



March 5-6, 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 March 5-6, 2014, at Puget Sound Educational Service District in Renton, Wash.

1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved/adopted the following:

- ESEA Waiver Resolution
- School Discipline Resolution
- Criteria for the English Language Acquisition Award
- Revised Achievement Index for Accountability & Washington Achievement Awards
- Response Letter to Draft Recommendations for Use of the SBAC
- BEA Waiver Requests from Bethel, Lynden, Methow Valley, Valley, and Zillah School Districts
- Designation of Required Action Districts
- Process for setting standard for the Biology Collection of Evidence and the Math Year 1 Collection of Evidence
- WACs 180-17-50 to 180-17-100, Accountability
- WACs 180-19-220 to 180-19-260, Oversight of Charter Authorizers

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & ESEA WAIVER RESOLUTION

Staff presented an overview of legislative conversations and progress around the Board's 2014 Legislative Priorities and other bills that impact SBE's work, and a comparison of the House and Senate budgets. The Board also adopted a resolution calling upon the Legislature to resolve the issue of the student growth component of teacher and principal evaluations in a way that will allow Washington to continue to receive a U.S. Department of Education waiver from the requirements of No Child Left Behind while preserving the innovative Teacher and Principal Evaluation Program.

3. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE RESOLUTION

The Board heard from a student and parent about their experiences and concerns regarding student discipline. Staff gave a presentation on the recently released federal guidance on discipline policies and practices. The Board discussed a resolution to raise awareness of discipline concerns, particularly around equity, and available resources, such as the federal guidance to help districts improve their discipline practices. The Board adopted a resolution encouraging schools and school districts to review their locally collected discipline data and review and adjust their discipline policies and practices based on their local data, recognized best practice, and in light of the 2014 federal guidance.

4. ACHIEVEMENT INDEX & AWARDS

Staff and Gil Mendoza, Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs and Federal Accountability at OSPi, presented a descriptive analyses conducted on the Three-Year Composite Index. The analyses addressed issues such as the relationship of the

Revised Index to the old Index, the relationship of Revised Index rating to school characteristics and some analyses about school improvement over time. The Board approved the revised Achievement Index for accountability and the Washington Achievement Awards. They also approved criteria for the first English Language Acquisition Awards.

5. RESPONSE TO SBAC

The Core to College Alignment Project has undertaken work over the past year to analyze potential uses of the 11th grade Common Core assessment in the higher education system. Dr. Bill Moore, Director of Core to College Alignment at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and Dr. Alan Burke, Deputy Superintendent at OSPI, presented policy recommendations. The Board drafted a letter providing input on how these assessment results might be used for college course placement, admissions decisions, and perhaps also high school course-taking advisement.

6. BEA WAIVERS

The Board considered requests from five school districts for Option One waivers from the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year, and approved the requests of Bethel, Lynden, Methow Valley, Valley, and Zillah school districts.

7. REQUIRED ACTION

PROCESS

Staff presented on the required action process, established by legislation passed in 2010 (E2SSB 6696) and legislation passed in 2013 (E2SSB 5329). Over the next months, the Board will review findings of academic performance audits conducted on the required action districts and will consider approval of required action plans. The Board discussed its role and possible Board actions involving required action.

TEACHER PERSPECTIVE

The Board heard from a panel of three teachers who work at schools involved in school improvement activities, including Kelsie Herda, Instructional Coach at Wellpinit Elementary School, Dan Thomas, English Teacher at Sunnyside High School, and Kert Lin, Teacher at Lakeridge Elementary School. The teachers described what has happened at their schools over the past three years, how their teaching practices changed as a result of their school's improvement activities, what was challenging, and what went well.

RAD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board received a brief presentation on each district recommended by OSPI as required action districts (RAD) from Travis Campbell, Director K-12 School Improvement at OSPI, reviewed data on the required action schools, and heard from district administrators, including Tim Ames, Superintendent of Wellpinit School District, Dr. Elaine Beraza, Superintendent of Yakima School District, CeCe Mahre, Associate Superintendent at Yakima School District, Dr. Becky Berg, Superintendent of Marysville School District, and Dr. Joshua Garcia, Deputy Superintendent at Tacoma School District. The Board designated Wellpinit, Yakima, Marysville, and Tacoma as Required Action Districts.

8. CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE

Steven Gering, Chief Academic Officer, and Jeannette Vaughn, Director of Innovative Programs and Charter Schools at Spokane Public Schools, provided a presentation to the Board on the district's process for evaluation of charter applications. They discussed their approval of PRIDE Prep charter school for opening in fall of 2015, and their denial of other applications. They also discussed the role of charter schools in the overall strategic plan of the district, and their plan for collaboration between charter schools and traditional district schools to meet the educational goals of the district.

9. TRANSFER OF CHARTER CONTRACTS

RCW 28A.710.210(3) provides that a charter authorizer or charter school may petition the Board for transfer of a charter contract to another authorizer or another nonprofit applicant. The Board must review such petitions on a case-by-case basis. Staff presented the requirements of this provision of the charter school law, outlined issues for implementation that are likely to require rule-making, and provided background on the reasons for this provision in Washington's law and the prevalence and nature of such provisions in other states' laws. Staff outlined next steps in rule-making to this provision.

10. COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

The SBE is required to identify the scores high school students must achieve to meet standard in statewide student assessments and obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The Board sets performance standards and levels in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Michael Middleton, Director of Alternative Assessments at OSPI, and Tom Hirsch, consultant from Assessment and Evaluation Services, presented on and recommended to the Board the process for standard setting for the Biology Collection of Evidence (COE) and the process for revisiting the Math Year 1 COE. The Board approved the process as presented by OSPI.

11. STUDENT PRESENTATION

Student board member Eli Ulmer spoke about how the Board's work on graduation requirements has impacted, or will impact, K-12. Encouraging career-and college-ready graduation requirement infrastructure allows for an enhanced high school and beyond plan and the ability to pursue a variety of careers while in high school, potentially resulting in better performance and higher engagement among students.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

New board members Holly Koon and Dan Plung were sworn in on March 5.

The Board received public comment from a parent of special needs children, and representatives of the Bethel School District, Lynden School District, Tukwila School District, and Methow Valley School District.

13. NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 7-8, 2014, at the Kennewick School District in Kennewick, Wash.

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