

May 14-15, 2009 Meeting Highlights

On May 14-15, the State Board of Education (SBE) met in Yakima, WA, at Yakima Valley Community College to:

- Receive an [update on legislative session issues](#), including [an overview of the new education reform bill](#), the status of the K-12 budget for 2009-2011, and the [2009 Federal Fiscal Stimulus Package](#).
- Receive a [report on the provisional Accountability Index](#) and review [recommendations](#) from the System Performance Accountability (SPA) workgroup on possible recognition programs within the provisional Accountability Index.
- Receive an [update](#) on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) math curricula recommendations and the growing movement toward common state wide core standards (math and other disciplines included) and two potential revisions to the [third credit math rule](#) for high school students.
- Discuss the [implications for future work](#) in consideration of the state budget and the Federal Fiscal Stimulus Package.
- Receive an update on the work of the [CORE 24 Implementation Task Force and the Meaningful High School Diploma Workgroup](#).
- Receive an [update on the Delta STEM High School](#) in Tri-Cities.
- Listen to a presentation on the [OSPI Summit District Program](#) in [Mount Adams](#) and [Wapato](#).
- Listen to a presentation on [early learning programs](#), including the 2008 Annual Report of the [Ready by Five Yakima organization](#).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

The Board approved the following:

- A contract extension to December 31, 2009 for Pete Bylsma.
- To continue the work of the provisional [Accountability Index](#).
- The ["Outstanding Performance" Recognition Program](#).
- The next steps for the [OSPI/SBE Recognition System for Schools](#).
- Staff to draft a letter to the Governor in support of the common core standards memorandum of agreement.
- [180 day waiver requests](#) for Columbia Schools, Cusick High School, Granite Falls District, Odessa School District (one year each), with an intent to review the current 180 day waiver policy for student achievement.

CHANGE IN BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- Steve Floyd has resigned from the Board effective May 1, 2009. A process to select a replacement will be undertaken by those Board members elected by public school directors.
- Lorilyn Roller, student representative for Western Washington, was honored for the completion of her two years of service, and Anna Laura Kastama was welcomed as the new student representative for Western Washington.

LEGISLATIVE, BUDGET, AND ESHB 2261 UPDATE

- SBE staff presented information on [seven bills](#) that are related to the work of the Board, including an [overview of ESHB 2261](#). A representative from OSPI provided information about the role of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) in terms of funding sources for K-12 schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SYSTEM PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY (SPA) WORK ON THE ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX AND RECOGNITION 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.

The Board received an [overview of the provisional Accountability Index](#). The Board also reviewed a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on how the new Accountability Index might demonstrate the areas of strengths and weaknesses for a typical school in Washington. The new accountability framework can accommodate [ELL students](#) and can address the challenges of assessing [alternative schools](#). The Board will work with OSPI to create request the federal government to allow us to use our Accountability Index to identify schools and districts for improvement in place of the current system under No Child Left Behind.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MATH RULE AND NATIONAL MATH STANDARDS

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. If these middle school students elect not to have these courses put on their transcript for high school math, what math courses should they take under the SBE rule?

After consultation with legal counsel and OSPI staff, SBE staff presented a [PowerPoint](#) that illustrates two potential changes to the math rule. More detailed information was included in the [Board Agenda Packet](#).

The Board directed staff to bring to the July meeting for public hearing the rule 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 options:

1. Move on to the next course in the progressive sequence of math courses, or
2. If they have completed Algebra II, elect to take a second (and third) math credit in math courses that are consistent with the student's education and career goals.

The Board indicated its preference for option two as recommended by the staff. A representative from OSPI also presented the newest information on [OSPI's recommendation for mathematics curricular menu offerings](#). OSPI is recommending just one curricular program for high school: Holt Mathematics, which includes Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. The case was also made to examine the potential of [common core standards](#) for mathematics and English / language arts. OSPI reiterates that "It is important to note that successful mathematics programs may exist with virtually all of the reviewed curricula. While instructional materials matter, other factors contribute to the success of students in learning mathematics."

UPDATE ON THE CORE 24 IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE (ITF) AND THE MEANINGFUL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA (MHSD) WORKGROUP

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.

Recommendations and ideas emerging from the [CORE 24 Implementation Task Force](#), [Meaningful High School Diploma Workgroup](#), and various research projects will ultimately inform the Board as it:

- Continues to refine 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 DELTA STEM HIGH SCHOOL

[Delta High School](#) is a new (2009-2010) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) public high school in the Tri Cities. Delta High School has a rigorous and relevant STEM-focused curriculum that prepares each student for career, college, and life success in a changing world. This new high school model relates to the Board's third goal: improve student preparation for post-secondary education and the 21st century world of work. Delta High School aspires to serve as a pilot environment for the Tri-Cities, ultimately creating a bigger footprint on STEM education in the region and the state of Washington. Delta High School will open its doors for the first time in the fall of 2009. More information on Delta High School is available [here](#).

PRESENTATION ON OSPI SUMMIT DISTRICT PROGRAMS IN MOUNT ADAMS AND WAPATO

The "[Summit District Improvement Initiative](#)," a program developed by OSPI, is designed to build the capacity of districts to aid schools that are identified as in need of improvement by the No Child Left Behind Law. OSPI selected five districts to participate in the new initiative, all focused on four areas of emphasis:

1. Effective leadership
2. Quality teaching and learning
3. Support for system-wide improvement
4. Clear and collaborative relationships

The Board listened to a presentation from [the OSPI Coordinator of the Summit District Improvement Initiative](#) and the Superintendents from the [Mount Adams](#) and [Wapato](#) school districts on how the Summit District Program has built capacity in their districts.

EARLY LEARNING AND READY BY FIVE PRESENTATIONS

Washington is one of 38 states that provide some form of pre-kindergarten program, an important piece of [early learning education](#) (considered birth through age eight). The Board listened to three representatives from Thrive by Five Yakima present the results of their [2008 Annual Report](#) and the success they have experienced as a result of the early learning partnerships and programs present in Yakima. Future work revolves around three specific strategies:

1. Focus upon children who have multiple risk factors that can jeopardize school readiness.
2. Reach these children where they spend their days.
3. Over the next ten years, act as a demonstration community to help the families of East Yakima gain access to affordable quality early learning for their children.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be at the Inn of Gig Harbor in Gig Harbor, WA, on July 17, 2009.

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