

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Members of the State Board of Public School Education met via Teams on Monday September 20, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Sonia Meehl at 1:05 PM. The following State Board members were in attendance for the meeting:

Dr. Steve Holen

Ms. Maria Effertz Hanson

Mr. Josh Johnson

Ms. Sonia Meehl

Mr. Burdell Johnson – joined in progress

Absent: Mr. Jeff Fastnacht, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

Also present: Ann Ellefson, Allyson Hicks, Alice Johnson, Caryn Woodstead, Adam Tescher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Josh Johnson moved that the minutes of the June 30, 2021, meeting be approved. Ms. Effertz Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FINAL APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSION OF LAW, AND ORDER, FOR THE FOLLOWING ANNEXATION (BAUSTE PETITION).

The State Board members reviewed the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order as prepared by Allyson Hicks, Assistant Attorney General, for the annexation of property from annexation of property from Williams County School District No. 8 of Williams County in North Dakota to Eight Mile School District No. 6 of Williams County in North Dakota (Bauste Petition).

A motion was made by Ms. Effertz Hanson to approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. The motion was seconded by Mr. Josh Johnson.

Result of roll call vote:

Dr. Holen – yes

Ms. Effertz Hanson – yes

Mr. Josh Johnson - yes

Ms. Meehl – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

CHECK IN - LEARNING CONTINUUM

Ann Ellefson from NDDPI was a guest at the meeting to give an update and the status of the work being done on the Statewide Learning Continuum. Ann explained that the North Dakota Learning Continuum was identified in SB 2196 and provides some flexibility for students and how they may obtain credit and ultimately a pathway for graduation for North Dakota students. She went over the timeline of the Learning Continuum design process and explained a little bit about each part of the process. Ann shared that NDDPI was mostly responsible for the beginnings of the work on the Learning Continuum but that the department was also partnering with Knowledge Works in this work, as well as CTE being invited to be a part of the efforts. Letters of invitation to be a part of the committee that would draft the content or part of a review committee that would vet and provide feedback on the content, were sent to school districts across the state, as well as the REA's in the state, and public, non-public, and tribal higher ed institutions. Educators were brought together to work on social studies, English language arts, mathematics, science and 21st century skills and Ann emphasized that it was not only classroom teachers who were a part of this effort, but a very diverse group of people who work in education who were a part of the group.

Ann was asked about the size of the schools that were represented in this group and she indicated that there was representation from schools of all sizes and from across the state.

Ann shared that the next steps in the process are that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to facilitate the development and collaborate with CTE. A public comment phase will be open in until the end of October 2021 and there will be a Review Council in early October. Following the public comment phase, the continuum will go back to the writing committee, and they will take the information and make adjustments as they see fit. The Learning Continuum will then go to the K-12 Education Coordination Council to review and ultimately come before the State Board of Public School Education to establish and certify.

Chairman Meehl asked Ann to briefly walk them through the draft of the Learning Continuum. Ann explained that the intent of the continuum is to identify competencies or lifelong skills that students should be able to apply in their lives over time.

Ann shared North Dakota's Portrait of a Graduate with the Board, explaining that the team that worked on it needed to write competencies around seven attributes that they felt were important for North Dakota graduates; critical thinking, empathy, a learner's mindset, communication, collaboration, adaptability, and perseverance.

Ann wrapped up her presentation by explaining the significance of the Learning Continuum being approved by the State Board of Public School Education. She indicated that the approval of the Board changes the level of weight and therefore the scalability and use for schools and districts who want to consider providing a non-traditional pathway for students to graduate.

CHANGES TO MEETING DATE

It has been proposed to change the monthly meeting of the State Board of Public School Education to the fourth Monday of each month rather than the third Monday of each month. The change was received favorably by the CTE Board. There was some discussion about the two boards switching meeting times and CTE meeting in the afternoon and Public School Education meeting in the morning, however it was decided that as sometimes there are hearings at the State Board of Public School Education meetings that can run long, it would be best to leave things as they are.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will Monday, October 25, 2021.

There being no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.