

Minutes
State Board of Education
Monday, September 27, 2010

The Arizona State Board of Education held a regular meeting at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Room 417, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Members Present:

Dr. Vicki Balentine
Mr. Jacob Moore
Supt. Tom Horne (Arrived at 9:25)
Dr. John Haeger
Ms. Amy Hamilton
Dr. James Horton
Ms. Eileen Klein
Mr. Gregory Miller
Mr. Jaime Molera
Ms. Diane Ortiz-Parsons
Mr. Thomas Tyree

Members Absent:

Pledge of allegiance and moment of silence
Roll call

1. BUSINESS REPORTS

A. President's Report

Dr. Balentine postponed the AZ K12 Center Board of Directors appointment until October.

Dr. Balentine stated the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Task Force will be attending an informational session conducted by WestEd in Denver, CO October 4th and 5th. The first task force meeting will be October 8th. The task force will be meeting throughout the year to create the frame work and implementation process which will be forwarded to the State Board for review and possibly approval by December 2011 for implementation in the 2012-2013 school year.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Award presentation to the Arizona history teacher of the year
2. Other items as necessary

Supt. Horne recognized the Exceptional Student Services Unit for hosting the Special Education Directors Institute. The institute had approximately 700 attendees and all 15 counties were represented. Training was provided in key areas related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The sessions also covered federal and state requirements, instructional and behavioral strategies and resource information for all special education personnel.

Supt. Horne presented Ms. Nancy Lindblom the 2010 Arizona History Teacher of the Year award and stated the award was part of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History program. Ms. Lindblom also received \$1,000 and a collection of American history classroom resources, named in her honor.

C. Board Member Reports

Dr. Haeger provided a copy of the Career and College planning guide, the purpose of the guide is to increase the number of students reached in high schools to think about college and plan knowingly a college career. Dr. Haeger thanked the Expect More Arizona organization for their help with the planning guide.

Mr. Molera attended the STEM Initiative workshop and the information provided was essential as to how to make the state more competitive.

D. Director's Report

Mr. Yanez provided an update of the task forces under the guidance of the State Board. Mr. Yanez stated he has worked with ADE staff to create the 9 member Move on When Reading Task Force. The recommendation for the slate of candidates for the task force will be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

The Board has made two appointments to the Data Systems Task Force and once all of the appointments are made. The Speaker and President of the Senate will make appointments to the task force before the Board can appoint a chairman.

Goal setting meeting discussion to follow the regular agenda and continue at the October Board meeting.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consideration to approve State Board of Education minutes for August 23, 2010
- B. Consideration to approve contract abstract for the 2011 McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grants
- C. Consideration to accept the recommendations of the Career Ladder Advisory Committee and approve the following Career Ladder programs for fiscal year 2010 - 2011:
 - 1. Payson Unified School District
 - 2. Pendergast Elementary School District
- D. Consideration to appoint the following individuals to the Certification Advisory Committee:
 - 1. Donna Gifford
 - 2. Anne Thiebeau
- E. Consideration to accept gift from Stand for Children Leadership Center for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Task Force, pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-204
- F. Consideration to accept funds from the USDOE relating to the Enhanced Assessment Grant and to authorize the expenditure of these funds in accordance with the award criteria
- G. Consideration to award contract for technical assistance for approved board examination systems, pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-792.02
- H. Consideration accept the proposed settlement agreement and issue a professional letter of censure against the teaching certificates held by Debra Plum
- I. Consideration to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee and grant the teacher certification applications for the following individuals:
 - 1. Alycia Ernst
 - 2. Susan Strommen

- J. Consideration to revoke the teaching certificates held by the following individuals pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-550:
1. Albert Thomas Rogers
 2. Anurag Pathak
 3. Gary Christopher Lopez

Mr. Tyree moved to approve the consent agenda

Motion second by Mr. Moore

Motion passes

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No request to speak

4. GENERAL SESSION

A. Program update regarding the Arizona Reading First initiative

Ms. Hrabluk provided an overview of the history of the grant and the latest achievements of the Reading First program. The program has been standards driven and research and evidence based.

Supt. Horne arrived at 9:25 AM

The handouts provided by Ms. Hrabluk included information on the course of study for Literacy instruction and the various feedback received from the field. The Arizona Reading First Mission is to ensure that all children in Arizona learn to read well by the end of third grade so they are well prepared to achieve their full academic potential. The purpose of Reading First is to ensure all students are reading proficiently by the end of third grade and continue with their academic career successfully.

The following elements of implementation were discussed.

- Leadership
- Assessment
- Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Hrabluk presented the outcome of the grant for Cycle I and Cycle II in the following areas:

- Project Growth for Cycle I from 2003 to 2010
- Project Growth for Cycle II from 2006 to 2010
- The results for the top performing schools
- Percent of students at DIBLES Benchmark
- English Language Learners
- Spring 2010 AIMS Data

A copy of the power point presentation can be provided by the State Board office.

Dr. Balentine asked to return to the Superintendent's report.

- B. Presentation and discussion regarding the Student Accountability and Information System (SAIS). Discussion may include, but is not limited to, system accessibility, maintenance, and future enhancements.

Mr. Donald Houde provided an update of the Student Accountability and Information System and stated the system continues to grow. Information was presented as to how SAIS has evolved since 1998 and Mr. Houde stated in 1998 SAIS had a statute that limited data and the data was only used for state funding. Currently SAIS has detailed data of many subjects and is used by many agency groups.

Data changes for SAIS are frequent, such as:

- New and modified statutes
- Federal grant requirements
- Federal reporting requirements
- State grant requirements
- Inter-governmental agreements
- ADE guidelines
- New program offerings such as Arizona Online Instruction
- Court rulings
- User requests for new data collection

Mr. Houde stated today's data environment is shared and one change impacts many things in the system. Each business area must evaluate impact of changed data. Also discussed was the impact of the timeline of changes.

The following are key challenges for SAIS:

- Redevelopment on newer data model and technology platform
- Need updated web-based data collection and delivery mechanisms for schools
- Need extended audit functions and audit reporting mechanisms
- Must continue renovation of website information content look and feel
- Dispersed agency data needs to be consolidated via IGA data sharing

Mr. Houde stated he supports having the system re-evaluated.

Dr. Balentine asked for further information on how it is determined when the system is shut down and the reason behind the shutdown of the system the first six weeks of school. Mr. Houde stated various changes from the last school year had to be modified before letting any more time laps. Mr. Houde also said a separate application was provided to the field upon request if student information was required while the system was down.

Dr. Balentine asked if this was expected to happen at the beginning of the next school year also, Mr. Houde stated there was a possibility due to more legislative changes made. Mr. Houde stated the solution would be to re-write the system as a whole and retire the old system.

Mr. Miller stated the Charter Schools LEA's have serious concerns regarding the audit processes and not having access to the SAIS information in order to comply with the audits. Mr. Houde stated he would do his best to assist with information requested for the audits.

Ms. Klein stated the Board could benefit of meeting with Mr. Houde to understand the breakdown of the system and the possibility of a special Board meeting or at a future Board meeting to discuss the plan that is needed to avoid all of the discrepancies.

A copy of the power point may be provided by the State Board office.

- C. Presentation, discussion and consideration to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee and grant the teacher certification application for Ernesto C. Razo

Mr. Easaw provided an overview of the case and stated Mr. Razo was present. The following mitigating factors were found:

- Guardian Ad Litem's document – recommended an early return of Mr. Razo's to the family home
- Not convicted of a felony
- No record of incidents with students in fifteen years of teaching
- Candor exhibited before the committee
- The thorough and personal documentation that he provided
- Statements of the family members (minors) involved in May 4, 2007 incident

Dr. Balentine asked if Mr. Razo wanted to address the Board.

Mr. Razo apologized for his actions and asked for the opportunity to continue teaching.

Mr. Molera moved to accept the finding of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations of the PPAC and grant the teacher certification application for Ernesto C. Razo

Motion second by Mr. Tyree

Motion Passes

- D. Consideration to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee and revoke the teaching certificates held by David Aleman

Item tabled until the October meeting to allow Mr. Aleman to review the documents provided to the Board members pertaining to his case. The information was mailed to Mr. Aleman via certified mail but not received. Mr. Aleman was present and was provided a copy of all documents.

Dr. Balentine requested a break before starting the study session.

Board recessed at 11:00 AM.

Board reconvened at 11:16 AM.

Supt. Horne did not return for the Study Session

5. STUDY SESSION: ARIZONA'S "MOVE ON WHEN READY" INITIATIVE

Presentation and discussion regarding Arizona's "Move on When Ready" initiative. Discussion may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Review of governing legislation and board examination systems
- b. Review of organizational and administrative structures and responsibilities
- c. Implementation logistics and timelines

Mr. Yanez provided an overview of the Board duties for the Move on When Ready initiative. Mr. Yanez stated the purpose of the study session will be to discuss any concerns.

Dr. Haeger returned to the meeting at 11:20 AM

Dr. Sybil Francis, Executive Director and Ms. Amanda Burke, Director of Education Innovation for the Center for the Future of Arizona and Mr. Yanez conducted the presentation. Dr. Francis also introduced Ms. Jana Carlisle, Deputy Director of NCEE. Ms. Carlisle is the national partner for the Move on When Ready initiative.

Dr. Francis stated she was very pleased to begin the work of Move on When Ready and listed the four parts of the presentation.

- I. The Move on When Ready Model – Governing Legislation, Board Examination Systems, and the Grand Canyon Diploma
- II. Operational Framework – Organizational and administrative structures and responsibilities
- III. Implementation logistics and timeline
- IV. Grand Canyon high school diploma requirements

Dr. Francis listed the reasons and provided current statistical information as to the importance of post-secondary education for all students. The National goal is to have the largest percentage of college graduates in the world by 2020. Dr. Francis stated according to public feedback 91% of Americans agree that all high school students should be well-prepared for more education beyond high school. Therefore Arizona's goal is to prepare all students for college and careers. Some of the steps the state is taking are as follows:

- Common Core State Standards
- Getting AHEAD (Lumina Project)
- PARCC Assessment Consortia
- Science Foundation Arizona STEM Initiative
- Move on When Ready Initiative

Key points of the Move on When Ready model were provided and an overview of the Grand Canyon Diploma as defined in Arizona Statute.

Dr. Francis stated the diploma would be a true diploma and not a certificate of completion. Students would be able to graduate as early as their sophomore year if all areas required are complete and several pathways would be available for students who receive a Grand Canyon Diploma. The Grand Canyon Diploma would be an assurance of college readiness and students could qualify to enroll at a Community College. The standard of college readiness requires close consultation with community colleges and universities.

Dr. Francis stated National Center on Education and economy is a partner on the development the initiative and they are providing substantial technical assistance and support to the consortium efforts. NCEE is also going to develop and extensive research. States involved will need to come to an agreement of the core courses that will be part of the diploma.

Mr. Molera asked if the core courses will be standard for all states or if each state would have their own set of courses and how the standards would be set. Dr. Francis said the advisory council has created what they believe is a reasonable set of core courses for students to take.

Dr. Haeger asked if Universities were involved in the alignment of the course work. Dr. Francis stated Universities would definitely be involved in the process of establishing the standards.

Ms. Burke stated NCEE formed a Board Examination Systems Consortium Advisory Council. Arizona is represented on this council by Dr. Balentine and Representative Rich Crandall

Mr. Yanez reviewed the AIMS implications and nothing will be changed Board Exams will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Mr. Yanez listed some of the specific Board responsibilities

- Contract with a private organization to operate and administer the Board Examination Systems
- Adopt rules to operate the "Move on When Ready" initiative
- Approve board examination systems that may be used in Arizona
- Determine what modifications, if any, are necessary to calculate AZ LEARNS achievement profiles
- Approve criteria for the "Grand Canyon Diploma"

Recommendations for the rule package are being developed. A draft may be available at the October meeting. Ms. Burke provided an overview of the private organization key roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Moore asked for further information on securing financial support for this initiative. Ms. Burke stated all sources are being considered. Dr. Francis said the work necessary will be done in order to assure students have various alternatives if the Grand Canyon Diploma does not work for them.

There will be a follow-up with School Districts and Charter Schools that have expressed their interest in incorporating this program. Ms. Burke presented the information on the funding model for Move On When Ready. Dr. Francis stated the model was designed to use funds more effectively and stated further information would be provided.

Ms. Burke stated extensive work will be required for the early adopter school implementation. An overview of the implementation logistics and timeline was provided. Dr. Francis also provided a summary of the required core courses that would be required.

Mr. Molera stated this model is one to be proud of and he is willing to work and assist with the planning. Mr. Molera asked if there was a possibility of combining some of the current efforts with the initiative model. Dr. Francis stated this is a planning year and different areas such as Career and Technical Education and the STEM have been considered.

Dr. Haeger asked if a student that receives a Grand Canyon Diploma is ready to enroll at a Community College but not a University due to the Mathematics requirement. Dr. Francis said that was correct due to the level of math.

Mr. Moore stated he agrees with Mr. Molera as to combining other efforts in order to make the initiative a success and available for all students.

Dr. Balentine asked Mr. Yanez for further information the tentative timeline. Mr. Yanez stated the fall goal would require extensive work and there would be additional presentations to the Board at the October and December meetings.

Mr. Miller asked if it would be possible to discuss Mr. Molera's recommendation to combine the programs and initiatives already in place. Dr. Haeger said it would be beneficial to know what other states have developed. Dr. Francis stated Arizona is at the cutting edge along with the other states.

Mr. Tyree said he would like to have a system that would work in all population areas. Ms. Burk stated she has met with various districts and county representatives. Ms. Burke also said they would welcome suggestions from the Board as to other schools or districts that could be approached and would like to provide input throughout the process.

6. ADJOURN

*Mr. Miller Moved to adjourn
Motion second by Dr. Haeger
Motion Passes*

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM