

# 2024 Joint Board Meeting Minutes

State Board of Career and Technical Education (Host)  
State Board of Education Standards and Practices  
State Board of Higher Education  
State Board of Public School Education

**Brynhild Haugland Room at State Capitol and via Teams  
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 - 9:00 am-3:30 pm CST**

## Call to Order:

The Joint Boards meeting was called to order at 9:00 am CST by Sonia Meehl, SBCTE Chair. The following members were present:

SBCTE: Sonia Meehl, Mike McHugh, Lyndsi Engstrom, Eric Nelson, Levi Bachmeier, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler and Dr. Mark Hagerott

SBESP: Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Jenny Bladow, Amber Fridley, Cory Steiner, Mari Riehl, Sheila Schlafmann and Angela Nagel

SBHE: Dr. Mark Hagerott, Casey Ryan and Curtis Biller

SBPSE: Sonia Meehl, Mike McHugh, Lyndsi Engstrom, Levi Bachmeier, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler and Eric Nelson

Others Present: Lisa Johnson (NDUS), Claire Gunwall (NDUS), Laurie Matzke (NDDPI), Wayde Sick (NDCTE), Maria Neset (Governor's Office), Luke Schafer (CREA), Jeff Bradford (NDIT), Dr. Jennifer Weber (NDUS), Ann Ellefson (NDDPI), Jessica Enderson (CDE), Steve Snow (NDDPI), Ryan Jockers (NDUS), Katie Fitzsimmons (NDUS), Mark Wagner (NDCTE), Mark Gorenflo (NDUS), Jerry Rolstad (NDUS), Thomas Danford (NDUS) and Lorie Ruff (NDCTE)

Present Virtually: Jason Rohr (NDCTE Board Member Appointee), Corey Quirk (UND), Megan Kasner (WSC), Carrie Platt (NDSU), Bernell Hiring (WSC), Leeann Miller (UND), Donna Fishbeck (NDDPI), Bethany Kadrmass (NDUS), Kevin Black (SBHE), Shauna Marchus (NDDPI), Eric Jensen (NDUS), Dustin Hager (UND), Adam Tescher (NDDPI), Art Mallory (UND), Zahi Atallah (WSC), Billie Jo Lorus (NDUS), Melissa Wells (DSU), Maxwell Eriksrud (SBHE) and Eric Link (UND)

## Introductions

Planning Committee members each introduced their Board members and staff that were present. They also gave a brief explanation of their Board's responsibilities.

## Approval of 2023 Joint Boards Meeting Minutes

Dr. Rebecca Pitkin moved to approve the 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented and it was seconded by Mike McHugh. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

## Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force Report

Maria Neset, Senior Policy Advisor, ND Office of the Governor and Luke Schafer, Chairman of Task Force, Central Regional Education Association, distributed the Recommendations and Report from the ND Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force and gave a brief history. This Task Force was established to develop policy recommendations and identifying best practices to retain and recruit instructors. They developed seven recommendations to guide key education stakeholders in supporting a high-quality educator workforce in ND

who will effectively provide all students with an opportunity to succeed. These recommendations will be part of an appendix that is currently being developed. There is a link on the Governor's Office website to the Task Force's final report.

### **Agency Adaptation to Changing State Needs**

Each agency reported on how they are adapting the last few years to the changing needs of our customers.

Wayde Sick, State Director, NDCTE, reported that the agency is:

- Transitioning to WebGrants from Budget Reimbursement Process as NDIT will no longer support that system. This will allow schools to have one login to access their funding dollars from NDDPI and NDCTE.
- Staffing adjustments – incorporating a support staff group to assist the entire agency, filling the two FTE's we were granted from Legislative Session and filling two positions that were made vacant by resignation and retirement. We still have one position we did not fill but will reopen again later this year.
- Working on a teacher licensure policy to provide more alternate pathways into the teaching profession.
- Revising our funding policy for secondary CTE programs to focus on outcomes and six key principles.

Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director, ESPB, reported:

- Agency has implemented a number of different licensure pathways to help resolve the teacher shortage, particularly in rural areas. The ND RISE mentoring program has helped in the process of retaining and supporting educators.
- Continue to promote leadership opportunities to keep excellent teachers in the field.
- Maintaining partnership with DPI to support their paraprofessional-to-teacher pathway and apprenticeship work. And continue to collect progress data and conveying results to Higher Education.
- The Emergency Rules were approved in August authorizing a student teacher to be pre-service teacher authorized to be the teacher of record for one semester. This is effective until June 2025 and the agency is working on making that permanent status.

Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, NDUS, reported:

- Agency is continuing work on cybersecurity and protecting student data and privacy.
- Managing faculty shortage along with retention of current staff. One of the top priorities of the Envision 2030 study is to utilize best practices from business to recruit and retain top talent.
- Initiative RUN-ND (Retool and Upskill Now for ND) has been endorsed by SBHE and they are charting its strategy for the next legislative session.
- Although ND's freshman enrollment is up, student's overall well-being is a concern from gambling, social media addiction and body image depression to name only a few.
- Dr. Hagerott distributed the Fall/Winter 2024-25 Dakota Digital Review. Their goal is to elevate discussions and debates about digitization to prepare individuals to make crucial life decisions about our future.

Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent, NDDPI, presented five changing needs that they are prioritizing:

- K12 Data Modernization – Working on a state-wide implementation of an enterprise solution to modernize and transform K12 education data management. Infinite Campus was awarded the contract. This project will streamline and simplify the separate systems currently used.
- State Assessment – Pearson was awarded the new contract and NDA Plus will replace the current system. It has state provided interims assessments and will align with the ND Scholarship program.
- Teacher Shortage –
  - The agency received funding for a para to teach program which has funded 230 paras across 60 districts who are on their way to becoming licensed teachers. Agency also received federal funding for a registered teacher apprenticeship program which has 106 paraprofessionals becoming licensed.
  - Agency is using special education dollars for an education pathway providing dual credit classes for high school students interested in pursuing the education profession. A new generalist para certificate was also developed for students to take certain courses that are interested in pursuing education.
- Artificial Intelligence – A new K12 AI Guidance Framework was developed to help schools navigate and address critical issues. There are multiple resources available for schools as they develop their policies.
- Personal Learning – Agency is working on an intermediary plan with Knowledge Works to support initiatives and personalized competency-based learning. A newsletter was developed called Network News that shares all the great work that has been happening. The agency is also working with Issue Revolutions and Corey Steiner focusing on transforming teacher and leader preparation and education.

### **Communications and Dashboards – Responding to Stakeholders**

Jeff Bradford, Software Developer, Statewide Longitudinal Data System, NDIT, gave an overview of CTE integration into SLDS which started with creating program groupings and coming up with a cohort of high school students with a career track. We then followed that group into postsecondary, workforce or military. Upcoming tasks include continuing to maintain and develop pathways and plans of study incorporating the new career clusters that were just released and continue working on ways to utilize the data collected on area centers.

Dr. Jennifer Weber, Director of Institutional Research, ND University System, provided background history on the integration of IR within their core technology services that eliminated the need to ask for data that needed to be collected. In May 2023, Microsoft Fabric – Data Analytics Platform was initiated. This is an end-to-end analytics and data platform designed for businesses that require a unified solution. They have also created a SharePoint site that brings all of their dashboards into one place so Board Members have easy access. Dr. Weber reviewed the enrollment data and the reports that are available.

### **PreK-12 Strategic Vision Framework Student Outcome Goals**

State Superintendent, Kirsten Baesler, gave an overview of committee history and their strategic vision and long-term outcome goals. Some of their aspirational goals by 2025-26 include doubling student percentages in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency, reduce the disparity in achievement for students with disabilities, poverty and Native American students and by 2029-30 all high school graduating students will graduate Choice Ready. The ND K-12 Coordination Council then created SMART objectives and measurable outcomes. These Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound objectives are used to guide educators, schools and districts in creating effective goals and action plans.

Superintendent Baesler reported that DPI has launched the Be Legendary School Board Leadership Institute. This program is designed for governing teams who are dedicated to improving student outcomes. Currently, 30% of North Dakota's Schools Boards are engaged in this training model as well as the CTE State Board members.

Meeting recessed for lunch and was called to order by Sonia Meehl at 12:15 pm.

### **Update on Competency Based Learning**

Ann Ellefson, Director of Academic Support, ND Department of Public Instruction and Jessica Enderson, Assistant Superintendent, Center for Distance Education, updated those present on the key findings since competency-based learning initially launched in 2019. This design creates an engaging learning experience customized to each student's strengths, needs and interests. Allowing learners to be a part of decision-making is a part of the transformation. Some of the key findings is that shared visioning pays off, classroom practices were able to shift easier, transparency is critical, and people need to learn why you are changing, no growth on academic achievements and no effect on grade rate.

They reviewed the timeline phases and informed members that they are currently in Phase 3 – Feedback & Revision with a survey being sent to stakeholders. They anticipate being in Phase 4 – Draft & Sharing during the 2026-27 school year with publishing continuum. Tools and processes are also being developed to be used in the transition for each phase.

### **Agencies Leading AI Efforts**

Steve Snow, Assistant Director School Approval & Opportunity, ND Department of Public Instruction, reported that DPI has developed and published a K-12 Artificial Intelligence Guidance Framework and updating current Computer Science and Cybersecurity standards to include AI. They are also partnering with EduTech to establish 4 cohorts of trainers using the train the trainer approach.

Ryan Jockers, Assistant Director of Reporting & Analytics, ND University System, shared their current and future projects relating with AI. Some of their completed projects include audit assistant, policy assistant and news feed. Currently they are testing and developing data intelligence assistant and LegiTrack AI. One of the LegiTrack projects includes the tracking and analysis of the upcoming legislative session. This uses language models and data processing techniques to monitor, summarize and alert relevant information to save time, resources and increase accuracy. Future planned projects include federal register tracking and analysis and capital projects assistant.

### **NDUS Student Wellbeing Survey**

Katie Fitzsimmons, Director of Student Affairs, ND University System, presented the results of the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment they deployed in February. This is a nationally recognized research survey to help us collect precise data on a wide range of health and wellness issues that impact our student population and ultimately affects their academic performance. Survey results determined the top concerns for students are loneliness, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation and addiction. In studying what has changed so much in the last years – social media is the culprit. If anyone would like more information or resources, contact their office.

**Agency Legislative Priorities**

Due to Director Sick needing to leave, he has delegated Mark Wagner, CTE Assistant Director, to give his report. Mark reported on the agency’s requests that included \$4 million for cost to continue, \$22 million for new programs and \$1.5 million for work-based learning coordinators. Agency is also working on teacher recruitment and apprenticeship strategies.

Dr. Rebecca Pitkin reported their agency is currently working on a bill that allows action to be taken simultaneously in both state and federal court to have a license revoked for crimes against a child.

Mr. Jerry Rostad informed to those present that State Board of Higher Ed and ND University System launched Envision 2035, a study to look at what the world will look like for high school graduates in 2035. As a result of this study, they are compiling most of their requests for the session along with their primary budget and traditional asks.

Kirsten Baesler reported that their request includes continuation of their base budget priorities to maintain support for our public school, competitive salaries and compensation for staff, additional support and guidance for schools that have been identified as ND FIRST, increase support for adult education center and increase in base funding for IEP grants. DPI has updated the North Dakota Tribal History textbooks and working on getting them printed and seeking funding. They will also be asking for the authority to receive and expend the round 2 federal comprehensive grant.

There being no other business brought before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm CT.

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