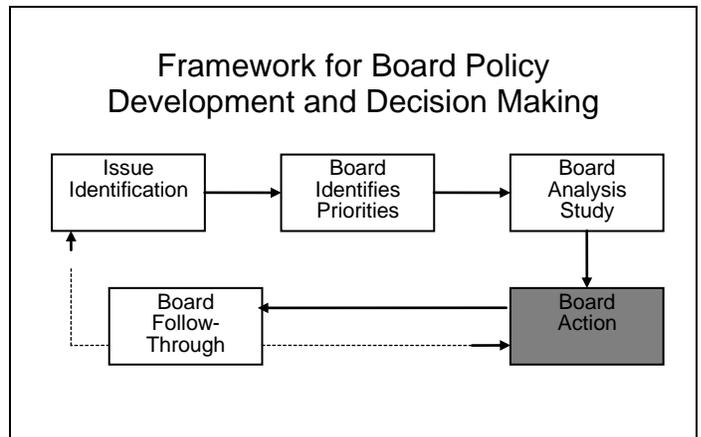


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

January 26, 2012



<b>Agenda Item:</b>	Request for Specially Accredited Status
<b>Iowa Goal:</b>	All PK-12 students will achieve at a high level.
<b>Equity Impact Statement</b>	281 Iowa Administrative Code 12.5(8) requires that each school and school district incorporate multicultural and gender fair goals for the educational program into its comprehensive school improvement plan.
<b>Presenter:</b>	None (consent agenda)
<b>Attachments:</b>	1
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request to grant Specially Accredited status to Unity Christian High School, Grades 9-12.
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Unity Christian High School has provided evidence of Specially Accredited requirements pursuant to Iowa Code 256.11(13), including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduate reporting (2011).</li><li>• Courses comprising the school's program meet and/or exceed the number of courses and content areas required, including the following: English/Language Arts (8 units), Mathematics (7 units), Social Studies (7 units), Science (7 units), Foreign Language (4 units). Art, drama, speech, band, and physical education are elective offerings.</li><li>• Certification that the school's facility is in compliance with applicable building and fire codes.</li><li>• Certification that staff provided proof of a pre-service physical.</li><li>• The school administrator has provided a written assurance that all requirements for Specially Accredited schools are in place.</li></ul>



# Unity Christian High School

*Unity Christian High School seeks to educate young people to serve God  
and neighbor in their daily lives and work.*

July 19, 2011

Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator  
Division of PK-12  
Bureau of Accreditation and Improvement Services  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

**RECEIVED**

JUL 22 2011

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Unity Christian High School requests to be recognized by the Iowa Department of Education as a specially accredited non-public school per Iowa Code 256.11 (13) based on current law, still on the books. This request comes from board action at our June 22, 2011 board meeting (see enclosure) regarding our school's accreditation.

After consulting with the nine current specially accredited schools we are convinced that the current standards for College Preparatory Accreditation are producing some of the best outcomes in the state of Iowa. The legislature's foresight led to an accreditation program that allows our schools to innovate, to be flexible, and produce outcomes that meet or exceed current achievement goals.

Unity Christian High School currently meets or exceeds all of the necessary requirements of this type of accreditation and believes that at this time, special accreditation allows us the best opportunity to continue to meet our mission and goals as a private Christian high school. We also believe that special accreditation allows us the necessary local control so that we can continue to exceed the minimum achievement standards.

We have an excellent facility, we have a signed health assessment for all current teachers, we currently offer more than a minimum academic program/curriculum, and we will easily be able to verify that 80% of our graduates are accepted at a four-year college. We understand that there is a provision written into the law that allows a new school the necessary time to demonstrate this aspect of the accreditation requirement. We will be submitting copies of four-year college/university admission letters next spring to show that we meet or exceed the required 80% of our current senior class.

Please reply to us as soon as possible with confirmation that we are recognized by the Iowa Department of Education as a specially accredited high school so that we can move forward as such.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Byker".

Mr. Dan Byker, UCHS School Clerk

Enclosures: School Board Minutes from 6.23.11

UNITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL  
ORANGE CITY, IOWA  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2011

Absent with notification: Chris Goedhart & Henry Byl

- Article 1 Tim Van Soelen opened with devotions and prayer.
- Article 2 Strategic Planning Committee:  
\*Bill Foreman gave his report.  
\*Seats sold as of June 22, 2011 - 663  
\*John Kooiman presented revised plan from the building committee and a report of the soil samples.
- Article 3 MSC to change Unity's General Accreditation with the State of Iowa to Special Accreditation. Unity would then pursue CSI accreditation and require all teachers to be licensed in the State of Iowa.
- Article 4 Mr. Dykstra Principal Report:  
\*The projected number of students in grade 9 for 2011-12 is 68-74.  
\*The August Board meeting will be on the 9th following registration.
- Article 5 MSC to approve the minutes of the 5/18/11 meeting.
- Article 6 Board nominations were presented and approved:  
Sioux Center I CRC: Dean Reichert, Kevin Hulstein, Deb Hulstein, Larry Van Veldhuizen - Board selected Kevin Hulstein and Larry Van Veldhuizen to appear on the ballot.  
Sheldon Immanuel CRC - Sandy Muyskens  
Sheldon I CRC: Ken Hoekstra  
No nominations were received from Orange City I CRC
- Article 7 Education Committee:  
\*MSC to approve names presented to replace Bonnie De Jong on the committee: Nikki Kuiper (1st choice), Julie Dragstra, Lori Poppema, Glenda Van Wyhe, Tim Kramer, Jim Bos  
\*MSC to make Mary Dirksen a permanent member of the committee.
- Article 8 Finance Committee:  
\*MSC to not withdraw growth from the Foundation to meet the \$20,000 line item in the budget.  
\*MSC to increase line item for bus from \$10,000 to \$25,000.  
\*MSC to roll Bill Foreman's salary into educational salaries for August 2010-August 2011.  
\*MSC to approve the May 2011 Statement of Revenue and Expenses.
- Article 9 Facilities Committee:  
\*John Kooiman reported new lights will be installed in the gym on July 5/6.
- Article 9 Next Board meeting - Tuesday, August 9 following registration
- Article 10 MSC to adjourn. Wayne Dykstra closed with prayer.

Dan Byker, Recorder

