



Arizona School Boards Association

**Governmental Relations**

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**Summary of the State Board of  
Education Meeting**

April 27, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Greg Miller, President; Reginald Ballantyne, Vice Chair; Diane Douglas, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. James Rottweiler, Community College President; Dr. Roger Jacks, Superintendent; Amy Hamilton, Classroom Teacher; Tim Carter, County School Superintendent; Chris Deschene, Public Member; Jared Taylor, Public Member; and Chuck Schmidt, Public Member. Member Absent: Dr. Michael Crow, University President.

**BUSINESS REPORTS:**

- **President's Report:** President Miller appointed Jesus Rubalcava, ASBA President, as the governing board representative and Member Chris Deschene, as the SBE representative to the WestEd Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Beverly Hurley and Dr. Wade McLean were reappointed to the WestEd Board of Directors.
  - **A-F Accountability Committee:** President Miller reconvened this committee and appointed Vice Chair Ballantyne and Members Carter, Rottweiler, and Miller to serve. ASBA previously served on this committee and will continue to serve. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.
  - **Teacher and Principal Evaluation Task Force:** President Miller reconvened this task force and appointed Members Hamilton and Jacks to serve. ASBA previously served on this task force and will continue to serve. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.
- **Superintendent's Report:** Supt. Douglas questioned how SBE appointments were made. She stated that her "We Are Listening" tour has kicked off and they have been well attended so far. Supt. Douglas further stated that she missed last month's board meeting, as she was attending the Council of State School Officers (CCSSO) conference and meeting with US Secretary of Education Duncan and that Arizona's ESEA waiver has been submitted.
- **Board Member Reports:** None.
- **Executive Director Report:** Mrs. Thompson reported that she is in process for the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the K-6 technology based language development and literacy intervention pilot. She is awaiting Department of Administration (ADOA) approval and plans to have the RFP out prior to the next Board meeting. The full Board must approve the contract award.

**CONSENT ITEMS:** The Board approved the following consent items in the same motion:

- A. Approval of the following contract abstracts:
  1. Arizona Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training
  2. Adult Education Assistance Award FY2016
- B. Approval of additional monies for teacher compensation for Fiscal Year 2015-16 to districts that have submitted Statements of Assurance, pursuant to ARS §15-952 and 15-537
- C. Acceptance of the voluntary surrender of the teaching certificate held by Alfred Trejo, Jr. and Brooke N. Hesson
- D. Appointment of Pinal County Superintendent Jill Broussard to the Certification Advisory Committee
- E. Approval of qualification score for the Spring 2015 administration of the Move on When Reading (MOWR)/Excellence for All World History Exam (E4A) related to Board Examinations Systems and the Grand Canyon Diploma, as described in the materials
- F. Approval of the Move on When Reading (MOWR) LEA literacy plans which have been reviewed for release of K-3 Reading Base Support funds, as described in the materials
- G. Approval of the expenditure of funds for the Arizona Education Learning and Accountability System (AELAS), pursuant to ARS §15-249, as described in the materials

Two items was considered separately and approved:

- A. Receipt of the summary of Board actions for the March 23, 2015 meeting (pursuant to ARS §38-431.01(D), beginning with the January 26, 2015 meeting of the Board, audio recordings of Board meetings are available for public inspection on the Board's website).
  - Supt. Douglas stated that she was in receipt of a formal complaint from Nicole Cohen, a Lake Havasu school board member in Legislative District 5, that minutes should be written, not available as a MP3.
- B. Permanently revoke any and all teaching certificates held by David Rogers, pursuant to ARS §15-550

### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- Joe Gussig, Gilbert parent and advocate, stated that he sent to all 91 leaders the same question – “Why education?” He stated it is ultimately to protect this country, and thus, we need a 10-year business plan. He is also taking this message to all school district governing boards.
- Becky Hill, representing the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, requested on future SBE agendas that the update on the Arizona Education Learning and Accountability System (AELAS) be part of the general session, rather than consent, to ensure public vetting.

### **GENERAL SESSION**

1. Ms. Susie Cannata, SBE Lobbyist (Peters, Cannata, & Moody), presented on legislative affairs including an update on the SBE now being a separate state budget unit with \$1.7 million appropriated and 11 FTEs, as well as 7 bills that impact the Board.
2. The Board approved, on a 9-1-1 vote, the proposed policy for the review of the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards. President Miller presented and stated that applications to serve on the Committee are due May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Erin Hart, Expect More Arizona (EMA) Chief Operating Officer, stated that the EMA Public Engagement Task Force sent a letter to the Board expressing its support for this process. The Committee on Appointments to the Arizona Standards Development Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.
3. The Board unanimously approved opening the review process for Arts Standards Development. Ms. Sarah Galetti, ADE Deputy Associate Superintendent of K-12 Academic Standards, presented.
4. The Board tabled the AzMERIT implementation, timeline for the approval of AzMERIT standard setting, and consideration of the proposed AzMERIT performance level names and policy level descriptors. Ms. Irene Hunting, ADE Deputy Associate Superintendent for Assessment, presented and stated that ADE sought feedback on the draft AzMERIT policy definitions presented at the March SBE meeting, receiving nearly 3,000 responses. Of those respondents, 2/3 strongly agreed or agreed with those proposed by ADE; however, ADE did make four changes to the March proposed PLDs based on the feedback. Ms. Hunting stated that the SBE-approved policy definitions will inform the development of more detailed PLDs that will describe what students should know and be able to do in each of the performance levels of AzMERIT for each grade and content area and ADE is ready to do this, with standard setting in July. Parent-friendly PLD language for inclusion on student reports will also be developed.
  - Dr. Joe O'Reilly, Mesa Public Schools Executive Director for Student Achievement Support, reported on the survey created with the East Valley testing and curriculum directors and shared the results. Overall, “highly proficient, proficient, approaching proficient, and below proficient” was the top choice, as well as the top choice in the disaggregated categories of parents, teachers, principals, and other. Dr. O'Reilly expressed his concerns with the

changed items presented today, as they had not been vetted with the district assessment directors.

- Janice Palmer, ASBA Director of Governmental Relations & Public Affairs, stated that ASBA took the Board's charge seriously and helped promote Dr. O'Reilly's survey to garner input. Those results are much different from the ADE results. She stated that a stakeholders meeting needed to happen to allow for ADE to explain its reasoning for the PLDs and answer stakeholders' questions. Ms. Palmer regretfully asked that the Board postpone yet again, as ADE has made changes to its initial recommendations, the comments made today served to further confuse what is trying to be accomplished, and there is significant difference in verbiage recommendations for the PLDs that will serve as the foundation for future descriptions.
- Jennifer Reynolds, representing Arizonans Against Common Core, stated that there has not been enough time provided to vet these PLDs or the AzMERIT test as a whole.
- Becky Hill, representing the Arizona Chamber of Commerce, reiterated concerns about the process and confusion as to what is actually needed for standard setting v. public/parent information. She requested a stakeholders meeting be called and that this item be tabled.
- Dr. Ildi Laczko-Kerr, Vice President of Academics for the Charter Schools Association, expressed similar concerns and discussed that, while it is important to have comparability with other tests, just having the same language in the PLDs doesn't make that happen. This is done in the standard setting process and when cut scores are adopted. She also requested that this item be tabled.

The Board stated that a stakeholders' meeting needed to happen. Member Carter summarized that the May SBE meeting should see the four performance levels, short descriptors of each, and ensure that these descriptors correlate to other tests. He stated that one recommendation from stakeholders would be preferable to the Board.

\*\*\*\*There was a stakeholders meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, in which the recommended PLDs, along with expanded directive, that will be proposed for the May Board meeting will be: highly proficient, proficient, partially proficient, and minimally proficient. ASBA will support this recommendation.

5. The Board approved, on a 9-1-1 vote, to authorize the SBE Executive Director to execute a lease for office space.
6. The Board approved, on a 9-1-1 vote, to authorize the SBE Executive Director to negotiate and execute Intergovernmental Service Agreements for administrative services as the Board becomes a separate state budget unit in FY2015-16.
7. The Board adopted, with Supt. Douglas abstaining, the reaffirmation of the Board Policy Statement on Indian Education. Debora Norris, ADE Director of Indian Education, presented on Indian Education.
  - Jacob Moore, former SBE Board Member and ASU Assistant Vice President of Tribal Relations, had requested this presentation and stated that this is affirmation of the Indian Advisory Committee that has been working. He would request a deeper review of the policy statement in the future.
8. Dr. Jennifer Johnson, ADE Deputy Superintendent of Programs and Policy, presented an update on the Educator Retention and Recruitment Taskforce Report. She stated that they have four different working groups within the Taskforce and that there will be a report on progress June 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as on October 15<sup>th</sup>, prior to legislative session.
9. The Board approved the determination of noncompliance with laws applicable to English Language Learners, pursuant to ARS §15-756.08(J) for the Tuba City Unified School District. Jordan Ellel, Assistant Attorney General, presented that this is not a financial issue for Tuba City Unified; however, they would not be able to apply for SEI funds in the future.

- Dr. Harold Begay, Tuba City Unified Superintendent, stated that there is a new corrective action plan in place to address these issues.
10. The Board approved the closing of rulemaking procedures for proposed amendments to Board rule R7-2-615 regarding Bilingual Endorsements, R7-2-615 regarding Early Childhood Endorsements, and R7-2-616 and R7-2-621 regarding reciprocal certificates. These are effective as of May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.
    - The Board tabled R7-2-615 K and L, regarding English as a Second Language (ESL) Endorsements and Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsements. These will be brought back in May for Board discussion and calendared for June Board adoption.
      - i. Ann Swiger expressed concerns with the passage of HB 2577, as SEI training components are key and were part of the *Flores v. Arizona* requirements.
      - ii. Jennifer Wells stated that SEI skills need to be learned.
  11. The Board approved the initiation of rulemaking procedures for proposed amendments to Board rule R7-2-613 regarding PreK-12 Physical Education Certificate.
  12. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Four-Hour English Language Development Complaint (U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Case #08-10-4046 and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Case #169-8-81).
  13. Board comments and future meeting dates:
    - Executive Director Thompson stated that the accountability transition item will be on the May SBE agenda and that the Casa Grande Union High School and Toltec Elementary item will be on the consent agenda, rather than under the general session. Supt. Douglas stated that she wanted the latter to be on general session, not consent.

**Next meeting of the State Board of Education will be on May 18, 2015**