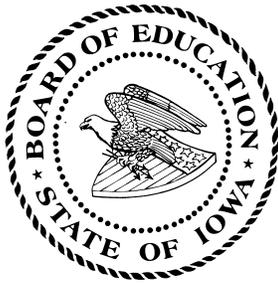


DRAFT



**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
August 1, 2013**

Rosie Hussey  
President  
Clear Lake

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
Vice President  
Des Moines

Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Oskaloosa

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick  
West Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Council Bluffs

Valorie J. Kruse  
Sioux City

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Max Phillips  
Woodward

LaMetta Wynn  
Clinton

Edgar Thornton  
Student Member  
Iowa City

D.T. Magee  
Interim Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, August 1, 2013, in the Grimes State Office Building, State Board Room, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike May, Mike Knedler, Valorie Kruse, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Diane Crookham-Johnson, LaMetta Wynn and Edgar Thornton. Iowa Department of Education staff members D.T. Magee, Gail Sullivan, Mike Cormack, Ryan Wise, Phil Wise, Jeff Berger, Nicole Proesch, Jeremy Varner, Phyllis Hinton, Isaiah McGee, Thomas Mayes, Deb Darge, Dave Tilly, Sandra Dop, Mary Delagardelle, Alex Harris, Gwen Nagel, Mike Baethke, Kent Farver, Staci Hupp, Marietta Rives, Larry Bice and Jody Crane were also in attendance. Also in attendance were: Brian Johnson, Gary Slater, and Jamie Cashman, Iowa State Fair; Craig Patterson, Travel Federation of Iowa; Richard Lee, WHO Radio; Kris Crabtree-Groff, Bill Mangan, Sister Kathy Kniper, and Sister Ruth Schrock, Briar Cliff University; Greg Ebeling, Pella Community School District; Jodi Grover; Dave Else, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Tom Narak, School Administrators of Iowa; David Cunningham; Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus Staff; Galen Howsare and Daniel Smith, School Administrators of Iowa; Peter Cownie, Blue Ribbon Foundation; Stephanie Moore and Sam Musser, WHO-TV; John Parker and Kathy Hanlon, Legislative Services Agency; Dan Woodin, Ames School Board; Darwin Danielson, Radio Iowa; Kariann Voigts, Indianola/Irving Parent Teacher Association; Mary Gannon and Tracy Bainter, Iowa Association of School Boards; Addria Olson, ABCs; Jared Raney and Jared Strong, Carroll Daily Times Herald; Katherine Schmidt, Norwalk Community School District; Chris Gruenhagen, Iowa Farm Bureau; Barb Persoon; Steve Iverson, Sue Schirmer, and Paula Vincent, Heartland Area Education Agency; Carole Richardson, Simpson College; Kait Patchett, LS2 Group; and Dan Kinney, Iowa Central Community College.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Vice President Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

It was moved by Valorie Kruse and seconded by Mike Knedler that the August State Board meeting agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment (for topics other than school start date request)**

Dave Else, Cedar Falls, provided public comment relating to the Iowa Code chapter 79 rules – Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs. He referenced a letter that State Board (Board) members should have received.

### **Director's Report**

D.T. Magee said that he is excited and honored to be acting in the role as interim director of the Iowa Department of Education (Department). The Governor's office has directed him to continue to push forward with education reform initiatives. Guidance has been issued to the field on House File 215, the Commission on Educator Leadership and Compensation has been announced, and there will soon be an announcement on the Council on Educator Development.

The Teach Iowa system will be the first initiative to roll out. The system will provide a statewide job posting board and applicant tracking system for public school districts and area education agencies (AEAs). This is a new law that was passed last legislative session that requires public school districts and AEAs to post all of their openings to the Teach Iowa system. Nonpublic schools may also access the system free of charge, but they are not required to post their openings. The administrative system has been up and running since July 1. On August 5, the formal site will be rolled out.

Magee shared comments and stated that he appreciated the public comment provided by Dave Else regarding the Iowa Code chapter 79 rules – Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs.

Magee thanked Gail Sullivan for her service to the Department and to the Board.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick moved and LaMetta Wynn seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Exira Accreditation – Plan of Correction**

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, Division of School Finance and Support Services, reminded the Board that the Exira Community School District struggled for years with financial problems. As a result, the School Budget Review Committee recommended that the State Board direct the Department to conduct a Phase II accreditation visit. In the Department's view, the financial problems were on the verge of causing programmatic issues because of lack of funding.

Berger described the Phase II accreditation visit process and indicated that a plan of correction was developed. As a result, the Department believes the district has done due diligence and made the necessary corrections.

In June, the district voted to consolidate with the Elkhorn-Kimballton Community School District. That consolidation was approved by voters in both districts and they will be moving forward as a merged district.

There was discussion about whether the issues were financial or academic, and if the concerns have been eliminated as a result of the consolidation.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board fully accredit the Exira Community School District.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 12 - General Accreditation Standards (Competency-based Education) (Notice)**

Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison, Office of the Director, indicated that five administrative rules were being presented to the Board that are at the Notice stage. All of these rules are being presented to the Board and must pass through the administrative rules process. He distributed a handout titled *Administrative Rules Process: Basic Introduction (non-emergency rules)*.

Cormack reported that within the next few months a more user friendly administrative rules site for all of state government will be rolled out to the public.

Sandra Dop, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, explained that the proposed changes to Chapter 12 are a result of clean-up to existing rules. This is needed because of changes in Senate File 2284 and House File 215 in the past two years. This amended rule defines competency-based instruction and clarifies the awarding of credit for students who are engaged in this learning model. Instead of being awarded credit based upon the amount of time that a class meets, students in this instructional model receive credit when they demonstrate proficiency in the concept being taught. Once it can be demonstrated by widely accepted standards that they do have competency in a

subject matter, then credit may be awarded. This may be in a timeframe that is shorter, longer or similar to that in a traditionally instructed class.

In addition, instructors may teach multiple subjects in the same classroom with this mode of instruction. It does not change that requirement in traditional Iowa classrooms.

Dop indicated that at a later time another Iowa Code change will be brought before the Board relating to the types of credit that can be earned this way.

**Motion:** Sister Jude Fitzpatrick made a motion and Valorie Kruse seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 12.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Rules: Chapter 79 - Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs (Notice)**

Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison, Office of the Director, reported that the Iowa Legislature appropriated funds for a Teach Iowa student teaching pilot project. Chapter 79 rules – Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs are being modified so that this program can go into effect. The current rules only allow for one semester of student teaching.

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, indicated that Iowa Administrative Code chapter 79.14 describes the requirements for student teaching, but it doesn't allow for the legislatively mandated year-long student teaching pilot. Language was taken from House File 215 to describe the requirements of the pilot project and Section 14 was added to allow the student teaching pilot. Iowa Administrative Code 79.14(13) also requires that anyone who engages in the year-long student teaching pilot must also comply with the other requirements of Chapter 79.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Mike May seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 79.

**Vote:** The vote carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the timeframe for implementation.

### **Rules: Chapter 12 - General Accreditation Standards (Independent Accreditation) (Notice)**

Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison, Office of the Director, said that the proposed rule change is a result of the education reform package (House File 215) that deals with independent accrediting agencies and the rules that they will operate under.

Isaiah McGee, Consultant, Bureau of School Improvement, reminded the Board that he spoke about this rule change at the last Board meeting. Part of the recently enacted

education reform package allows Iowa nonpublic schools to choose to allow independent accrediting agencies to perform their regulatory review for Chapter 12 items. These rules provide direction for both schools and independent accrediting agencies on how to properly operate under this new law. This newly established choice for Iowa schools allows up to six independent accrediting agencies to perform such work, pursuant to approval by the State Board, and maintains standards to continue such work. Due to a legislative sunset, these rules will expire on July 1, 2020.

There was discussion regarding how often the list of independent accrediting agencies will be reviewed, and if the Board will receive an evaluation on all of those that they authorized based on the criteria that had been set forth in the rules.

McGee reported that guidance will be sent to the agencies and schools that are planning to utilize this opportunity.

**Motion:** LaMetta Wynn made a motion and Valorie Kruse seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 12.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Rules: Chapter 97 - Supplementary Weighting (Operational Sharing) (Notice)**

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, presented the Chapter 97 – Supplementary Weighting rules. He indicated that these rules will be debated and there will be some controversy. The bill that the Iowa Legislature passed that prompted this rule change was, in part, an extension of an existing piece of legislation. The original idea was to promote sharing of operational functions that would potentially save money that could be re-funneled back to enhance programs.

Berger shared details about the proposed rules and the intent of the legislation. The current operational sharing incentives to local districts were due to expire next year. Under new Iowa law, these will continue and are expanded to serve other classifications of positions that two districts can share to participate in the program. In addition, districts need no longer be adjoining to participate in operational sharing. The new rules provide clarity to local districts on how to be part of this program moving forward.

Berger stated that the proposed rules are consistent with the statute and that the balance of full-time equivalency and cost savings will be debated by the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) and with stakeholders.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 97.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 12 – General Accreditation Standards (Instructional Hours and School Start Date Request) (Notice)**

### **Public Comment Related to Proposed Rules**

Craig Patterson representing the Travel Federation of Iowa made public comment in support of the proposed rules and moving the school start date back. He stated that many of his members have strong feelings on this issue, but were unable to attend due to it being the heart of the tourism season. He asked the Board to allow this rule to move forward so the conversation can continue.

Dan Woodin representing the Iowa Association of School Boards and the Ames Community School District made public comment in support of allowing local flexibility. He was against the rule as proposed concerning the start date elements of it.

Daniel Smith representing the School Administrators of Iowa made public comment in support of the current school start date waiver process. He was against the section of the rules that made changes in that policy area.

Katherine Schmidt representing the Iowa Association of School Boards and the Norwalk Community School District made public comment regarding the school start date. She was against the part of the rules that would make changes in the start date.

Kariann Voigts, a parent from Indianola who is involved in a local Parent Teacher Organization, made public comment regarding the school start date and concerns with the traditional calendar and putting restrictions on school districts. She encouraged the Board to consider the educational impact of this rule and to put the priority on the students' education. She was silent on other parts of the proposed rule.

David Cunningham representing himself provided public comment in support of local control and that it should not be mandated by the state or the tourism industry. He did not comment on the remainder of the proposed rule.

Tom Narak representing School Administrators of Iowa made public comment in support of local control. He was against the parts of the rule concerning changing the start date.

Brian Johnson representing the Iowa State Fair made public comment about the school start date law and requested that the State Board follow the law. He strongly encouraged the Board to adopt the rule as it was presented to them in its entirety.

### **Presentation of Proposed Rules**

Mike Cormack, Policy Liaison, Office of the Director, provided a summary of the four items to the proposed rule. All elements of this rulemaking relate to the topic of instructional time. The first three items update the rules to reflect newly enacted legislation from the 2013 session. A major change in the law that does require updating

the rules is the new statute allowing Iowa school districts the flexibility to adopt a 1,080 hour school year if they so choose or remain with the current 180 day school year.

Item 1 reflects the change in the law that requires nonpublic schools to also follow those minimum standards of 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction, starting in the 2015 school year.

Item 2 defines what an hour of school is and clarifies what a day of school is for recording purposes.

Item 3 provides further updating and clarity on the definition of what a properly recorded hour or day shall be for schools as they meet the requirements of the law. It does establish a six hour school day for those on a schedule based on days and averages six hours a day under the hours based schedule. Innovative calendar requirements remain unchanged in both the law and the rules.

Item 4 proposed instructional time start date rules. The Department received a petition requesting a new set of rules for this section of Iowa Code. That prompted the Department to review the law, as well as consider any impact that new legislation had on this topic. While that petition has been withdrawn and the Department did not agree with the request in it, the Department believes that the rules concerning start time need to be clearer for all Iowans.

Last year, 340 districts requested and received waivers from the official start date. The Department is proposing to put a more orderly process in place moving forward in the 2014-15 school year. The new law passed this year allows schools to measure their time by days or hours. With the change to a 1,080 hour schedule, school districts now have more flexibility to meet the needs of their students without starting school as early as they have in the past. Cormack requested that the rule changes be allowed to be moved forward, for additional public comment and for input from the ARRC legislative committee.

## **State Board Action and Discussion**

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Valorie Kruse seconded that the rules under Tab G of the State Board notebook be separated into two items: Items 1-3 and Item 4.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Edwards, Crookham-Johnson, Fitzpatrick, Knedler, Kruse, Wynn. Nay: May

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board approve Items 1-3 regarding 180 days vs. 1,080 hours.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Charlie Edwards seconded that the State Board not approve Item 4.

There was discussion regarding the current and proposed process for approving early school start date waiver requests, school district and community college start dates, what prompted the change from school starting around Labor Day, and if the State Fair could start at a different time.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick commented on Iowa Administrative Code section 281.12(1) and the fact that there is no provision for accredited nonpublic schools to be granted a waiver. She hopes this topic will be addressed through legislative action in the future. Mike Cormack responded that he believes that was a technical issue and hopes to submit an Iowa Code correction through the Legislature to allow all schools to have the waiver process.

Charlie Edwards said he thinks this issue should be looked through the lens of education and what is in the best interest of Iowa's students. There needs to be a balance between local control and where the state weighs in. If this is something that needs to change, the Iowa Legislature should give the Board more specific direction. In his personal opinion, he thinks maximum flexibility needs to be given to local districts to decide their school start date. Tourism is important in Iowa, but there is some symbolism associated with this that sends some of the wrong signals about where the State Board and Department's priorities lie.

Mike May shared his perspective on Item 4 from an education and tourism standpoint. He has been both an educator and a resort owner. He stated that both sides, tourism and education, had some concerns about the proposal, which should indicate that it probably isn't a bad compromise. From his experience, when school begins, business at area resorts decline. He wanted to know the raw data that suggests that an earlier start date contributes to student achievement. He voiced support for moving the rule forward.

Diane Crookham-Johnson talked about the many tourism events in the state throughout the year and the importance of local control. She stated that this topic deserves further discussion than what the State Board can give it. This is a legislative issue and the Legislature needs to decide if they want to address it. The Board has had extensive discussions regarding Items 1-3. Item 4 (school start date) is new to the Board. It does not make sense for the Board to start a rule on its path for approval without serious discussion when it is obvious that there are so many stakeholders that feel they don't have a voice in creating that rule. She thought that the Department needed to engage both sides in conversation on how to find a resolution to the matter.

Cormack said that there had been discussions with stakeholders and referenced the Instructional Time Task Force as well as previous meetings with Director Glass with representatives on both sides of the issue. Charlie Edwards said it would have been helpful if the Board would have been made aware of this.

Diane Crookham-Johnson withdrew her motion to not approve Item 4 because it was determined that according to parliamentary procedure a motion should not be stated in the negative.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Mike Knedler seconded that the State Board accept the rules as written.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken: Aye: May, Wynn. Nay: Crookham-Johnson, Edwards, Fitzpatrick, Knedler, Kruse.

There was a comment about the early start date waiver process being too lax and the need for better consideration of each individual waiver.

Mike May expressed disappointment that the Board voted to ignore the law.

Mike Cormack thanked all Board members for their consideration of the proposal before them.

### **Public Comment**

Two individuals were missed being called upon during the public comment segment of the Board meeting so they were allowed to share comments at this time.

Mary Gannon representing the Iowa Association of School Boards provided comments opposing the Chapter 97 - Supplementary Weighting (Operational Sharing) rules.

Greg Eberling representing the Pella Community School District shared concerns with the Chapter 97 - Supplementary Weighting (Operational Sharing) rules. He also shared comments about Central College's teacher preparation program.

### **Heartland Area Education Agency Paraeducator Preparation Programs Approval**

Dave Tilly, Deputy Director, Division of Learning and Results, introduced Marietta Rives, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality. He also introduced Paula Vincent, Sue Schirmer, and Steve Iverson, Heartland AEA, who were in attendance to answer questions regarding Heartland's paraeducator preparation programs and approval process.

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, reminded the Board that there will be a work session on the paraeducator preparation program approval process at the September State Board meeting.

Rives indicated that Heartland AEA is seeking approval of their paraeducator preparation programs. She reviewed the strengths of the programs and some recommendations for improvement. She also reminded the Board that all of the program standards are new for the institutions to focus on.

Rives said that in September, two four-year institutions will be bringing their paraeducator programs before the Board. These institutions are looking at putting the career pathways structure in place.

Heartland has very strong programs and has positioned themselves as being at the front line to be able to make any changes the Board might recommend in the future. They offer face-to-face and online coursework and they offer multiple programs that include: Generalist Level 1; Early Childhood; Special Needs; English as a Second Language; and Media, Technology, Library. Rives recommended that the State Board approve Heartland AEA's paraeducator preparation programs.

Heartland representatives responded to questions about the balance between online and face-to-face classes, specifics of the English as a Second Language certificate, the number of students that go through the programs annually, and if a difference is seen in schools where paraeducators are employed.

**Motion:** Mike May made a motion and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded that the State Board approve the paraeducator preparation programs submitted by Heartland AEA which include: Generalist Level 1; Early Childhood; Special Needs; English as a Second Language; and Media, Technology, Library programs. The next review will be during the 2017-2018 school year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Briar Cliff Practitioner Preparation Program Approval**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, introduced Briar Cliff University staff members: Bill Mangan, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Kris Crabtree-Groff, Division Chair; Sister Kathy Knipper, and Sister Ruth Schock.

Bice described a document titled *Summary for Iowa Board of Education Accreditation Review for Briar Cliff University* which shows the strengths and concerns of the Briar Cliff University Practitioner Preparation Program, and another document titled *Briar Cliff University Team Report* which is the entire report.

Bice shared highlights and talked about strengths of the Briar Cliff University Practitioner Preparation Program. The institution combines tradition with good forward thinking; they have a professional development school for clinical experiences; and they have experienced core faculty, but they also have new faculty as well as a new director that brings new ideas.

Bice reported that the evidence reviewed shows that the institution has good quality instruction and good clinical experiences in and around the area. One of the focus areas is on technology which spans across the university. They are working on a 1:1 model of using iPads and moving forward with technology for learning.

Bice explained that there was a major concern around assessment. The institution is doing components of assessment; however, it doesn't have a very comprehensive system to use the results of their assessment for continuous improvement. As a result, the Department required them to develop an action plan before coming before the Board.

In addition, Bice reported that university-wide the institution changed their governance structure.

Briar Cliff staff shared comments about the university and the practitioner preparation program.

There was discussion about whether the university is confident that they will have the resources to achieve the goals of their action plan, and if the university has a good data collection process to track students.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Valorie Kruse seconded that the State Board approve Briar Cliff University Teacher Preparation Program through the next state accreditation cycle scheduled for the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Walden University Online Practitioner Preparation Program Approval**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, indicated that the Walden University Online Practitioner Preparation Program is an online program for teacher and administrator preparation.

Bice explained that the State Board is being asked to approve this online program for Iowa students to be able to get Iowa student aid. Any student in Iowa (teachers and administrators) can sign up at any time to take classes at Walden University. The students will be prepared based on the licensure requirements in that state. Then, the students have to go through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners to get an Iowa license.

Bice said that anybody can enroll with Walden University; however, students can't get financial aid unless the program is approved by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (ICSAC). The ICSAC can't approve the program unless it's been approved by the State Board.

Bice indicated that the Department doesn't recommend the programs for approval to the State Board unless they have already been accredited in their own states.

There was discussion regarding how many other out-of-state online schools are approved in Iowa, concern that Iowa students can go through an out-of-state online program that is not accredited by the State Board, how efforts are being made to ensure the Board of Educational Examiners and Department are aligned, disclaimer requirements, why the Iowa College Student Aid Commission would give out-of-state students funding if the same programs are offered in Iowa, the number of Iowa students that are currently participating in the Walden program, if Iowa entities benefit from out-of-state tuition, and what percentage of the teacher preparation students complete the online programs compared to a brick and mortar school.

**Motion:** Sister Jude Fitzpatrick made a motion and LaMetta Wynn seconded that the State Board approve the Walden University online program for registration with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

**Vote:** A roll call vote was taken: Aye: Edwards, Fitzpatrick, Knedler, May, Wynn. Nay: Crookham-Johnson, Kruse.

### **Next Steps – Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, reported on work that is being done to revise the teacher preparation accreditation process. He indicated that a document that was developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) titled *Our Responsibility, Our Promise* is a major focus for the work being done. Another document that was developed by the National Council on Teacher Quality titled *2012 State Teacher Policy Yearbook* is being used to inform the work being done.

A PowerPoint was shown that addressed:

- CCSSO's Ten Recommendations Which are Grouped Into Three Areas: Licensure; Program Approval; Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting
- Critical Attention Summary for Iowa
- Four Avenues for Work
- Oversight
- Standards Needs
- Standards Work
- Accreditation Process Work
- Annual Reporting Needs
- Annual Report Outline
- Annual Report Work
- Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Partnership Needs and Work
- Select Works Being Used

There was discussion regarding reducing redundancy with reporting requirements for the teacher preparation institutions, and if working with CAEP will help with reciprocity.

Bice introduced Carole Richardson who will be working in the Department in the Bureau of Educator Quality.

### **Follow-up on Statewide Assessment**

Dave Tilly, Deputy Director, Division of Learning and Results, and Ryan Wise, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Director, provided an update on assessment issues in Iowa.

The presentation focused on the State Board's assessment policy conversations to date, actions being taken to evolve the assessment system, and the State Board's role in assessment policy promulgation.

Tilly provided a review and talked about the following:

- New standards
- Iowa Assessments are the required assessments
- Accountability system based on original No Child Left Behind
- Educator evaluation processes do not meet federal expectations
- Initial attempts (2012) to improve the situation failed
- Second attempts (2013) were mixed
  - Educator Development Council Established (three years of study)
  - No College and Career Assessment funding
  - Task Force to recommend assessment changes established (new assessment by the 2016 school year)

There was lengthy discussion about the current Iowa assessments, the impact of Iowa's current system on obtaining a waiver, barriers to moving toward a different assessment, and impact of current and previous legislation.

Ryan Wise talked about Iowa's relationship as a Smarter Balanced governing state. Over a six-week period, support and assistance was received from Smarter Balanced (and their partner McKinsey & Company) who worked with the Department and others from across the state to understand the assessment landscape. Through that engagement, four broad themes were uncovered for consideration in developing a new assessment system. It is anticipated that transitioning to a new assessment system will occur by the 2016-2017 school year. The themes for considerations are:

1. Quality - Iowa has a proud and long history of student assessments, with very strong traditions of local control of education making a change to a statewide assessment a big deal.
2. Cost - Costs will vary across districts, but some districts could make decisions that will increase their total cost of assessment.
3. Technology - New assessments will require a minimum level of technology available at all schools and not all districts currently meet these standards.
4. Relationships - Iowa Assessments will likely be a legally mandated test administrator.

Tilly talked about Smarter Balanced and the work ahead. Last year several schools participated in an "item trial" so they could experience the kinds of items that would be on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. As a result of that work, Smarter Balanced weeded items out and they will now start grouping those items into assessments and field testing. Approximately 25,000 students will be able to participate in the English Language Arts field test and approximately 29,000 students will be able to participate in the math field test.

Tilly also described the work and membership of the Comprehensive Balanced Assessment Advisory Committee and the Assessment Task Force. As the work of these committees evolve, updates will be brought to the Board.

Tilly addressed the Board's role over the next two years which consists of:

1. Be knowledgeable about current and emerging assessment policy issues.
2. By January 2015, receive recommendations from the Assessment Task Force.
3. By January 2015, provide recommendations to the Legislature on direction that should be taken for an accountability assessment.
4. Promulgate rules specifying required assessments.
5. Support the Department in revising state assessment requirements, beyond accountability assessments.

Tilly also provided an update on Response to Intervention (RtI). He talked about universal screening and progress monitoring assessments that have been purchased with state and federal funds that will be available free of charge to school districts. Information was also shared on school districts that will be implementing RtI this school year.

There was discussion regarding the Reading Research Center and its role with the assessment tools being used.

### **State Board Policy Development Priorities for 2013-2014 and Master Calendar**

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Director, and Mary Delagardelle, Associate Division Administrator, Division of Learning and Results, presented a draft of the State Board Policy Development Priorities for 2013-2014 and the Master Calendar.

At the June State Board retreat, the Board identified five priority areas for 2013-2014. The priorities are:

- Competency-based Education
- Online Learning and Other Technological Advances
- Reducing the Achievement Gaps
- Improving Teacher and Leader Preparation
- Assessment

Sullivan explained that in addition to identifying the policy development priorities and using those to plan the Board's meetings for the upcoming year, the Board requested that goals and indicators of progress be developed that relate to the priorities. This will enable the Board to monitor whether progress is being made in these priority areas.

Sullivan reported that she along with Mary Delagardelle, Diane Crookham-Johnson, and Charlie Edwards started the process of identifying some goals and indicators of progress for each of the priorities. As a result, a document titled *Policy Development Priorities* was developed. Board members reviewed, discussed, and suggested changes to this document which is a work in progress. It was suggested that this document be updated annually and be used as a tool to give the Board direction for strategic planning.

Board members were encouraged to continue to review this document and contact Department staff with any additional changes. This item will be discussed at the September State Board meeting.

Sullivan talked about the process used to develop State Board agendas and the State Board Master Calendar. The Master Calendar has four categories: Policy Development Priorities, Leadership and Advocacy Activities, Board Statutory Responsibilities, and Information and Board Development. She also distributed a handout that displays the amount of time spent at each Board meeting during the past year on each of the categories.

### **Des Moines Area Community College Interim Accreditation Report**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, indicated that the purpose of the community college accreditation evaluations are to ensure that Iowa community colleges are offering quality services in accordance with state standards.

Varner reported that the accreditation reports being presented are the first accreditation reports under the new evaluation process which was the result of a multiyear study mandated by the Legislature. He talked about the changes to the new process and indicated that the objective was to make the state accreditation process more responsive to the state's needs. He also talked about the contents of a document titled *Iowa Community Colleges State Accreditation Guide*.

Varner described the components of the evaluation reports which include an Institutional Overview, Assurance Summary, and a Continuous Improvement Summary. Two of the accreditation reports presented included this information while the report for Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) included only an Assurance Summary since it was an interim evaluation.

Varner shared additional information on the accreditation process.

Varner talked about the schedule of accreditation visits and explained that the Department is trying to get caught up on conducting these visits. Next year, six accreditation evaluations will be brought to the Board, with five being interim evaluations. After that time, there will be three each year. All colleges will be on a 10-year cycle with interim evaluations on the fifth year.

There was discussion about the role of the Community College Council in the accreditation process.

Varner said that the DMACC report is an interim evaluation. DMACC follows the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. The state interim accreditation evaluation is compliance oriented. DMACC's documentation was orderly and no compliance issues were identified by the review team which consisted of Department staff as well as an instructor from Southeastern Community College. Varner stated that the Department, review team, and the Community College Council recommended continued accreditation for DMACC.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board grant DMACC continued accreditation. A state comprehensive accreditation evaluation will be conducted in 2017.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Iowa Central Accreditation Report**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, indicated that Iowa Central Community College's (ICCC) visit was a comprehensive state accreditation evaluation. ICCC follows the Program to Evaluate and Advance Quality (PEAQ) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. The review team included Department staff, an administrator from Southwestern Community College, and a faculty member from Western Iowa Tech Community College.

Varner reported on some exceptional practices as well as findings that were identified by the review team. The college has pledged to correct the issues and the Department has provided some recommendations on how to ensure it doesn't happen in the future. He indicated that the Department will be following up.

Varner stated that the Department, review team, and the Community College Council recommended continued accreditation for ICCC.

It was requested that the State Board and Community College Council receive a follow-up report regarding the status of the findings. If no issues are found, a written report will suffice.

**Motion:** Valorie Kruse made a motion and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded that the State Board grant ICCC continued accreditation. The state interim accreditation evaluation will be conducted in 2017.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

### **Iowa Western Accreditation Report**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, indicated that Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) follows the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) model for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission. The review team included Department staff, an administrator from Western Iowa Tech Community College, and an instructor from Iowa Valley Community College.

Varner reported on some of the highlights as well as the findings that were identified by the review team.

Varner stated that the Department, review team, and the Community College Council recommended continued accreditation for IWCC.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Diane Crookham-Johnson seconded that the State Board grant IWCC continued accreditation. The state interim accreditation evaluation will be conducted in 2017.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about whether there is an evaluation system for community colleges for prospective parents or students.

### **Iowa Community College Adult Education and Literacy Report**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, introduced Alex Harris, Adult Education Program Consultant and State Director for Adult Education, Bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education.

Varner reported that, for the first time, the Legislature appropriated some dedicated state support for community college adult education and literacy programs. Iowa was one of the last few states to add such targeted funding. The total appropriation was \$5.5 million. Of that amount, \$3.8 million supports adult education and literacy programs and the remaining \$1.4 million is earmarked explicitly for English Language Learner programming and is distributed based on needs in the field. In addition, \$150,000 is available to provide leadership and support for developing adult education pathways. This appropriation is expected to expand on previous efforts to build career pathways and help more low-skill adults obtain postsecondary credentials and employment.

Under this appropriation, the State Board has the authority to set standards for adult education and literacy programs including integrated instruction, assessment, instructor qualifications, professional development, data collection and reporting and performance benchmarks. Rules are currently being developed for the adult education programs. In addition, an Adult Education Advisory Committee is being established to help provide feedback.

Varner said that the *Adult Education and Literacy Annual Report Program 2012* is based on a report that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. That report was developed prior to the new state appropriation which in some ways will change the direction of adult education in Iowa because it is a substantial funding stream. Varner wanted to stress that the direction may be beyond what is seen in the report.

Alex Harris shared highlights of the *Adult Education and Literacy Annual Report Program 2012*.

There was discussion about what motivates individuals to take advantage of the adult literacy programs, if there are internship opportunities available as individuals are learning new skills, and if it would be possible for persons that are in jail or in inpatient rehabilitation to have the opportunity to obtain their high school equivalency diploma.

## Board Reports

Mike Knedler had no report.

Valorie Kruse plans to attend an upcoming Competency-based Education meeting. Also, the direction of the Wallace Foundation may be changing to become more of an advisory group.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick had no report.

Diane Crookham-Johnson encouraged Board members to reach out and support local school board members.

LaMetta Wynn participated in a recent Community College Council meeting. In addition, she will be welcoming new and old staff to the Clinton Community School District.

Edgar Thornton will be studying abroad in Liberia.

Mike May has been focusing his studies on teacher preparation programs. He thinks the State Board is ignoring the law related to school start date and should continue to discuss the issue.

D.T. Magee shared information on a book titled *Life is so Good: One Man's Extraordinary Journey Through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and how he Learned to Read at Age 98*.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

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Charlie Edwards  
Vice President

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D.T. Magee  
Interim Director