

# **THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Accountability | World-Class Math and Science Standards | Meaningful Diploma/CORE 24

July 17, 2009  
Inn at Gig Harbor  
Gig Harbor, Washington

## **MINUTES**

### **Friday, July 17, 2009**

**Attending:** Chair Mary Jean Ryan, Vice-Chair Warren Smith, Mr. Jeff Vincent, Dr. Sheila Fox, Ms. Anna Laura Kastama, Ms. Amy Bragdon, Dr. Kris Mayer, Dr. Steve Dal Porto, Ms. Phyllis Bunker Frank, Ms. Austianna Quick, Mr. Jack Schuster, Mr. Bob Hughes, Dr. Bernal Baca (13)

**Absent:** Mr. Eric Liu (excused), Mr. Randy Dorn (excused) (2)

**Staff Attending:** Ms. Edie Harding, Dr. Kathe Taylor, Ms. Loy McColm, Ms. Ashley Harris, Mr. Aaron Wyatt, Mr. Brad Burnham, Ms. Colleen Warren (7)

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Chair Ryan.

### **Announcements**

- Chair Ryan introduced Representative Larry Seaquist who welcomed the Board to Gig Harbor.
- Chair Ryan gave an overview of the agenda format.

**Motion** was made to approve the May 2009 meeting minutes.

**Motion** seconded.

**Motion** carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion** was made to approve the Private Schools list as presented.

**Motion** seconded.

**Motion** carried.

### **Follow Up from Retreat**

Dr. Kris Mayer, Co-lead  
Ms. Amy Bragdon, Co-lead

Dr. Mayer expressed appreciation for the members' input at the retreat on July 16. She asked that any further feedback be sent to Ms. Bragdon. It was noted that having the same facilitator three years in succession has been beneficial to the Board to get the work done and Ms. Dee Endelman's work with the members, again this year, was very much appreciated.

## **Update on Process for Appointment to Current Board Vacancy**

Mr. Warren Smith, Vice-Chair

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the election process. The committee, which included all elected members – Ms. Frank, Mr. Smith, Dr. Dal Porto, and Mr. Hughes, as well as staff, Ms. Harding and Ms. McColm met on July 15 to discuss the process for appointing the new Board member to replace Mr. Floyd. During the meeting it was decided that an application form would be posted and distributed for interested candidates to complete. The application will include three preliminary questions for the screening process. According to the law, the selected person (if interested) will be required to run again in 2010 to fulfill Mr. Floyd's term. The member will then be required (if interested) to run in 2011 for the four year term. Ms. Harding explained that the process was set in rule and must be followed until the rule can be changed.

The timeline for this election process is as follows:

July 20	Application will be posted on the SBE Web site and information will be sent out to stakeholders.
August 19	Closing date for submitting applications.
August 25	Interviews will be conducted.
September 3	Appointment announced.

Ms. Harding also explained that the election process will start July 23 for the two positions currently held by Mr. Smith and Ms. Frank. The deadline for submitting applications for these positions is August 30 and OSPI leads this process. Any questions regarding the submittal of applications should be directed to the Office of Professional Practices at OSPI.

## **Call for Nominations of Member to the Executive Committee**

Amy Bragdon, Board Member

Current nominations for the Executive Committee include: Dr. Dal Porto, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Schuster. Dr. Dal Porto thanked the Board for the nomination but indicated that he is unable to serve at this time. He asked that his name be stricken from the ballot. Members were asked to submit any further nominations to Ms. Bragdon before 12:00 p.m. today to be added to the ballot for the election.

## **Federal Stimulus Package and Other Federal Grants Update**

Ms. Judy Hartmann, Education Policy Advisor to the Governor

The Governor's office is pursuing a number of activities related to federal stimulus funds and is in the process of planning a submittal of a grant application for Race To The Top. The application must address the four assurances outlined in the federal stimulus funds: 1) quality teaching; 2) assisting low performing schools; 3) common standards and assessments; and 4) a comprehensive data system. Ms. Hartmann is working on a gap analysis. There are essentially two tiers of activity: building a foundation for state consideration and the development of a grant proposal.

Timelines for the two grants include:

Mid to late July:	Regulations released for 30-day public comment period.
October 1:	Release final regulations and applications.
December 1:	Applications due and grants awarded the first quarter of 2010.
June 1, 2010:	Applications due and grants awarded in September 2010.

The governor would like the proposal to focus on instructional and leadership quality in working with low performing schools and how that relates to the achievement gap issues.

The state is required to submit a quarterly report to the federal government explaining the use of grant funds. The Governor's office is working with OSPI to create a process for completing the reporting requirement.

### **Implementation of ESHB 2261 Education Reform Bill**

Ms. Mary Jean Ryan, Chair

Ms. Edie Harding, Executive Director

The groups, to oversee the implementation and do the work, have not come together to date. The groups will be creating work to take to the Legislature to begin the work of the implementation of basic education, thus meeting the deadline for implementation in 2018. The basic education lawsuit is going to trial and could have a great impact on the work.

Staff from OSPI and OFM met and conversations are beginning. The SBE has a seat on the Quality Education and Data Research groups and Chair Ryan will serve on the Quality Education Council (QEC). Members and Ms. Harding will discuss what the Board can offer as support to the different groups.

### **State Board of Education Plan for Rules Update and Waiver "Flexible Calendar" Efficiency Pilot**

Mr. Brad Burnham, Policy and Legislative Specialist

WAC 180-08-015 states that the State Board of Education (SBE) will review all Board rules no less than every three years. As a part of a periodic review of its rules, SBE may update or clarify any of its rules and may fix inaccuracies that have developed due to changes in other rules and laws. The SBE is currently reviewing one of its rules for the minimum requirements for high school graduation (WAC 180-51-06) and will be conducting a public hearing, this morning, in reference to the rule.

The 2009 Legislature created a new law, under SHB 1292, that established a pilot program. The law gives authority to the State Board of Education to grant waivers from the requirement for a one hundred eighty day school year to districts that propose to operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of economy and efficiency. The law goes into effect on July 26, 2009. No more than five districts will be eligible for these waivers: Two districts have a student population under 150 and three districts have student populations of 150 to 500. The requirement that districts offer an annual average instructional hour of at least one thousand hours cannot be waived.

Under the new law, the Board will adopt criteria to evaluate waiver requests and analyze empirical evidence annually from districts with waivers to determine whether the reduction in days is affecting student learning. If the Board determines that student learning is adversely affected, the district must discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the next school year after the determination has been made. The Board will examine the waivers granted and make a recommendation to the legislative education committees by December 15, 2013 regarding whether the waiver program should be continued, modified, or allowed to terminate. All waivers expire August 31, 2014.

Potential Benefits	Potential Drawbacks	Unknowns
Reduced transportation, heating and cooling, food service costs.	Substantial savings may not result unless teacher pay is reduced.	Effects on achievement.
Decreased student and teacher absenteeism.	Increased demand for child care.	Effectiveness in non-rural areas or large rural districts.
Increased time for academic support and extracurricular activities.	Longer school day may be difficult for younger students.	

Staff recommends that the Board consider, for adoption, the criteria included in the application form. The Board's committee created the document by using the criteria outlined in SHB 1292 and by developing the following additional criteria:

1. Explain the effect that the waiver will have on the financial position of the district.
2. Explain how content is being accommodated from the waived days to the remaining days for elementary and secondary grade levels.
3. What assessments and observations will the district use to analyze student achievement over the course of the waiver?
4. Provide a set of student achievement data for the two previously analyzed years.

Board members discussed the importance of:

- Explaining how community resources will be used to support students on their days off.
- Creating a strong evaluation to analyze the impact and be proactive for the potential to address additional waiver requests.

Final approval will be brought forward at the September 2009 Board meeting in Renton.

### **Review of Proposed Math Rule for High School Credit and Public Hearing**

Dr. Kathe Taylor, Policy Director

Mr. Brad Burnham, Policy and Legislative Specialist

In 2007, the Legislature directed the Board to increase the high school math graduation requirements from two to three credits and to determine the contents of the three credits. Since the adoption of the rule, an issue emerged that was not addressed in the current rule language. The issue pertains to students in the graduating class of 2013 who were in eighth grade during the 2008-09 academic year and may have successfully completed one or even two high school mathematics courses, but who elected to take the course(s) without credit. Under the current rule, students would need to earn credit in Algebra I and Geometry.

To address this issue, the Board considered 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: 1) move on to the next course in the progressive sequence of math courses; or 2) 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 Public Hearing was opened by Chair Ryan at 10:30 a.m. With no one wishing to respond, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:32 a.m.

### **Science Curriculum Update**

Dr. Kathe Taylor, Policy Director

Ms. Porsche Everson, Consultant, OSPI

Ms. Jessica Vavrus, Director of Teaching and Learning, OSPI

The Legislature asked the Board to review and make recommendations on the science standards, receive the revised standards from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and provide official comment and recommendations to OSPI regarding science curricula that OSPI recommends to align with the revised standards.

The Board recommended changes to the science standards in May 2008, based on a review by its consultant, David Heil & Associates, Inc., and the Science Standards Advisory Panel. The OSPI revised the standards and sent them to the Board on December 1, 2008. The Board convened a special meeting to receive science standards from OSPI and to accept the Heil report on the revised standards.

The Legislature charged OSPI to recommend no more than three basic science curricula each, for elementary and middle school grade spans and not 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. OSPI submitted its initial recommendations regarding the science curricula to the Board on June 20, 2009.

The Board has 60 days to provide official comment and recommendations to OSPI. A special meeting is scheduled for August 25, in Olympia, to meet this requirement. It is anticipated that the Science Panel will meet before the August 25 special meeting to ensure that the Board has the information needed for decision-making at the special meeting.

The curriculum standards were adopted in June and presented to the Board with recommendations for no more than three basic science curricula for elementary and middle grade spans and not more than three recommendations for each of the major high school courses within science domains.

### **Update on CORE 24 Implementation Task Force**

Dr. Steve Dal Porto, Board Co-lead

Mr. Jack Schuster, Board Co-lead

Dr. Kathe Taylor, Policy Director

The Board approved a Charter in November 2008 to establish the CORE 24 Implementation Task Force (ITF). The Charter asks the ITF to advise the Board on strategies to implement the proposed requirements. Board members, Dr. Dal Porto and Mr. Schuster, serve as Co-leads for the twenty-member Task Force. Co-chairs for the ITF include: Ms. Jennifer Shaw, Principal of Franklin Pierce High School and Mr. Mark Mansell, Superintendent of the La Center School District.

The Implementation Task Force met most recently on May 18, 2009 to explore the Board's changes to the ITF around schedules and credits. Specifically, the Board asked the ITF to make recommendations about: 1) scheduling approaches to 24 credits that can meet the required 150 instructional hours; and 2) ways to operationalize competency-based methods for meeting graduation requirements.

Staff will bring an interim draft report to the September Board meeting. The report will include advantages and disadvantages on the topics that the ITF will have discussed to date, which will include:

1. Career concentration, "two for one/credit plus" policy.
2. Competency-based approaches.
3. Scheduling and credit-based approaches.
4. Phase-in (tentative).

The September 28 and November 2 ITF meetings will focus on struggling students to ensure that CORE 24 is addressing them as well. The first meeting in 2010 (date TBD) will focus on middle school issues.

### **Update on System Performance Accountability (SPA) Work**

Dr. Kris Mayer, Board Lead

Ms. Edie Harding, Executive Director

The Legislature charged the Board with preparing a report, due to the Legislature by December 1, 2009, to include:

1. Refine the Accountability Index to identify successful schools and those in need of assistance.
2. Develop a proposal and timeline for a comprehensive system of voluntary support.
3. Develop a proposal and timeline for a system of required action and support for challenged schools.

The Board adopted a provisional Accountability Index in May 2009 and staff has worked on seeking feedback on the provisional Index for revision in fall 2009. Feedback was received from: Dr. Terry Bergeson, Ms. Kati Haycock from Ed Trust, Mr. Scott Palmer from the Education Counsel in Washington D.C., and Mr. Jack Jennings from the Center for Education Policy. Staff is currently waiting for feedback from LEAP and the OSPI Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, as well as other stakeholders.

Comments received to date include:

1. No state has proposed anything as dramatically different as Washington.
2. We have made some good improvements to what exists under NCLB.
3. US Department of Education may be open to new models to test ideas for reauthorization of NCLB.
4. Reauthorization of NCLB is two years away.
5. Strengths:
  - Intuitively better.
  - More students in the mix.
  - Writing and science assessments.
  - Learning index.
  - WLPT to show ELL student growth.
6. Weaknesses:
  - Lack of subgroups analysis up front (we must have this addressed).
  - Averaging of Index numbers may mask what is really happening.
  - Low income measures may be weak for high schools.
  - Need a simpler report.
  - Need to show "impact data" to compare results from current system to our proposal.

OSPI and SBE are creating a joint recognition program to districts and their schools, based on the current provisional Accountability Index. OSPI will use the top five percent of schools, based on the average overall index for "best of the best" for elementary, middle, and high school. The

SBE will identify all schools with a 5.50 rating on an average index as well as those with a 6.00 rating in language arts, math, science, gifted and extended graduation rate, as well as those who are closing the achievement gap.

Future meetings, where the Accountability Framework will be discussed, are scheduled for August 11 and October 13. Other opportunities for input will include fall meetings with WSSDA and other stakeholders, fall meetings with legislators and staff, as well as Board meetings in September and November. SBE staff is preparing a research project to examine the impact of the incentive for National Board Certification on the mobility and retention of teachers.

The outcomes for 2010 include:

1. SBE would approve the revised final school improvement plan rule.
2. The Innovation Zone would be implemented with one or more districts currently in step two of the AYP, under NCLB.
3. SBE and OSPI would approach the U.S. Education Department and Congressional delegation on the Accountability Index to create a revised unified system.
4. Unless the U.S. Education Department gives a waiver or NCLB is reauthorized, OSPI will operate the assistance program under the current NCLB requirements.
5. SBE and OSPI will propose legislation for required action to the Quality Education Council and Legislature for the 2010 session under the current NCLB system.

## **Public Comment**

### Martin Huffman, Lyle School District

Mr. Huffman distributed a letter regarding what the flexible calendar looks like in Lyle School District and explained the activities around the calendar. The District is looking at economy and efficiency, which has been a two year process. The fuel savings is directly market driven and utility costs will be lower as well as food savings costs. There will be some savings with classified staff who are willing to be off on the flexible calendar days. The District is going to offer child care and service credit will be available for the students participating in the child care program. The community is excited about the flexible calendar and the District is looking forward to the pilot.

### Peggy Douglas, Superintendent, Paterson School District

Paterson School District is actively looking at a flexible calendar. The plan would allow the District to implement an instructional model that would be creative and innovative in how different instruction is delivered to the students. When implemented, the District's plan would provide more direct instructional opportunities for students by adding up to 15 additional days for enhancement and enrichment activities outside of the required 1,000 hours of regular direct instruction. The waiver days would be funded by federal grants that are designed to be used outside of a regular school calendar day. Ms. Douglas talked about potential benefits to the District if the flexible calendar is approved.

### Karyn Ashabraner, Peninsula School District

Peninsula School District and the community are very supportive of the National Board Certification process. The District has close to ten percent of teaching staff that have completed National Board Teacher Certification. Ms. Ashabraner introduced Kareen Borders who is a middle school teacher in one of the Key Peninsula schools.

### Kareen Borders, Peninsula School District

Ms. Borders is a National Board Certified teacher and the Team Lead of the NASA Explorer School team at Key Peninsula Middle School. Ms. Borders has a strong background in science, and stated that she knows she was a good teacher before being certified but is more successful now, being certified. She is more intentional and focused on success for all students, as well as

being much more reflective in her work. She consistently looks for evidence, or lack of evidence, in student learning. The District's focus on high standards teacher certification, in combination with their NASA Explorer School program led to Key Peninsula Middle School being selected as the national Intel Schools of Distinction Award winner for Middle School science last year. Ms. Borders gave examples of two out of many students she has worked with, who have turned around and extended themselves as a result of the District's focus on high standards for all. She encouraged the Board to support the National Board Teacher Certification program to assist teachers in improving their instruction and consequently improving student achievement as well. The National Board Teacher Certification program provides the best professional development for teachers. A component of the program is Take One, which allows teachers to delve into the National Board as a cohort. Ms. Borders has a DVD available that was presented in Washington DC last year at the Intel Awards Ceremony.

#### Tim Knue, Washington ACTE

Mr. Knue is the new Executive Director of the Washington Association of Career and Technical Education (WA-CTE). He taught for 32 years in Washington and served with Dr. Fox on the Professional Educator Standards Board. He hopes to work with the SBE on implementation of CORE 24 and thanked the Board for their work.

#### Doug Nelson, Public School Employees of Washington

Mr. Nelson thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Public School Employees of Washington (PSE) concerns about the Board's future implementation of HB 1292 – the flexible school calendar. He considers the bill an “odd duck” and said that there are questions about how it will work. It's unlikely to save real money and equally unlikely to produce learning improvements. The only employees adversely impacted by the flexible calendar will be the education support employees that the PSE represents. This is the major reason the PSE will monitor the waiver request rule-making and approval process. The PSE is concerned about the evaluation of waiver requests. According to the legislation, the Board must develop criteria to evaluate waiver requests to approve or deny a request. The PSE hopes that the Board will begin consideration of the criteria they will use to evaluate waivers when they meet in September to adopt the application, rather than developing criteria when a request is received.

#### Anna Williamson, Everett School District

Ms. Williamson talked about the elementary science materials, reviewed by the District, that were not selected. She thinks that part of the reason the curriculum was not considered was because of the way it was reviewed. One publisher cannot fit the needs for everyone so the District chose from what the national standards were. She asked for further consideration of the curriculum that was recommended.

### **Business Items**

#### Approval of Math Rule

**Motion** was made to adopt the proposed amendments to WAC 180-51-066.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried

#### State Board of Education Budget for FY2010

**Motion** was made to approve the Board's budget for the state appropriated funds for FY2010.

**Motion** seconded

**Motion** carried

Approval of 180-day Waiver Requests

Motion was made to approve the 180-day waiver requests for the schools listed and the number of days and years requested as set forth in the Board's memorandum.

Alternative Motion was made to approve the 180 day waiver requests for the schools listed and the number of days requested in the Board's memorandum for one year only.

**Alternative Motion** seconded

**Alternative Motion** carried

**Results of Election for the Executive Committee**

Dr. Bernal Baca, Board Member

Ms. Amy Bragdon, Board Member

Mr. Schuster was elected to the Executive Committee.

**Draft Evaluation Instrument for Executive Director for 2010**

Mr. Warren Smith, Vice-Chair

Mr. Smith presented the draft document for evaluation of the Executive Director. He asked the members to review the draft and give feedback on the form. The final application information will be posted on the Web site. The new form will be used for the 2010 evaluation. The current evaluation process will stay in effect for the 2009 evaluation process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m. by Chair Ryan.