

January 11-12 Meeting Highlights

Note: The materials listed below are available in the [online packet](#).

On January 11-12, the State Board of Education (SBE) met in Tumwater, Washington, to:

- Consider implications and requirements for a state waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind program.
- Discuss possible rule revisions to SBE's Basic Education Act waiver requirements, including a possible amendment to WAC 180-18-40.
- Review Representative Ross Hunter's school levy adjustment proposal.
- Recognize Ms. Barbara Franz and Ms. Dawn Sparks, recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Instruction.
- Recognize Dan Alderson, the 2011 Milken Education Educator award winner.
- Explore issues surrounding education system governance with guest speaker Dr. Aims C. McGuinness Jr., from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.
- Review SBE's 2011-2014 strategic plan.
- Discuss pending education issues for the 2012 Legislative Session.
- Clarify SBE priorities for the 2012 Session.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIONS

SBE approved the following:

- Minutes from the November 9-10, 2011, Board meeting.

NCLB WAIVER CONSIDERATIONS

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) announced in September that they would begin to grant waivers to states from some ESEA requirements in exchange for a series of reforms.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has not made a final determination of whether or not they will apply, but at this point is moving ahead with writing an application that will be ready to submit on February 21, 2012. SBE is an important partner in this effort and the Achievement Index is being seen as the unifying accountability tool.

The waiver will require an enhancement of the Washington Achievement Index, a tool increasingly utilized by districts and schools to assess their progress.

180-DAY WAIVERS AND POSSIBLE RULE REVISIONS

In November 2011, Board Members directed staff to outline what specific criteria should be applied to waiver requests.

Members reviewed proposed waiver criteria and possible changes to the current waiver process. Board Members decided to table this topic until May.

REPRESENTATIVE ROSS HUNTER –SCHOOL LEVY ADJUSTMENT PROPOSAL

Representative Ross Hunter (Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee) introduced legislation to change the way schools are funded in Washington. The new approach would expand statewide property tax rate collections for support of the common schools, and enact corresponding reductions in local excess levy collections. Although the purpose of the proposal is to maintain some degree of “revenue neutrality” -- meaning that districts will not receive less in overall funding than they did before -- the proposal does have meaningful impacts on the tax rates paid in each school district, and the total amount that could potentially be raised locally by the districts themselves. Representative Hunter presented his proposal to SBE and addressed questions of members.

EDUCATION SYSTEM GOVERNANCE

Dr. Aims McGuinness led a presentation and discussion of the Higher Education Steering Committee proposals and possible SBE legislative priorities in the area of governance for the 2012 Legislative Session. Dr. McGuinness also discussed best practices in education governance and ways in which the State Board of Education is uniquely positioned to lead reform in this area.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Board members reviewed proposed staff changes to the 2011-2014 strategic plan. This update is intended to complement the extensive strategic plan review that happens annually during the Board retreat.

2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Executive Director led a discussion of bills and issues likely to surface during the 2012 Legislative Session. Members also reviewed early action bills of concern to SBE, the implications of the budget situation, and policy proposals made by the Governor.

The next State Board of Education meeting will be in Auburn, Washington, on March 14-15 at the Green River Community College

For additional information and Board meeting materials, go to: www.sbe.wa.gov
or call the Board office at: 360-725-6025.