

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 18, 2019

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met in the Peace Garden Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, Monday, November 18, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brian Duchscherer at 1:02 PM. The following State Board members were in attendance for the meeting:

Dr. Brian Duchscherer
Ms. Sonia Meehl
Mr. Jeff Fastnacht
Mr. Josh Johnson
Dr. Steven Holen

Absent: Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Maria Effertz Hanson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Meehl moved that the minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting be approved. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECORD, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (FISHER PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order completed by the Williams County Reorganization Committee, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston District #1 (Fisher petition). Discussion was held regarding removing support of fundraising as a relevant factor in the annexation. The board was in consensus that it was not a relevant factor and would not be considered as such in their decision regarding this annexation. A motion was made by Mr. Fastnacht to approve the Fisher annexation of a portion of the Williams County School District #8 to Williston #1 based on the following Findings of Fact:

- 1) The total acreage in the transfer is reasonable.
- 2) The per-student taxable valuation is reasonable.

3) The two families affected wish to be a part of Williston #1 and understand there will be an increase in taxes.

4) It was approved 5-0 at the county level.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Meehl.

Result of roll call vote:

Dr. Holen – aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Ms. Meehl – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF RECORD, DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (MCCREE PETITION):

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order completed by the Williams County Reorganization Committee, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston District #1 (McCree petition). A motion was made by Mr. Fastnacht to approve the McCree annexation of a portion of the Williams County School District #8 to Williston #1 based on the following Findings of Fact:

1) This annexation affects one family and one child.

2) The per-student taxable valuation is reasonable.

3) The amount of property to be annexed is reasonable, two lots and one house, and the family understands that there will be an increase in taxes.

4) It was approved 5-0 at the county level.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Holen.

Result of roll call vote:

Ms. Meehl – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Mr. Johnson – aye

Dr. Holen - aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**FINAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER,
FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (HARDCASTLE PETITION):**

The State Board members reviewed the draft Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Amended Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of a part of Williams County School District #8 to Williston School District #1 (Hardcastle Petition). Motion was made by Ms. Meehl to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Johnson – aye

Dr. Holen – aye

Mr. Fastnacht – aye

Ms. Meehl – aye

Dr. Duchscherer – aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding N.D.C.C. 15.1-12-26. There have been contacts for guidance on this issue. Dr. Duchscherer reminded the Board that Allyson Hicks, legal counsel for the State Board of Public School Education, had sent an email instructing board members that it was not their role to give guidance on specific factual circumstances related to this issue.

Discussion was held on HB 1253 – Voluntary Transfer of Property From One Public School District to Another. Allyson Hicks advised the Board that she was working on a form to be used for this process. It

was decided that the form would not have to be approved by the State Board of Public School Education but that the approval of the Department of Public Instruction was sufficient.

Future meeting dates were presented as such:

- a) Monday, December 16, 2019 (If needed)
- b) Tuesday, January 21, 2020
- c) Tuesday, February 18, 2020
- d) Monday, March 16, 2020
- e) Monday, April 20, 2020
- f) Monday, May 18, 2020
- g) Monday, June 15, 2020
- h) Monday, July 20, 2020
- i) Monday, August 17, 2020
- j) Monday, September 21, 2020
- k) Tuesday, September 22, 2020 – Joint Boards Meeting
- l) Monday, October 19, 2020
- m) Monday, November 16, 2020
- n) Monday, December 21, 2020

There being no other business brought before the board, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.