

Minutes
State Board of Education Retreat
Tuesday, June 6, 2006

The Arizona State Board of Education held a Retreat at the AmeriSchools College Prep Academy, 7444 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85716. The meeting was called to order at 9:42 AM.

Members Present

Mr. Jesse Ary
Dr. Vicki Balentine
Mr. Bill Estes
Ms. JoAnne Hilde
Superintendent Tom Horne
Ms. Joanne Kramer
Mr. Larry Lucero
Ms. Anita Mendoza
Dr. Karen Nicodemus
Ms. Cecilia Owen

Members Absent

Dr. Michael Crow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

1. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Hilde expressed the SBE's appreciation to Ms. Mendoza and the school staff for hosting the today's meeting. Ms. Mendoza, staff and students conducted a tour of the facility and welcomed the SBE. Ms. Hilde then invited members to introduce themselves and tell a highlight of their personal high school experiences.

B. Presentation: "Framework for Understanding Poverty"

Mr. Jeff Lavender, Principal, Cactus Middle School, Casa Grande, Arizona, presented the information regarding understanding poverty, that is provided in the materials packet, via PowerPoint. Mr. Lavender highlighted the key points pertaining to poverty and how they control a person's success in school, life, etc.

Mr. Mario Tijerina, Principal, Mesquite Elementary School, Casa Grande, Arizona, presented their mentoring program touching on the following points:

- 80% of teachers make judgments about a student based on appearance
 - Cited examples of students who have succeeded as a result of teachers who took an interest in them and mentored them throughout the high school experience
- Poverty is not necessarily an indication of intelligence
- Mentors assist in establishing an identity and confidence
- Mentors are a life-changing event, going beyond education and into their life
- Poverty is a vicious cycle
- Recommended that the SBE look at a formal way of having teachers as mentors or establish a way of doing this throughout the state
 - Students need availability to these experiences

Further discussion ensued regarding the following points:

- Money is good to the extent that it provides opportunities for the kids to grow

- Relationships are the most important factor for kids
- Prevalence of day-care, Pre-K, etc., in the Casa Grande area is usually too expensive for families in poverty
 - Cost of housing has escalated much faster than the salary rate for workers
 - The students don't have funding for class pictures, gym shoes, etc.

Ms. Owen arrived at 10:55 AM during the previous presentation

The Board broke for lunch at 11:37AM and reconvened at 12:20PM

- C. Presentation and discussion of matters related to Board resources and budget. Discussion may include, but is not limited to, member and staff professional development, travel and a possible decision package for fiscal year 2008.

Mr. Vince Yanez, Executive Director, State Board of Education, presented the budgets for the State Board and Investigative Units. Further discussion emphasized the following:

- Budget has not changed for the past several years
- Covers all Board operations/personnel
- Inhibits the State Board from taking actions due to financial constraints
- Largest expenses are rent and NASBE dues
 - Mr. Horne noted that the ADE is willing to supplement SBE members for professional development activities and travel
- It is a wonderful opportunity when members can attend conferences and also meet legislators
 - Going as a team is a better representation from Arizona
 - Helps to see our own vision
- SBE members need to continue education and awareness of ongoing situations that will assist in the decision making regarding our state
 - State should give the SBE enough funding to run a class organization
 - Doesn't send a good message to the public education system if we cannot operate on a sufficient budget
- Process is being started now to look at '08 budget and other future needs
 - SBE needs a rule writer
 - Rule writing is a very detailed, tedious process
 - ADE has also been talking about hiring a rule writer
 - Will present a final budget to SBE in the near future
 - SBE also needs assistance with legislative lobbying, etc
- Senate has passed a budget that is in the House at this time which includes an additional \$100,000 and one FTE
 - There was discussion earlier this year for this addition in a bill that did not pass
 - The new budget amendment last week has included the increase
 - Approved by the Governor's Office
 - Hope to make some improvements to the Board room at the end of this year
- We are managing with the current resources but it is obvious that an increase is needed
- Should anticipate additional needs that may have to be subsidized by the ADE
 - Superintendent Horne reiterated that the ADE has enough funds to assist with travel expenses, rule writing, and additional funding necessary for professional development activities, etc.

- Need to look at future needs as well as evaluating current needs regarding staff compensation, etc.
- May be wireless access in the room due to the capabilities installed by another department on the third floor
 - Will consult with MIS in this regard
- Concerns about a policy issue in terms of whether this is an independent Board or not
 - If yes, then we need an independent budget and independent authority to be responsible for that budget
 - This may call for a revision in rules and/or responsible movement in this direction
 - SBE receives a lot of crucial support from ADE, i.e. IT, accounting, HR, etc.
 - SBE may not want to be totally independent as we don't have the ability to support these other activities
- Part of what we need is a resource in developing public policy and being more active legislatively, etc.
- SBE needs to be able to lobby regarding bills that affect its activities/responsibilities

Mr. Yanez stated that the Investigative Unit has 5 FTEs and noted the following facts regarding the Unit:

- Funding stream went away in 1999 and certification fees have funded the unit's activities
- The unit is more visible now and getting more cases, as per the enclosed graph
- Many cases are being carried over from previous years due to lack of manpower
 - Cases need to be addressed in a timely manner
- Attorney General's Office plays a key role in the legal support
 - Has to present each case to the PPAC that has been worked up by the four investigators
 - In the past the SBE would typically see about 50 cases that have been to the PPAC
- Need to look at all possible options:
 - Additional review committee
 - Additional employees
 - How to bring cases before the SBE in a timely manner
 - How to get additional assistance from the Attorney General's Office
- Will bring a plan to the SBE in the near future that should address these needs in addition to the following:
 - Due process challenges
 - Duplicated efforts when the SBE is asked for a delay
 - Time and dollars wasted in some cases
- Committee strives to give the license holder every opportunity for appeal
- SBE and Investigations may not have to be as lenient
- Some concern about the length of time involved in processing
 - 165 days that an application has to be decided upon
 - PPAC tries to accommodate this requirement
 - Rules are silent regarding timeframes
 - Review proceedings have to be pushed ahead due to required timeframe
 - How long a respondent has to answer

- Burden placed on applicant

Mr. Yanez noted that this will probably be an action item in the future as the proposals come to the SBE. He added that a study session with the PPAC can be held to get a clear understanding of the entire process.

Mr. Yanez clarified that if an allegation that has been brought about a certificated person is true and action is warranted, the file is put into Pending. If action is not warranted the file is closed.

Mr. Yanez emphasized that it is dangerous to advise districts not to report because of the possibility of an omission.

Mr. Yanez summarized the Investigative Unit's budget:

- Two separate packages:
 - \$335,000 for five FTEs, which is not sufficient
 - Approximately \$220,000 of this is paid from the certification budget
 - At current levels the unit is operating about where they can
 - Any additional funding would go for additional FTEs
 - This budget will be quite a bit larger than SBE budget to meet all the needs
- '07 Budget will be presented at June SBE meeting
- Prior to Jan '07, SBE will receive information regarding required funding needed to move beyond current status quo
- Board can re-define further goals
- Probability that district cases will continue to grow

D. Review of 2005 Board Priority Issues:

1. Achievement
2. Measurement and Accountability
3. Advocacy
4. Innovation
5. Technology

Ms. Hilde noted the parameters for further discussion which may be assigned with the following expectations/actions for future consideration by the SBE:

- PPAC
- Attorney General access to half-time individual
- Legislative impact
- Are we an independent Board?
 - By budget
 - Need funding for Professional Development for members, including travel and other expenses
 - Ability to impact Legislature, rules
 - Authority
 - Need to address ABECs request for changing high school graduation requirements
 - P-20 Council work and its impact on the SBE's work
 - Professional Development for teachers that leads into a career ladder
 - Make sure teachers/principals have a school improvement plan
 - Better communication statewide for professional development opportunities
 - Better communication within the education community
 - Access to better data that is more user friendly
 - Determine what information is crucial to decision making

- Why do we lose students?
 - ADE data warehouse?
- AIMS
- Augmentation
 - Will this continue?
 - Will be Legislative issue if extended beyond '07
- ELL and AIMS
 - Will have new data resulting from the proficiency test
 - How do we handle Legislative impact on the SBE and schools in last minute actions?
 - Influence SBE policy
 - Increase mandatory age for high school
 - SBE President can speak on behalf of the SBE based on the adopted belief statements
- Review video performance assessment
 - The requested fee structure will also be part of this discussion
 - Members need information in plenty of time to study before decision making
- May want to consider certification issues and policy issues at separate meetings
- Study sessions on a systematic basis for those who need further information
- Professional Educators Standards Board
 - Recommendation from Governor's Office
 - Can ask for a detailed presentation regarding the plan
 - Sometimes institutional heavy
 - Look at "out of the box" possibilities
 - Concern about eliminating emergency certificates, especially for outlying and reservation areas
- SEI Update
 - Endorsement developed because of court requirement to train ELL students
 - Court stated that rules are sufficient
- CTE and high school graduation requirements
- Spotlight ADE accomplishments
 - Need a presentation from Dr. Ann Hart regarding what is being done about discipline issues
 - Requested a directory of ADE programs/personnel
- NCLB
- Next steps regarding High School Renewal Program
 - Are we addressing today's needs?
 - Are the systems working that are in place?
 - How are these evaluated?

E. Identification of critical issues. Discussion may include timeline and planning
 Mr. Vince Yanez, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Education, addressed the priority issues outlined in August 2005 by the SBE which are included in the materials packet noting that some have been dealt with this year and some continue to be of concern:

- Legislative advocacy

- Sometimes default is to the elected official rather than the SBE also taking up its responsibility in advocating the Legislature
- What role do we play in policy and what is the political agenda
- Important criteria and positions we want to pursue
 - SBE determined to get ahead of the curve and present issues to Legislature to get on board with their bill creation in the fall
 - Executive Director reports directly to the President of SBE
- Difficulty with primary and general elections in September/November
 - Committee structure will be different
 - Leadership will be different
- November/December crucial period for SBE
 - Need clearly defined package(s) to be presented at that time
 - Open a bill folder with legislative sponsorship and make sure others are willing to consider the concept once it is introduced
 - Push for early action in committee
 - The longer it takes, the more likely it is to get linked to other issues we may not want to be linked to
- Need to be ready to roll when the gavel comes down
- Make sure it gets heard and keeps moving and gets sent to the Governor
- ASA, ASBA, Arizona Small And/Or Rural Schools Association, ABEC and others can assist in looking at these legislative agendas
 - Is there is a possibility of joining in a friendly advocacy
 - Possibility of establishing a “voice” at the legislative branch via this method
 - Consolidation and unification
- Voice of the SBE
 - Press releases
 - Role of the SBE
 - Standards
 - Communication plan
 - With chairs of legislative education committees
 - Key releases
 - Governor’s staff
 - Legislative leaders
 - Procedure for speaking to press
 - Speak as individual

Ms. Hilde charted the following priority issues as suggested by members:

Board needs further information regarding these items

- Productive Programs Measure-continuous improvement-revise
 - Dr. Robert Franciosi and Maxine Daly can bring a report on this
- ELL-AIMS data
 - Need ongoing update from sub-committees
- Re-configuration of meeting dates
 - Splitting quarterly into a two-day session
 - August 28-29 and December 4-5
 - Begin at 10AM on the first day and at 8:30 on the second day

- ADE picks up extra costs including lodging
- Professional Standards Education Board
- SEI update
- Certification/Alternative Paths
 - Get updates from Jan Amator
 - Opportunity to give input regarding ideas/questions
- Performance Assessment
- CTE
 - Members who would like to tour a program:
 - Lucero, Mendoza, Kramer, Nicodemus
 - Relevance, Drive, Rigor
 - Will check Flowing Wells' program
- JTEDs
 - Graduation rates
 - Dropout rates
 - Student achievement
- ADE program directory and organizational chart
 - Presentation from one of ADE programs at each meeting
- NCLB
- IDEA authorization rate changed
 - Forest fees being eliminated as logging is no longer being done in Arizona
 - Federal tax on sale of lumber in US now diminishing over the next few years
 - Federal dollars will eventually go away that supported roads and schools
- High School Renewal Next Steps

Items for sub-committees to be done separate from Board meetings

- High school graduation requirements
- Budget
 - Report regarding P-20 from Dr. Nicodemus
- Professional development for educators
 - Ms. Kramer and Ms. Owen
 - Arizona K-12 Center's statewide work
 - Workforce, recruitment and retention
- Better data; SAIS
 - Mr. Estes
- ELL-AIMS data
- Ongoing update to SBE
 - How has student profile changed?
- Voice of the Board

Recommendations on meeting within the open meeting law requirements:

- Convene as subcommittees
- Must post open meetings
 - Can be telephonically

- Held where public can listen in
- Even if less than quorum could be deemed as circumventing open meeting
- New Attorney General opinion cautions regarding email amongst one another even one-to-one
- Send messages to Mr. Yanez and he will coordinate and post
- Minutes of sub-committee meetings are not required
 - Keep track of recommendations to be brought to SBE
 - Mr. Yanez can distribute supporting information to members

Sub-Committee Volunteers:

High School Graduation Requirements

Ms. Mendoza, Dr. Nicodemus, Mr. Horne, Ms. Hilde, and possibly Dr. Crow

Budget '08

Dr. Nicodemus, Mr. Lucero, Ms. Hilde

Research

Ms. Mendoza, Ms. Kramer, Mr. Estes (include reports from Dr. Franciosi)

Professional Development for Educators

Ms. Kramer, Ms. Owen and a member from ADE, the Arizona K-12 Center, and colleges of education

Legislative Advocacy

Mr. Lucero, Ms. Owen, Mr. Ary and Ms. Mendoza will audit

In addition, the Board agreed to set up a frame of work prior to the June meeting as follows:

Advocacy legislatively

- Are we an independent Board?
 - By budget
 - Professional Development for members, including travel and other expenses
 - Ability to impact Legislature, rules
 - In terms of authority
- High school mandatory age

Executive Director

- Process to reduce number of open cases within the Investigative Unit
 - PPAC makeup and quorum or added membership to split up responsibilities
 - Time with legal counsel
 - Additional staff
- Information regarding Performance Assessment for Certification (June agenda)
 - Video portion of test
- Receive action issues
 - Password protected web site where members can access agenda items

Research

- Augmentation

Ms. Hilde and Mr. Yanez will formulate a timeline and plan of work for the sub-committees which will be forwarded to members.

F. Discussion regarding Board procedures and operations

Members were asked to email Mr. Yanez if they would like to schedule a time to discuss agenda items prior to any Board meeting if desired.

Ms. Hilde reminded members of the ABEC annual conference: June 19-20 and Mr. Horne noted that he will be attending.

2. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM