



November 14-15, 2013 Board Meeting Highlights

The following is a review of topics discussed and actions taken during the meeting of the State Board of Education (SBE) held November 14-15, 2013, at Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver, Wash.

1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved/adopted the following:

- Student-led 2013 Anti-Bullying Resolution
- Preliminary Report on Goals for Statewide Indicators of Education System Health
- WAC 180-19-210, Charter Authorizer Annual Reports
- 2014 Legislative Priorities
- Private schools for the 2013-2014 school year
- Draft rules on Establishment of an Accountability Framework for public hearing
- Draft charter rules on Authorizer Oversight for public hearing
- Option 2 Waiver Recommendation

2. STUDENT PRESENTATION - BULLYING

Student board members Mara Childs and Eli Ulmer gave a presentation about causes of bullying, how it affects learning, cyberbullying, and how students can be involved in solutions. Childs read the 2013 Anti-Bullying Resolution they drafted supporting inclusion of students in anti-bullying policy development, and it was unanimously adopted by the board.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Andy Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, Chris Burgess, K-8 Turnaround Director, and Travis Campbell, K-12 Director, all from OSPI, presented the accountability system design. Maria Flores, Program Manager: Accountability Policy and Research, OSPI, presented the draft rules for challenged schools in need of improvement. The power of E2SSB 5329 is the alignment and collaboration between OSPI and SBE. It provides the opportunity to intercede while still honoring local control. If needed, there can be more directive and prescriptive measures taken.

Board members asked questions and will send a letter to OSPI recommending approval or modifications of the accountability system design by January 1, 2014. The board also reviewed the SBE Accountability Framework draft rules and approved them for a public hearing at the January board meeting.

4. 5491 DISCUSSION

ESSB 5491 requires the SBE, with assistance from OSPI, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, and the Student Achievement Council, to submit a report on initial baseline values and initial goals of the statewide indicators of educational system health by December 1, 2013.

Greg Lobdell, President, Center for Education Effectiveness, presented the preliminary data and findings. The board held a roundtable discussion with representatives from the entities named in the bill, as well as the Department of Early Learning, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and the Professional Educators Standards Board.

There was discussion about using five-year adjusted graduation rates instead of four-year cohort graduation rates, the opportunity gap, and including an indicators related to discipline and whole child data.

5. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH PESB

Representative Ross Hunter spoke to SBE and PESB about how and why the Legislature passed the 1080 instructional hours bill. It was the first necessary step to implement a 24 credit graduation requirement.

SBE continues to work toward the development of a school and district accountability framework for the state. Essential to any school improvement plan are strategies to attract, retain and support high quality teachers. Andy Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, and Jeanne Harmon, TPEP Program Manager, both from OSPI, offered thoughts on efforts underway within OSPI to support effective teaching in struggling schools, and about TPEP and new assessments.

Stephen Miller, Vice President, Washington Education Association, spoke about the importance of retaining local control to find solutions that work for schools.

6. OPTION 2 WAIVER

Legislation enacted in 2009 authorized SBE to grant waivers of the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year to a limited number of small districts “for purposes of economy and efficiency.” RCW 28A.305.141 expires on August 31, 2014. The statute directs the board to examine the waivers and make a recommendation to the Legislature by December 31, 2013, on whether the program should be continued, modified, or allowed to terminate under law.

Staff presented data from the districts with Option 2 Waivers. The board determined the data was inconclusive as to the question asked by the Legislature (whether the reduction is affecting student learning), but that the data showed no measurable decline in student achievement and that other benefits were identified by the waiver district communities. The board recommended that Option 2 Waivers be allowed to continue for an interim period.

7. DRAFT CHARTER RULES – OVERSIGHT OF CHARTER AUTHORIZERS

RCW 28A.710.120 requires SBE to oversee the performance and effectiveness of school districts it has approved to be charter school authorizers. The section delegates broad authority to SBE to ensure that district authorizers carry out their duties at the high standard required of them.

The board considered the extent and manner of oversight it will exercise over the performance of school district charter authorizers and approved draft rules for a public hearing at the January board meeting.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There were five positions open for election: Chair, Vice Chair and three Members at Large. Acting Chair Mary Jean Ryan asked for additional nominations. Each candidate had the opportunity to discuss their interest in participating in the Executive Committee. Ballots were cast and votes counted. The new Executive Committee members are:

Chair – Kris Mayer, Vice-Chair – Deborah Wilds, and Members at Large – Kevin Laverty, Judy Jennings and Isabel Munoz-Colon.

9. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The board discussed finalizing its legislative agenda for the 2014 Legislative Session, which includes: ample provision for K-12 education, legislative authorization for a 24 credit graduation requirement framework, development of math and science course equivalencies for vocational and skills center programs, and restoration of three professional development days.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

New SBE staff members Andrew Parr, Senior Policy Analyst, and Julia Suliman, Policy Analyst, were introduced. Acting Chair Mary Jean Ryan was congratulated on receiving this year's Friends of Children Award from the Washington State PTA. Kajmere Houchins, who inspired the 2013 Anti-Bullying Resolution, thanked the board for their hard work to make Washington schools safe and inclusive of students.

The board received public comment from representatives of the Washington Association of School Administrators, Ocean Beach School District, Camas School District, Puyallup School District, School Alliance Washington, League of Education Voters, Cascade Christian Academy, Washington State Parent Teacher Association, Career and Technical Education Association, Washington State School Directors' Association, Washington Education Association, Association of Washington School Principals, Partnership for Learning, Clark County Skills Center, First Presbyterian Church School, Public School Employees of Washington, and Evergreen High School.

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 8-9, 2014 at New Market Skills Center in Tumwater, Wash.

Visit our website (www.sbe.wa.gov/materials.php) for additional information or call the board office at: 360-725-6025.