OSPI) [science curricula menu recommendations](#).
- Receive an update on the work of the [CORE 24 Implementation Task Force and the Meaningful High School Diploma Workgroup](#).
- Receive an [update on System Performance Accountability \(SPA\) work](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

The Board approved the following:

- The revised [math rule](#).
- The State Board of Education Budget for 2010.
- One year acceptance of the [180 day waiver requests](#) for the Auburn, Battle Ground, Colfax, Columbia River, Hoquiam, Loon Lake, Nespelam, Pe Ell, Pomeroy, Riverside, Sultan, Thorp, and Tacoma school districts.
- The election of Jack Schuster to a one year term on the SBE Executive Committee.

APPOINTMENT TO CURRENT BOARD VACANCY

- Warren Smith, Vice-Chair, [presented information](#) for how that position will be filled. Detailed application information will be posted on the [website](#). The general timeline is as follows:

July 20	Post on SBE Web site applicant information and get out to stakeholder groups
August 19	Close applications
August 24-28	Conduct interviews.
September 3	Announce appointment unless decision made at August interview meeting

- Additional information on the upcoming Board elections can be found on the [OSPI Web site](#).

THE 2009 FEDERAL FISCAL STIMULUS PACKAGE AND FEDERAL GRANTS UPDATE

- The federal stabilization fund has been primarily allocated to meet the needs of K-12 schools, but those funds have also been directed to other areas as well. This is under the scope of acceptable use, as districts were empowered to use the state fiscal stabilization as backfill to prevent the reduction in programs and force.

- The state stabilization funds and the ‘Race to the Top’ funds are also designed to promote and encourage reforms. The stabilization funds enabled the state to continue to promote reformations with pre-existing state funds.
- The focus on reformations are centered on four assurances:
 1. Standards and assessments
 2. Quality Teaching
 3. Longitudinal Data Systems
 4. Support for Struggling Schools
- “Race to the Top” funds will be supplemental grants allocated to approved schools/districts who meet the four key assurances listed above.

ESHB 2261 UPDATE

- The passage of [ESHB 2261](#) marks an important step forward towards education reform. The Quality Education Council (QEC), the group responsible for developing a phasing in and funding plan for the new definition of basic education, should convene in the near future. Mary Jean Ryan will represent the Board on the QEC.

OVERVIEW OF THE RULES OF THE STATE BOARD

- [WAC 180-08-15](#) mandates that the State Board of Education will review [all Board rules](#) no less than every three years. Staff presented an overview of the process and timeline for potential rule amendments. Modifications of rules are sometimes necessary as RCW’s change, as the work of the Board evolves, and as the needs of educational stakeholders evolve as well. Two of the major rules planned under the revisions will be the school improvement plan and the 180 day waiver.

PILOT PROGRAM FOR WAIVERS FROM THE 180-DAY SCHOOL DAY REQUIREMENT

- The 2009 Legislature created a new law ([SHB 1292](#)) that established a pilot program in which the State Board of Education was given authority to grant waivers from the requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year to school districts that propose to operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for the purposes of economy and efficiency. Only five schools meeting [certain criteria](#) are available for the waiver. The Board reviewed an [application prototype](#) as a possible assessment tool to determine the best possible schools for which to test this pilot program.

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE MATH RULE

- In 2007, the Washington State Legislature directed the Board to increase the high school math graduation requirements from two to three credits and to determine the content of the three credits. This rule was adopted in July 2008 ([WAC 180-51-066](#)), effective for students in the graduating class of 2013. After the acceptance of this law, an issue has emerged that is not addressed in the current rule language. The issue pertains to students in the graduating class of 2013 who are presently in eighth grade and may have successfully completed one or even two high school mathematics courses but who elected to take the course(s) without credit.
- To address this issue, the Board adopted a revision that would permit students who have successfully completed math classes prior to ninth grade to either repeat the course(s) already taken (to earn credit) or pursue one of two pathways: move on to the next course in the progressive sequence of math courses, or, if they have completed Algebra II or an integrated course of similar measure, elect to take a second (and third) math credit in math courses that are consistent with the student’s education and career goals.
- The new language for the math rule can be found [here](#).

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF SCIENCE CURRICULUM MATERIALS

- OSPI was charged by the Legislature to recommend “. . .no more than three basic science curricula each for elementary and middle school grade spans, and no more than three recommendations for each of the major high school courses within the following science domains: earth and space science, physical science, and life science.”

- On June 30, 2009, OSPI submitted its [initial recommendations regarding the science curricula](#) to the SBE. Representatives from OSPI presented [a summation of their findings](#) during the July 17 meeting. The SBE has sixty days to provide official comment and recommendations to OSPI. To help the SBE fulfill its responsibility, staff will call upon the expertise of the Science Standards Advisory Panel. The report back to OSPI will be made by September 1, 2009. The SBE will hold a special meeting on August 25 to review recommendations and comment to OSPI.

UPDATE ON THE CORE 24 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE (ITF) RESEARCH PROJECTS

- One of the Board's three goals is to improve student preparation for postsecondary education and the 21st century world of work and citizenship. The revision of graduation requirements needed for a meaningful high school diploma is a primary strategy to accomplish this goal.
- In the last meeting, the ITF focused their attention on [scheduling approaches](#) and [issues related to competency based credits](#).
- Continuing recommendations and ideas emerging from the [CORE 24 Implementation Task Force's](#) various research projects will ultimately inform the Board as it:
 - Further refines the proposed CORE 24 graduation requirements framework and move toward implementation.
 - Begins to work with the Quality Education Council created by ESHB 2261 to recommend and inform the ongoing implementation by the legislature of an evolving program of basic education and the financing necessary to support the program.
- **UPDATE ON THE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**
 - At the January 2009 meeting, the Board adopted an [Accountability Resolution](#), emphasizing that all students deserve an excellent and equitable education and that there is an urgent need to strengthen a system of continuous improvement in student achievement through a state and local collaborative partnership. The 2009 Legislature approved the Board's direction as outlined in the [SBE Accountability Resolution](#).
 - SBE continues to seek feedback from local and national educational stakeholders on the provisional accountability index. The provisional Accountability Index will be used in its current form by OSPI and SBE to recognize outstanding schools in the fall of 2009. The Board reviewed this recognition program and other issues directing future Systems Performance Accountability work via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

A special meeting will be held on August 25 to interview candidates for the SBE member vacancy and to review recommendations for the science curricular menu offerings.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be at the Puget Sound Educational Service District Building, Renton, WA, on September 17-18, 2009.

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