

Minutes
State Board of Education
Thursday May 6, 2010

The Arizona State Board of Education held a special meeting at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Room 417, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.

Members Present:

Dr. Vicki Balentine
Mr. Jacob Moore (Telephonically)
Supt. Tom Horne
Dr. John Haeger (Telephonically)
Mr. Jaime Molera
Mr. Gregory Miller
Ms. Eileen Klein
Ms. Diane Ortiz-Parsons
Mr. Thomas Tyree

Members Absent:

Pledge of allegiance and moment of silence

Roll Call

Dr. Balentine welcomed Ms. Eileen Klein to the Board.

1. Presentation and discussion regarding elements of Arizona's Phase II Race to the Top application

Dr. Koehler stated the purpose of the presentation was to give the members with the opportunity to provide their input for the Phase II RTTT application. Dr. Koehler reviewed the sections of the application and the areas of the Phase I application that required additional information. Dr. Koehler stated the applications submitted by states that were approved were reviewed to have an idea of what the new application for Arizona should reflect.

Mr. Molera stated he was glad WestEd would be working on the new application due to the teams expertise. Dr. Koehler stated one of the main goals is to commit as a state to the number of students graduating from high school. As a measureable goal this would be one of the focuses to be reflected on the application. Mr. Molera stated it is difficult to define the skills needed for post-secondary education.

Mr. Miller stated the goal is not in line with what the state needs in order to be successful and said early intervention should be the focus.

Supt. Horne stated the application should include further information on the states current achievements.

Dr. Koehler stated the application should also reflect how the state will be prepared for the following years such as linking education to the economy.

Ms. Mancuso provided a summary of the outline that will be used for the application and stated the outline has examples of the strategies that will be used. The following are the sections of the outline reviewed:

- Section A: Participating LEA Responsibilities
- Section B: State Responsibilities
- Section C: Joint Responsibilities
- Section D: State Recourse for LEA Non-Performance

Mr. Moore – 1:42PM left the meeting.

Dr. Koehler stated the application should reflect that all the education leaders are involved and will be taking the responsibility to work together.

Mr. Miller asked what the statutory limitation would be for the Board. Dr. Balentine stated any issues would be remanded back to the Board.

Dr. Koehler excused himself from the meeting and stated Ms. Mancuso would continue with the presentation.

The WestEd team has focused on section D which is an important section of the reform plan. Section D has almost three-times the points of the other sections. Ms. Mancuso said sections B, C, and E are approximately 50 points each while section D is worth 140 points. Arizona performed poorly on section D on phase I of the application but the state is in a better place now competitively due to SB 1040 which references teacher evaluation. Ms. Mancuso reviewed the main points of the Great Teachers and Leaders section.

Ms. Mancuso stated in section E the state is also in a better place now than it was in December and said the two main points to turning around the lowest achieving schools are, to strengthen the state system of support for LEA's and schools in need of improvement and support and intervention in the lowest performing schools.

Dr. Haeger left at 2:10 PM

Ms. Mancuso stated there is a long term goal and a short term; short term would be to work with the group on board now and long term would be to establish a turnaround academy and build a pipeline in the state for educators that are interested in working with such schools that need the additional assistance. Ms. Mancuso said the resources from Race to the Top could be used to support the creation of a network.

Ms. Mancuso reviewed the last section of the plan and stated the cross-cutting themes and recurring strategies are reflected across the four sub-sections in order to have coherence and consistency in the delivery plan. Ms. Mancuso referenced the handout titled Arizona Delivery System and said the handout outlines the structure for the states delivery system of its Race to the Top reform efforts. The delivery system focuses on a two prong approach, one is using web-based technology and the other is to establish regional centers for innovation and reform. Ms. Mancuso said the regional centers would be responsive to the needs of local LEA's and schools and would consist of a team of specialists and provided further information on the work of the teams and purpose of the regional centers.

Mr. Miller asked who would be hiring for the regional centers. Ms. Mancuso said whoever is holding the center's contract with the state if an RFP was in place. Mr. Yanez stated there have been discussions on allowing the Board to address the hiring process.

Mr. Miller returned to section D, under Great Teachers and Leaders and asked what the thought was behind the equitable distribution. Ms. Mancuso stated equitable distribution addresses the state's efforts to ensure that students in high needs schools are not being taught by educators that are not highly qualified or not effective. This is also a commitment to address low performing schools. Ms. Mancuso stated Arizona has extensive work and information to provide in the area of assisting low performing schools.

Ms. Mancuso said a copy of the MOU that was sent out was also provided to the members and a copy of the letter to all education stakeholders requesting letters of support to include with the final RTTT application.

Ms. Mancuso stated the Boards involvement and assistance will be appreciated in developing a plan that Arizona can commit to not only for purposes of RTTT but also for purposes of the reform plan. Ms. Mancuso said letter of support from the Board and one from each member would also be beneficial.

Dr. Balentine thanked WestEd and said the information provided brought more clarity to the RTTT process.

2. Call to the public

No requests to speak.

3. Adjourn

Ms. Ortiz-Parsons moved to adjourn

Mr. Tyree second the motion

Adjourned at 2:37 PM