

Washington State Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Highline Community College, Des Moines

MINUTES

May 10, 2007

Members Present: Bernal Baca, Terry Bergeson, Amy Bragdon, Steve Dal Porto, Steve Floyd, Sheila Fox, Phyllis Bunker Frank, Zac Kinman, Linda W. Lamb, Eric Liu, Kris Mayer, Mary Jean Ryan, John C. Schuster, Warren T. Smith, Sr., Tiffany Thompson (outgoing student), and Lorilyn Roller (incoming student) (17)

Members Absent: Jeff Vincent (1)

Staff Present: Edie Harding, Sarah Bland, Loy McColm, Evelyn Hawkins, Kathe Taylor, and Assistant Attorney General Colleen Warren (6)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Mary Jean Ryan.

MOTION was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the March meeting.

MOTION carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Andrea Peterson is being honored today in Granite Falls, as the National Teacher of the Year for 2007. Dr. Terry Bergeson is attending the celebration and will join the Board meeting later this morning.
- Chair Ryan commended the Legislature for a job well done in the passage of the Simple Majority legislation.
- Congratulations to Tiffany Thompson, who has been accepted to UCLA.
- Election will occur tomorrow for Liaison to the Executive Committee. Jack Schuster has agreed to act as Chair for the election process.
- Introductions were made for Loy McColm as the new Executive Assistant to the Board and Lorilyn Roller as the new Student Board Member for Western Washington.

Systems Performance Accountability Committee Update

Dr. Kristina Mayer, Committee Chair and Edie Harding, Executive Director

The Systems Performance Accountability (SPA) Committee is currently examining state models and research for assisting local schools and districts that continue to have low performance. Getting to scale work on school turnaround still needs some implementation proof of success. The research is limited on states that have made a significant difference in turning large numbers of low performing schools around.

Dr. Mayer talked about the need for kids to be ready for the future world of work and to know the options that are available to them so that they do not prepare for the low wage jobs but rather be aware of more family wage jobs. The Committee is looking at indicators of system performance and academics, including standards around reading and math performance, with writing and science coming next year. The Committee will also be looking at other requirements such as art and social studies. With one in four kids in Washington schools needing to improve, it was recommended that the state implement a school improvement model and offer tiered assistance at some level with specific schools as the focus. The Committee is looking at other state models.

School Turnaround Policies and Approaches: Options for Washington State

Andy Calkins, Executive Director and William Guenther, President of MASS Insight

MASS Insight is a not-for-profit organization that is focused on improving student achievement in Massachusetts public schools, through benchmarking initiatives, school leadership training programs, integrated math reform, public service information programs, and policy reports.

Mr. Calkins and Mr. Guenther presented a *Preview of Conclusions Report on School Turnaround at Scale*. Effective schools serving disadvantaged students show characteristics such as: 1) a clear understanding of student needs; 2) well integrated strategies and the capacity to deliver them; and 3) conditions and incentives that support the work.

The three core principles on school turnaround design that emerged from MASS Insight's research include: marginal change yields marginal results; dramatic change requires bold, comprehensive action from the state, in partnership with districts; and it's about people, before programs. The question is why has so little dramatic change occurred? There is a lack of leverage, lack of capacity, lack of exemplars, lack of public will, and lack of supportive incentives. The strategy for scaled-up turnaround is to create space that supports outside-the-system approaches, using inside-the-system resources.

Elements of a comprehensive, coherent state turnaround initiative include creating protected space for turnaround; organizing in clusters by region, need, or type; changing the rules for people, time, and money; building turnaround resources and human capacity in schools; and building coalitions of leaders at state and local levels.

Questions from presentation

- How do we reconcile rewarding people for doing what they ought to be doing? The partner role is critical to make this work. Conditions without capacity won't work. It was suggested that building assets and resources to draw from to get the work done is crucial. The Gates Foundation is very supportive and there is an opportunity to work with them and others to define the leadership/partnership role.
- What, if any, work is being done with students? Many students are in school because they have to be. What is it that makes us think that the student will be receptive to this? Most successful charter schools have a personalized teaching approach, which teaches children essentially how to change their habits.
- Have there been experiments on how the zones are delivered? New York has changed its organizational structure upside down and decentralized and is looking at inside and outside partners.

- Do the districts delegate authority to the lead entity or does the state have authority? The state sets a series of conditions for the copilot status.
- Who has the authority to determine whether a school or district is in the 'club'? The state would have to work it out and has the leverage to take serious action if necessary.

Chair Ryan thanked Mr. Calkins and Mr. Guenther for a most powerful presentation. Washington needs to reflect on the commitment to do something about the state of education in persistently failing schools and make the decision to act.

As Chair of the SPA committee, Kris asked for the Board's support to make the commitment to send the Committee forward on behalf of low performing kids. The sentiment of the members is strong, to make a commitment; however, the specifics have not been clarified to date. Dr. Bergeson stated that the Board has the authority and responsibility on accountability. She suggested a partnership between OSPI and the Board.

Legislative Update

Edie Harding, Executive Director

Edie gave an overview of the 2007 Legislative Session Wrap-Up Report as follows:

- The Simple Majority for School Levies will go to the voters to determine if it becomes a constitutional amendment.
- Graduation requirements for classes 2008-12 allows students to receive a diploma without a Certificate of Academic Achievement if they pass the reading and writing WASL or an alternative, but do not pass the math WASL. The class of 2008 students must earn one additional math credit and the classes of 2009-12 must earn two additional math credits. Meeting the math standards through the WASL as a graduation requirement will go into effect for the Class of 2013. Chair Ryan suggested a measurable process on whether to move up the date.
- A pilot project has been created for two community and technical colleges where under age 21 students, who have completed all state and local graduation requirements, except the CAA or the Certificate of Individual Achievement, can enroll in a high school completion program and earn a high school diploma.
- Students are now allowed access to a state-approved alternative assessment after taking the WASL only once.
- Students may use their math, reading, or English and writing scores on college readiness tests (such as ACT or SAT) to show they have key skills.
- Students may use a score of three or higher on select AP exams.
- A student's grades in math courses and/or English courses are compared with the grades of students who took the same course and passed the WASL. To access this option, a student must have a cumulative GPA of a least 3.2 on a 4.0 grading scale
- OSPI is authorized to arrange for students to receive a testing fee waiver or make other arrangements for eligible students to take the approved PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement assessments.
- The Governor has asked the Board to make recommendations on End of Course Assessments as an alternative to the math and science high school WASL by January 15, 2008.
- A lot of work being done with OSPI and the Legislators on Diagnostic Assessments.
- The Board has been directed to examine other possibilities and recommendations for the study of additional alternatives and submit to the Legislature by January 10, 2008

- OSPI and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board must convene an advisory committee looking at career and technical education to help students obtain a certificate of achievement.
- The math standards review must be accomplished by September 2007 and the science standards by June 30, 2008, with a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2008. The math standards panel has been implemented and is scheduled to be in place until 2012. The science standards will be implemented in the same format as the math panel. OSPI will be developing curricula for elementary, middle, and high school on math and science.
- There is funding available for a statewide director for OSPI's coordination of math and science technology. The Legislature is requiring specific responsibilities for the director.
- After school support has been created, along with instruction coaches.
- Two new alternative routes to teacher certification have been created.
- The Recruiting Diverse Washington Teachers Program has been established to recruit and provide training and support for diverse high school students to enter the teaching profession.
- The Retooling to Each Math and Science Program has been created.
- Revision of the Math Placement Test must occur by September 1, 2008.
- The basic education funding study was created to include eight Legislators, Dr. Bergeson, a representative from the Governor's Office or OFM and four members appointed by the Governor. Jeff Vincent's name has been submitted to the Governor for approval to participate in this study. The Institute of Public Policy will be doing work for this.
- A feasibility study will pilot with two school districts to look at course codes. A report must be provided to the Legislature, from OSPI, by November 1, 2008.

The SBE two-year budget was approved at \$2m, which includes funding for our work in math, science, and accountability. Work will need to be contracted out and we have money to do that. Edie highlighted some enhancements in the OSPI budget such as \$39m for teacher professional development targeted for math and science and \$51m to expand all day kindergarten.

Collection of Evidence

Dr. Joe Willhoft, Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Research, OSPI
 Dr. Lesley Klink, CAA Options Administrator

Dr. Willhoft gave a status on Certificate of Academic Achievement Options, which includes draft rules developed in December/January, public review distribution in January, public hearing on February 27th, and action on rules postponed until close of legislative session and action by the Governor. Testing standards have been approved by the American Education Research Association, American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education. Joe discussed options for reading, writing, and math in relation to the PSAT, SAT, ACT, or AP tests. ESSB 6023 makes all options available to students after having taken the WASL once. The PSAT option expires August 31, 2008 and new this year, the SAT and ACT have been expanded to reading and writing. Advanced Placement exams can be used for reading and writing.

The first round submission deadline for Collection of Evidence is June 15th. The standard setting event is scheduled for July 24-27 and will be a one-time event. Once we set the standards, we use the same scoring year in and year out. The Alternative Technical Advisory Committee (Alt-TAC) met May 6-7 to draft a COE standard setting plan, which was presented to the Board at the May 10th Board meeting. Revisions will be sent to NTAC and the Board for review May 18th.

A conference call, with NTAC, is scheduled for May 25th to ask for their endorsement for the plan by July 13th. We will ask the Board to approve the standard setting plan at the July 19th Board meeting, with the Board adopting standards for the COE sometime after that.

The new RFP will cover a five-year period through October 2013 and will encourage vendors to bid on separate components. The timeline for the RFP is as follows:

- June 2007 Release of RFP
- September 2007 Proposals due
- December 2007 Pre-award contractor(s) identified
- December 2007 Report of constituent needs and pre-award information to the Legislature
- January-March 2008 Negotiations with contractor(s)
- April 2008 Contract(s) awarded
- April-May 2008 Execution of contract(s) begins
- October 31, 2008 Current contract expires

Learning First Alliance

Warren T. Smith Sr., Vice Chair

The SBE joined the Washington State Learning First Alliance (WSLFA) four years ago. In the past year, WSLFA has had a difficult time convening members to meet and determine an agenda. Warren and Edie Harding attended the April 11th meeting, where members decided it was important to determine if there is still a commitment from the organizations to continue the WSLFA and to learn what issues they should focus on. The issues that were identified at the meeting included: NCLB, redefining basic education, addressing the achievement gap, improving math performance, and supporting the simple majority. Warren suggested that the WSLFA agenda include a presentation from the System Performance Accountability and the Meaningful High School Diploma committees and that the Board continue to participate and support the Alliance indicating that it would be beneficial in creating a common front when working with the Legislators. Although WSLFA is stronger in states than others it still has the power to be energy for the state.

2007 Board Retreat

Dr. Steve Dal Porto and Dr. Sheila Fox, Retreat Co-Chairs

The Retreat is scheduled for August 27-28th at the Inn at Port Hadlock on the Kitsap Peninsula. Steve and Sheila presented the Retreat agenda asking for approval to move forward. The Retreat is designed for the Board to work collaboratively on in-depth discussions and will give them an opportunity to get know each other better. The Board was asked to send any suggestions for facilitators to Sheila and Steve, along with any changes or suggestions for the agenda.

English Language Learner (ELL) Policy Issues

Mary Jean Ryan, Chair and Dr. Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

ELL policies were not changed in the Legislature and Mary Jean indicated that it is time to move forward and come back to the Board in July with a work plan with completion scheduled for the Fall. Dr. Bergeson attended the Bilingual Advisory Committee and will be using them as a working group to give advice on what is happening and what is coming next. There are three top recommendations that they plan to work at the summer institutes, which include: teach the ELD standards to everyone, need to know how to use the language development standards and

integrate those with the reading and writing standards, SIAP sheltered English approach which is a philosophy and strategy on how you build a second language with students. Second program called GLAD – how you deliver strategies in the classroom.

A federal proposal has been submitted to strengthen the data that we have. The migrant student records center collects a lot of data for us on our bilingual and migrant programs and they are working together with our IT staff on the data. Dr. Alfonso Anaya will be observing ESL and Learning First programs to learn what's working. Bernal Baca indicated that he would like to be able to participate in this discussion. PESB will be involved and we should be involved too.

Mathematics Update

Edie Harding, Executive Director and Dr. Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction

The SBE was charged with hiring a national consultant to analyze strengths and weaknesses of current K-12 math standards and appoint a panel of teachers, higher education faculty, parents, and business and community leaders.

Strategic Teaching was chosen as the national consultant and the team consists of: Linda Plattner, Project Manager; Joe McInerney, Lead at Westart and head writer; W. Stephen Wilson, faculty member of math department at Johns Hopkins University; Sandy Sanford, Educational Consultant; Rhonda Naylor, Middle School Math Teacher (Colorado); Connie Colton, K-8 Math Teacher (Nebraska); Beth Cole, Elementary Private School Math Teacher (Washington D.C.); and Eric Rawdon, faculty member of math department at St. Thomas University. The Strategic Teaching Team will have draft recommendations to the Board on July 10th and will present the recommendations at the July 19th Board meeting. Final recommendations are due to the Board on August 30th.

The 20 member Math Standards Panel met on April 26th and are scheduled to meet again on June 14th and July 17th. The first meeting discussion included strengths and weaknesses of the current Washington standards, examination of rubrics and exemplar documents, and what the panel hopes to accomplish during their time together. Mary Jean thanked Edie for her work on this program.

Edie called attention to the Grade Four Mathematics Content Standards document and explained the process. If members are interested in being on the science panel they should contact Kathe. Focus Groups will be set up, as well as public hearings to bring people together and Edie is planning dates between mid-July and mid-August. She asked for help in getting the word out to people. Dr. Bergeson expressed the importance of everyone working together on the Math Action Plan. Dr. Kathe Taylor is beginning work on the Science project and will use a similar process.

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

May 11, 2007

Members Present: Bernal Baca, Terry Bergeson, Amy Bragdon, Steve Dal Porto, Steve Floyd, Sheila Fox, Phyllis Bunker Frank, Zac Kinman, Linda W. Lamb, Eric Liu, Kris Mayer, Mary Jean Ryan, John C. Schuster, Warren T. Smith, Sr., Tiffany Thompson, and Lorilyn Roller (17)

Members Absent: Jeff Vincent (1)

Staff Present: Edie Harding, Sarah Bland, Loy McColm, Evelyn Hawkins, Kathe Taylor, and Assistant Attorney General Colleen Warren (6)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chair Mary Jean Ryan.

Meaningful HighSchool Diploma Committee Update

Eric Liu, Committee Chair and Dr. Kathe Taylor, Policy Director

The Committee met on March 14th, which included the Advisory Committee and again on April 19th without the Advisory Committee. The Committee explored what would make a diploma meaningful for four specialists who provided information about current practice and policy issues in the areas of career and technical education at the April 19th meeting. The specialists who participated in the meeting were: Wes Pruitt, Policy Analyst for the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; Rod Duckworth, OSPI State Director for Career and Technical Education; and Caleb Perkins, OSPI Program Supervisor of Social Studies/International Education. Kathe Taylor gave a report on the policy briefing paper, "A National Snapshot of Differentiated Diploma/Polices: 2007", which provided pros and cons of a differentiated approach and details about other state's approaches.

American Diploma Project

Eric Liu, Board Member

The Governor has asked the Board for a recommendation on whether Washington should join the American Diploma Project Network (ADPN). The ADPN currently consists of 29 states. There is no fee to join the ADPN and the decision for Washington to join could come from the Governor's office; however, the Governor has extended the courtesy to the Board to make a recommendation. The primary benefit to the state would be access to a group of like-minded states sharing strategies for addressing policy design, implementation, and advocacy needs. Questions and comments followed.

Motion was made by Eric Liu that it is the sense of the State Board of Education that the state of Washington should join the ADP network.

Amended Motion was made by Steve Dal Porto that it is the sense of the board of education that Washington State should join the ADP network and continue to implement the standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Amendment seconded.

No further discussion on the amendment.

Amendment fails.

Further discussion continued on the original amendment. The concern is staff work needed to be involved in this.

Motion carries with Steve Dal Porto abstaining.

Motion passed.

180-Day Waiver Discussion and Decision

Jack Schuster, Committee Chair and
Dr. Jim Koval, Superintendent, North Thurston Public Schools

The Committee recommended that the Board approve modifications to the current waiver request process as defined in WAC 180-18-050 and WAC 180-18-060. Jack explained the modifications and the process for the initial request. The Committee also recommended that the Board return to granting requests for up to three school years as allowed in WAC 180-18-030. Questions and comments were accepted.

Motion was made by Steve Dal Porto that the Board accept the recommendation of the 180-Day Waiver Requests modification.

Motion was seconded.

Amendment to the recommendation was made by Dr. Bergeson to page 90 of the Board packet as follows:

#2, bullet one – change to “Baseline student achievement data underlying the purpose and goals of the waiver”

#2 next bullet – “How the district and/or schools will collect the evidence.”

#3 bullet #2 – “Students achievement data and other evidence of whether the purpose and goals for the previous waiver were met.”

Motion on amendment carries.

main motion carries.

Business Items

Election of Board Members

Loy McColm, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Loy McColm presented the State Board election process and reported that SBE elections are now the responsibility of the Office of Professional Practices (OPP) at OSPI. As a result of questions fielded to Loy, it was determined that further research on the Board election procedures and deadlines need to be clarified with OPP. Dr. Bergeson and Loy will work with OPP on the final document to bring back to the Board. Loy directed the Board's attention to the Board Terms document that was provided for their information.

Motion was made by Steve Floyd to approve the nomination of Dr. John Hegert from the Pasco School District as the WSSDA Representative to the OSPI Facilities Committee.

Motion seconded.

Motion carries.

One Year Liaison to the Executive Committee Election

Motion was made to nominate Jack Schuster as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Motion seconded.

Motion carries.

Nominated members for the one year Liaison to the Executive Committee included: Bernal Baca, Steve Floyd, Steve Dal Porto, Phyllis Bunker Frank, Sheila Fox, Amy Bragdon, Linda W. Lamb, Eric Liu, John C. "Jack" Schuster, and Jeff Vincent.

Steve Floyd declined the nomination. Nominees were given a few minutes to discuss their interest in the appointment and explain the experience they would bring to the Committee.

Majority vote results: Bernal Baca, Executive Committee Liaison.

180-Day Waiver Requests

Dr. Evelyn Hawkins, Research Associate

The following districts requested waivers:

- Granite Falls School District (3 waiver days)
- Grapeview School District (2 waiver days)
- Highline School District (3 waiver days)
- Lake Stevens School District (1 waiver day)
- Loon Lake School District (3 waiver days)
- Nespelem School District (8 waiver days)
- Riverside School District (2 waiver days)
- Shoreline School District (5 waiver days)
- Tahoma School District (3 waiver days)
- Thorp School District (3 waiver days)

Motion was made to approve waivers as requested.

Motion seconded.

Motion carries.

Adoption of meeting dates for 2008 and 2009

Meeting dates were approved as presented.

Public Comment

Deanna Winterrose: Dr. Willhoft commented there was a classification consistency to make sure there wasn't classification inappropriately denying students' graduation. I don't think the numbers are accurate of the damage being done. The numbers don't factor in those students being denied diplomas because they give up after not passing the WASL one, two, or three times. She also suggested that we need to know if the failure of students in high school WASL is a system or achievement issue. In regard to the five year vendor contract, Ms. Winterrose recommended that current the five year contract be extended by one year increments and that the contract should not be awarded until the Board is able to explore the EOC Assessment.

Ann Varkados: Thank you for the opportunity to continue with the waivers. We have data if you would like us to supply that for you.

Elliot Paul: My comments are my thoughts, not Microsoft. I worked with Legislature on 1906. We had a focused agenda to improve math and science. We pushed for the panel that is in place and he urged the Board to stay focused on the timeline of 13 months. The districts are skeptical of the timeline put forth for completion.

Outgoing Student Representative Report

Tiffany Thompson, Student Representative, Western Washington

Tiffany thanked the Board for its support and giving her the opportunity to serve on the Board. She shared some thoughts with the Board on issues they might look at in the future as follows:

- Better data systems and information gathering;
- Shortage of math teachers;
- Remedy sharing, statewide;
- Resources are lacking in Washington State;
- Work on liberal education;
- Encourage students to learn;
- Look at achievement gap
- WASL – don't forget level three and four students;
- Elementary school focus on state level rather than just school district;
- Bridging the gap between administration and classroom;
- Encourage students that they can get better jobs, better education.

Board Goal on Preparing Students for Success

Mary Jean Ryan, Chair

At the March meeting, Chair Ryan gave a presentation on Accountability, "*The Bedrock: Clear Goals and Measureable Objectives*", where she highlighted the need for the Board to know what it is trying to achieve through clear goals and measureable objectives. she proposed that the Board consider adopting an overarching goal - "*Prepare all Washington State students for success in post-secondary education, the world of work, and citizenship.*"

Motion was made by Sheila Fox to accept the goal as presented.

Questions and comments were accepted.

Motion was made by Bernal Baca to table this discussion for 15 minutes to revisit the amended language.

Motion seconded.

Motion carries.

Original Motion was withdrawn by Sheila Fox.

Motion was made by Bernal Baca to accept the amended language to the overarching goals as follows:

“Provide all Washington State students the opportunity to succeed in post-secondary education, the 21st century world of work, and citizenship.

Motion was seconded.

Motion carries.

OSPI Implementation of High School Graduation Credit Clarification

Dr. Mickey Venn Lahmann, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

At the March meeting, rules for WAC 180-51-061 were clarified to ensure that students beginning in the Class of 2008 would earn high school credits which are aligned to the 9-10th Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) with Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

Dr. Lahmann gave an overview of the work that has been ongoing since GLEs were developed in 2004 and the subsequent outreach with tools and processes that have been made available to districts and schools. Ongoing professional development and technical assistance is being specifically targeted to secondary schools to align courses required for graduation to meet GLEs. She presented the professional development assessment and explained how the process works with interactive tools.

Basic Education Assistance Form 1497- Proposed Changes to Add High School Credit Alignment

Edie Harding, Executive Director

As per discussion at the March meeting, rules were approved clarifying that students beginning with the Class of 2008 must earn high school credits that are aligned with the state's standards. To earn the minimum 19 high school credits required under state law, students must take high school level courses. The Form 1497 is a tool that is used currently by the Board that school district superintendents and school board presidents must sign each year to ensure the district is in compliance with the total instructional hours. The Board staff added an item to the Basic Education Assistance Form 1497 to include a check off for compliance with the minimum state high school graduation requirements and Edie asked for a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Bernal Baca to accept the addition to Form 1497.

Motion was seconded.

Motion carries.

Next Steps From Today's Board Meeting

- Amy Bragdon – Tiffany's discussion should be taken seriously and as one of our students her healthy contribution is worth looking at. In the future, it would be good to have the opportunity to respond to the thoughts of our students.
- Linda W. Lamb – Tiffany, Zac, and Lorilyn are a wonderful asset for us to have on the Board. I want to see us have more student panels on our agenda so we can find out where our balance is.
- Amy Bragdon – I appreciated the planning for last night's event for all of us to get together.
- Mary Jean Ryan – we'll be getting a number of questions since Bill Guenther's presentation will be on NPR and people are asking me questions. We should put our notes sheet together on the statistics that he talked about to be able talk about a need for action.
- Phyllis Bunker Frank – Had a discussion with the gentlemen that presented and we need to know what the 5% of chronically under-performing students is in our state and understand it.
- Linda W. Lamb – The sessions were meaningful this past two days I appreciate the work that happened to make it so.
- Mary Jean Ryan – preparation for this meeting was excellent.

Chair Mary Jean Ryan adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.