



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

### 1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved/adopted the following:

- Graduation Requirements Resolution
- Response to Petition for Adoption of Rules

### 2. DISCIPLINE DATA

There are a number of goals and concerns that discipline indicators could potentially address, including the impact of suspension or expulsion on student achievement and the disproportionality of exclusionary discipline according to race/ethnicity, income, and special education needs. Discipline data that could be used as an indicator are in the initial stages of collection and analysis. Since the first year of data is just becoming available, and new data collection categories are being added in the next two years, incorporation of a discipline indicator into a state accountability system will be difficult at this time. Problem definition and goal setting will require more data and the new data that will be collected may provide different indicators to consider.

The Board heard from Lori Lynass, Executive Director, Northwest Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports Network; Jack Arend, Principal, Peter G. Schmidt Elementary, Tumwater SD; and Kurt Hatch, Principal, Mountain View Elementary, North Thurston SD about enhancing school programs by using real-time data that allows them to make better decisions. The Board directed staff to add discipline data to the SBE work plan.

### 3. ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM DESIGN

OSPI submitted the system design to the Board at the November 2013 board meeting. The Board responded with a letter sent to Superintendent Dorn summarizing its concerns and additional questions. Andy Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, Maria Flores, Program Manager: Accountability Policy and Research, Chriss Burgess, K-8 Turnaround Director, Travis Campbell, K-12 Director, and Randy Dorn, Superintendent, all from OSPI, presented to the Board again at this meeting, addressing the questions and concerns addressed in the letter. The Board directed staff to draft a letter to OSPI based on the discussion about the accountability system design.

### 4. ACHIEVEMENT INDEX UPDATE

SBE and OSPI have done a first run of data in the revised Achievement Index to ensure validity and fairness. Staff presented a comparison of data to the previous Index and looked for correlations to poverty and school size. OSPI and SBE are checking face validity of the weighting of growth data to be sure it is equally defensible.

The Board has expressed interest in creating an English Language Acquisition Award in a manner that recognizes the increased achievement of English language learners

(ELL). Having taken AAW feedback into consideration, staff presented the qualification criteria as follows: 1) Meet Title-III AMAO 1 and AMAO 2, 2) Meet SGP threshold, and 3) Not a Priority or Focus School. These criteria emphasize academic achievement and eliminates mixed messages. Staff presented data on the number of schools that may qualify for the award based on using different n counts. The Board discussed using these criteria as a base to be eligible, then having further evaluation to select awardees. The Board directed staff to continue work on this issue.

#### **5. BEA WAIVER**

Edmonds School District requested a waiver of five days from the 180-day school year requirement for the 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. The purpose of the proposed waiver is professional development of staff, focused on implementation of the new teacher evaluation system and Common Core State Standards. The request is for renewal of a waiver granted in 2011 that expires with the 2013-14 school year. The Board did not approve the waiver.

#### **6. CHARTER SCHOOL COURT RULING**

AAG Dave Stoller from the Attorney General's Office gave the Board a briefing on the recent Superior Court ruling in the legal challenge to the charter school law, what it potentially means, and how it may impact the Board's work. This was a facial challenge to the act. Seven constitutional issues were before the court. The judge ruled for the act on six issues and against the act on one issue – charter schools are not common schools because they are not under the control of local voters, therefore they don't have access to state matching construction funds. The ruling has been appealed by both plaintiffs and the state.

#### **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Board considered an amended resolution to approve a Career and College Ready Graduation Requirements Framework that would allow students the flexibility to pursue multiple postsecondary pathways to education and training after high school. Changes included renaming the Occupational Education credit, broadening the definition of "college," and preserving four elective credits. The Board also reviewed and approved an updated list of legislative priorities for the 2014 Legislative session, including the development of math and science equivalency curricula for Career and Technical Education courses and combatting summer learning loss.

SBE developed a 1080 hour FAQ guidance. Moving from an hour average over all grades to an hour requirement for each grade, has an unintended consequence for seniors, who are allowed five non-instructional days for commencement activities. It will be hard to meet the hour requirement if the five day allowance is used for seniors.

#### **8. ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK RULES – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board held a public hearing on draft Accountability Framework rules which include: 1) A timeframe for approval of Level II required action plans, 2) Criteria for assigning districts from Level I required action to Level II required action, and 3) Guiding principles that are intended to provide guidance to OSPI in the design of the Accountability System. Public comment was presented by a representative of the Washington Education Association.

## **9. CHARTER SCHOOL RULES – PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board held a public hearing on proposed rules to RCW 28A.710.120, concerning oversight by SBE of the performance and effectiveness of school districts it has approved to be authorizers of public charter schools. The rules establish procedures for SBE in carrying out its duties for oversight under this section, and provide clarity to districts on how the oversight will be conducted. Written comments were provided before the meeting by the Washington Charter School Commission, Washington State Charter School Association, League of Education Voters, Democrats for Education Reform, Partnership for Learning, and Stand for Children. No public testimony was given at the meeting.

## **10. TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

The Board recognized Washington's 2014 Teacher of the Year Katie Brown for her work with ELL students and their teachers and families. The Board presented Ms. Brown with a resolution in honor of her outstanding work.

## **11. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

Student board member Eli Ulmer updated the Board on his postsecondary plans to attend Big Ben Community College. Student board member Mara Childs spoke about improving K-12 education by losing the Darwinian model of academic competition between students. Instead, she advocates for a healthy level of competition to encourage rigorous achievement and continual progress. This change could relieve pressure and accompanying stress, increase the efficacy of teaching, help students have an advanced understanding, and lead to smarter kids overall.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

Board members Mary Jean Ryan, Jeff Vincent and Phyllis Bunker Frank were recognized for their work on the Board. The youth singing group Listen Up performed.

The Board received public comment from representatives of the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education, Washington State School Directors' Association, Washington Education Association, Clark County Skills Center, Yelm School District, Washington State CTE Directors, Edmonds School District, American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Clark County Skills Center, and Skills Center Directors' Association.

## **13. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

March 5-6, 2014 at Puget Sound ESD in Renton, Wash.

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