



**September 10-12, 2013
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 September 10-12, 2013, at the ESD 105 office in Yakima, Wash.

1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Spokane School District's charter school authorizer application
- 2013-2015 Budget
- Private Schools for the 2013-14 School Year

2. CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER APPLICATION – SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spokane School District submitted a charter authorizer application to the SBE by the required July 1, 2013, due date for consideration for approval in calendar year 2013. A high-quality team of evaluators reviewed the application, assigned a rating to each part based on criteria in adopted SBE rules, and interviewed school district representatives. The board reviewed the evaluation of the application and district responses in the interview, and discussed whether to approve or deny the application. Staff recommended approval of Spokane's application.

3. CHARTER SCHOOL RULES PUBLIC HEARING

Each charter authorizer, whether a school district or the Washington Charter School Commission, is required to submit an annual report to the SBE. At its July 2013 meeting the board approved the filing of a CR 102 on proposed WAC 180-19-210, which:

- Sets the date by which the report must be submitted,
- Specifies the required information that must be submitted in the report, and
- Establishes the form and manner in which the report must be submitted.

The SBE solicited public comment on the rules through its public website, e-mail outreach to a broad list of interested parties including education organizations, and communication with the Washington Charter School Commission. OSPI prepared a fiscal impact statement on the proposed rules as required by RCW 28A.305.135.

At the meeting, the board received public comment from Steve Sundquist, Chair of the Washington Charter School Commission, that the rules are thorough, balanced and realistic. He requested the board add a requirement to report on organizational compliance.

4. SBE STRATEGIC PLAN & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Staff presented K-12 data to provide a snapshot of the current health of the education system in Washington. Board members reviewed progress made toward the 2011-2014 strategic plan goals and discussed emerging areas of SBE work. The revised plan incorporates the same goals

as the prior version, but adds new sections to reflect the board's work on charter school implementation and ESSB 5491 goal setting.

Members discussed potential priorities for the 2014 Legislative session, which included a revamped 24-credit graduation requirement and funding for professional development of educators.

5. PROGRESS OF REQUIRED ACTION DISTRICTS

SBE received an update on the progress of the four Required Action Districts (RAD) from Andrew Kelly, Assistant Superintendent of Student and School Success, and Maria Flores, Associate Director of Innovation and Research, and Policy, both from OSPI.

The RADs (Morton School District - Morton Junior/Senior High School, Soap Lake School District – Soap Lake Middle/High School, Onalaska School District – Onalaska Middle School, and Renton School District – Lakeridge Elementary School) are currently employing Required Action Plans in an effort to improve student achievement. OSPI staff provided an overview of the RADs' performance through an analysis of 2013 assessment data. In addition to monitoring SIG fund spending, OSPI is monitoring school improvement plans and providing feedback on how the RAD interventions are making a difference.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHOOL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

Staff updated the board on elements of the accountability framework including: the Revised Index, E2SSB 5329 process and timeline for school and district designations, the definition of "recent and significant progress," the Achievement and Accountability Workgroup, options for ESSB 5491 indicators, and the transition to Common Core Assessments.

Key next steps include drafting rule language on how SBE decides on RAD Level II designations, how SBE decides on Level II action plan approval, and formalizing a timeline.

7. UPCOMING BOARD WORK

OPTION TWO WAIVER REPORT: RCW 28A.305.141 authorizes SBE to grant waivers of the basic education requirement of a minimum 180-day school year to no more than five small school districts "for purposes of economy and efficiency" (Option Two Waivers). The statute directs SBE to make a recommendation to the education committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2013, regarding whether the program of economy and efficiency waivers should be continued, modified, or allowed to terminate when the statute expires on August 31, 2014.

The board discussed what information they need to make a recommendation regarding the "Option Two" program.

CHARTER SCHOOL RULE-MAKING: SBE has two essential duties for the charter school law. The first is to review and approve or deny applications by school districts to be authorizers of charter schools. The second is to oversee the performance of school districts it has approved to be authorizers. Over the next few months the board will initiate rule-making on oversight of district authorizers.

8. YAKIMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SITE VISITS

Yakima Superintendent Dr. Elaine Beraza provided a tour of several Yakima public schools' programs and classrooms. The itinerary included stops at Eisenhower High School, Adams Elementary and Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center. Members had the opportunity to engage with educators and students, observing firsthand the programs Yakima employs to improve student achievement.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

A moment of silence was taken to remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Nominations for the Executive Committee are due to nominations chair Phyllis Bunker Frank by November 1, 2013.

The board received public comment asking that schools be required to allow students to be included in anti-bullying planning efforts. The student board members will draft a resolution for a vote at the November meeting.

The board also received public comment from the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, Washington State School Directors' Association, Washington State Parent Teacher Association, Washington Education Association, and a teacher from the Grandview School District. A full record of public comment will be included in the meeting minutes.

10. NEXT BOARD MEETING

November 14-15, 2013 at the ESD 112 office in Vancouver, Wash.

Visit our website (www.sbe.wa.gov/materials.php) for additional information or call the board office at: 360-725-6025.