

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, February 22nd, 2016
9:00 A.M.
Arizona Department of Education, Room 122
1535 W. Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Arizona State Board of Education held a regular meeting on February 22nd, 2016 at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson Street, Room 122, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members Present

Chuck Schmidt
Tim Carter
Amy Hamilton (Came late)
President Greg Miller
Vice President Reginald Ballantyne III
Roger Jacks
Jared Taylor
Superintendent Diane Douglas

Members Absent

Dr. Michael Crow
Dr. James Rottweiler

9:03 a.m. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, MOMENT OF SILENCE, AND ROLL CALL

1. BUSINESS REPORTS

A. President's Report

1. Policy Advisory Committee-Superintendent's Policy Advisory Committee

President Miller advised that the State Board of Education (the Board) would soon be taking applications for a Superintendent's Policy Advisory Committee. Members would sit on the Committee on a rotating basis. Superintendent Douglas requested clarifying information as to the nature and purpose of the Committee. President Miller advised that it would be composed of Local Education Agency (LEA) administrators to provide additional information to the Board and Executive Committee from the field. He advised there were no specific areas of policy concern yet; it is just the initiation of opening dialogue.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Updates on Department of Education(ADE) activities

Superintendent Douglas advised that she has given a notice to each of the Board members on advisory from GED that they have changed the score on their test. The notice advised of the predicted impact to the State of Arizona. Vice President Ballantyne inquired why the score changes went back retroactively to January of 2014. The Superintendent advised that once they had recalibrated after administering the new exam, the GED subsequently went back to adjust the scores of students who had previously taken the test.

C. Board Member Reports

1. Member Jared Taylor—AZ Standards Committee Update

Member Jared Taylor advised that there were two sets of standards that were examined: one for math, one for English Language Arts. He advised that the committee is currently recalibrating notes and tying back to standards and cautioned that they had originally hoped to have the standards evaluation completed by end of the school year, but the process is taking longer than anticipated and they will have to extend the timeline. Jared Taylor requested that a meeting be held between the staff at the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), namely Carol Lippert, the Associate Superintendent of High Academic Standards for Students, and the Board to find ways to pick up the pace of development.

Vice President Ballantyne stated that he wanted to take a moment to talk about good things in education in Arizona. He provided a document to the Board members from various stakeholders in AZ showing advances in education in the recent past.

D. Executive Director's Report

1. Investigative Unit Update

Dr. Karol Schmidt provided the monthly Investigative Unit Update

- Accuracy in Reporting—The Investigative Unit is continuing to conduct reviews and make corrections, currently working back to 2000. They plan to continue going back to 1998. They will continue to make requests for continuous cross-checking.

Dr. Schmidt advised that Arizona received a B Ranking from USA Today on Reporting from an article dated February 14th, 2016. USA Today stated that we have strong state level screenings before licensing, but received some marks down for not reporting as accurately.

- Training the Board staff—The Investigative Unit is finalizing training materials
- Timely resolution of investigations—The Board anticipates a surge in teacher status updates in NASDEQ after the USA Today Article.

The Investigative Unit is looking at models from other states to increase efficiency and validity.

Backlog—To help mitigate the problem of the backlog of cases, the Investigative Unit looked historically at PPAC meetings regarding quorums and meeting times. Consequently, the PPAC is going to start meetings earlier to allow for more cases to be heard.

It has been suggested that serious negotiated settlement agreements may be brought to the Board before PPAC, and it may help expedite their backlog.

- Accountability—The Investigative Unit MAPS are completed, and monthly one-on-ones are being held with each of the Investigators.
Item 6—Clarified some conflicting language in policy.

Dr. Schmidt advised there are 312 cases in backlog, most from between 2013 to 2015.

They have found an increase in enforcement actions being brought to the Board when comparing FY16 to FY15, resulting in an increase in work load.

Vice President Ballantyne inquired if this report is going to be provided each meeting. Dr. Karol Schmidt advised yes.

Superintendent Douglas requested a copy of the statistical data as part of the report on the backlog and the current workload be included in future Board packets.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Any matter on the Consent Agenda will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed as a regular agenda item upon the request of any Board member.

President Miller inquired if any members would like items to be pulled.

Member Carter requested that Item 2 B be pulled.

Vice President Ballantyne moved to accept the Consent Agenda minus Item B. Seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the Consent Agenda minus Item B.

All approved.

A. Approval of the following contracts:

1. Migrant Education Grant
2. Math and Science Partnership Grant
3. Adult Education Refugee Pilot

B. Approval of additional monies for Teacher Compensation for fiscal year(FY) 2015-2016.

Member Carter advised that he has to declare a conflict of interest as he is a County School Superintendent and requested that he recuse himself from this vote. He is part of a one member governing board for Yavapai County.

It was moved by Vice President Ballantyne and seconded by Member Taylor to approve Item B. Motion passed with vote of 7-0-1.

C. Approval of Maria Smalling as an Individual Trainer to deliver required structured English immersion training 45 hour completion course.

D. Approval or Career Ladder funding for Window Rock Unified School District for FY14 and FY15.

E. Approval of permanent revocation of any and all educator certificates, pursuant to A.R.S. 15-550, held by:

1. Nina Walaya Bryan
2. Jaime Miguel Campos
3. Randy John Escobedo
4. Kathleen Renee Gross
5. Otis Magee, Jr.
6. Martin Zazueta-Suarez

F. Approval of the voluntary surrender of the educator certificates held by:

1. Mark A. Biagi
2. Brandon L. Caramellino
3. Sylvia Foulkes-Marshall
4. Nicole R. Minter
5. Juan F. Usias
6. Timothy Verdick

G. Approval of the Move On When Reading (MOWR) LEA Literacy plans which have been reviewed for release of K-3 Reading Base Support funds.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

John Kain—Instructional technology coordinator. He begged the Board to not administer students of Arizona the online AzMERIT. He advised it is developmentally harmful for young students and is poorly designed.

Ed Sanchez—Government Affairs Director of Stand for Children. He stated that he is afraid that not all student data is being used for teacher evaluations and there is a gap in what is being recorded vs. what is required.

Superintendent Douglas requested that he further explain his statement to clarify if all data is not being used or if there is data that should be excluded when school districts go through teacher evaluations. Mr. Sanchez responded that they are evaluated on all data, but they feel language says they don't have to use all data.

Mark Del Maestro—American patriot - Concerned about the cost of freedom for education not being taught in schools.

4. GENERAL SESSION

A. Presentation and discussion regarding legislative affairs. The Board may take action to support, oppose or remain neutral on specific legislative proposals.

Brooke White—Axiom lobbyist for the Board—made a presentation on legislative updates.

To answer a question at the January meeting, Ms. White advised that House Majority Leader Representative Montenegro was on Education Committee last session, but confirmed is not this session.

Funding restoration of JTEDs—after much negotiation, this bill restoring the funding cuts to the JTEDs with last year’s budget was created and supported by the House and Senate, SB 1525. Signed by Governor and enacted immediately.

Menu of Assessment Bills—sponsored by both Education Committee Chairs—requires the Board to select a Menu of Assessments. LEAs may submit waiver to select an assessment not on the Menu.

Providers must provide proof that the assessments are rigorous.

1313—allows A&B schools to apply for Alternative Certification for teachers.

1416—Awaiting COW. Superintendent Douglas inquired at Senate Education Committee why Axiom was involved with writing of this bill and on whose authority they acted on. She stated that the A-F Accountability bill was the only bill discussed during the Board meetings. The Superintendent requested clarification on who is supposed to be lobbying for the Board, as the Executive Director is lobbying and not the Axiom representative, and wondered how the Board can have a unified voice when there was no vote by the Board. President Miller advised that due to speed and structure of legislative session there is not time for the Board to vote, and alleged that language in statute suggests that they can do this. President Miller advised that no one in connection with the Board has had input into this bill or testified for it.

1430—A-F Accountability—Awaiting COW. Member Taylor advised that he saw some opportunities to provide more unified support and has some additional items he wanted to see in the bill. President Miller stated that they had held 5 or 6 subcommittee meetings to make the bill comprehensive and that he felt disappointed that things were not covered because they weren’t raised. President Miller suggested that the only recourse is direct solicitation to legislators if it is a major concern. Member Taylor advised that he thought that since he wasn’t on the committee he should wait until it was brought before the Board, but there wasn’t a previous opportunity for his voice to be heard.

Member Taylor said that one major concern is that it seems that only schools with AP credit would be getting points.

1455—When Ms. White read off the number for the striker bill 1455; Member Taylor stated that he wants a definition of “alternative local assessment.” Ms. White advised that the bill does not define it, but that she will provide clarification after having a conversation with stakeholders in relation to the menu of assessments. She clarified that the local assessment opt-in choice was not on the previously heard Menu of Assessments bill.

Member Taylor also advised that no matter what happens with opt-out Legislation this year and in years to come, parents will continue to opt-out, and stated that schools and teachers should not be punished for those actions.

President Miller advised that we do not have an accountability system as long as we have opt-out system. He asserted that this and other opt-out bills would pose real problems, as they take away our credibility for holding any schools accountable.

Ms. White suggested that this bill is designed to try to get parents to opt-in to different tests.

Superintendent Douglas advised that the Striker was to move from the House to the Senate to make it more of an opt-in to alternative testing. She advised that regardless of the 95% federal testing requirement, this is still a fight over parent's rights and if parents have more authority than the federal government over their children's education.

Carter inquired about school transportation subsidies and current year funding. White advised not much has been revealed in discussions over current year funding and there are no bills on school bus funding.

1502-CTE Teaching Certification—This bill exempts teachers from certification requirements if they've been teaching without certification for over 5 years.

Member Taylor wanted to discuss HB2088 and informed consent and data privacy. He asserted that these topics are considered a high priority, and that he wants teacher information protected as well as student information.

Superintendent Douglas clarified that ADE does not provide personal information on teachers, just certifications they hold. President Miller advised that since schools post the certifications of their teachers in their district website, and those are posted on the ADE website, then someone could and has used that information to find a specific teacher for harmful purposes.

CALL FROM THE PUBLIC—Itasca Small.

Ms. Small wanted to speak about the representation of the Board at the legislature. She stated that the Executive Director of the Board, Dr. Karol Schmidt, testified at 1416 and the 1455 in the name of the Board in her role as Executive Director. Ms. Small stated that the Board is a constitutional entity; the Board is an "it", and not its members individually, and as such is incapable of acting on its own other than through the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She stated there is no Constitutional authority for the Executive Director to represent the Board or even exist, as the Superintendent is labelled as the Secretary of the Board in Arizona law. She listed off statute and passages from the state constitution related to the separate authorities. She advised that she has a bill covering this issue written and is leaving a copy for the Board.

B. Presentation of literature review and state policies regarding third grade proficiency levels.

Dr. Leila Williams made presentation on the Move on When Reading (MOWR) White Page Report.

Member Jacks advised that he is pleased this is being assessed. He advised of local issues with scores ranging from 7% to 30% in AzMERIT. He is happy to have the K-3 Reading grant that came along with

AzMERIT, but is happier to see alternatives developed. He concedes this is a “Stair Step” approach and that he consequently hopes to see better results this year.

Member Hamilton advised that teachers will need a lot of help, especially in kindergarten. She suggested a menu might be helpful, allowing them to prioritize and pick more meaningful testing topics. Leila Williams advised that a portfolio was considered, but would depend upon flexibility with how grant monies could be utilized. She mentioned a 35 teacher pilot and advised that she will have more information forthcoming.

Vice President Ballantyne inquired as to when the Board will hear about the next steps to move forward. Leila Williams advised this was to provide the Board information that was requested after they approved this program back in the fall. She advised that ADE could investigate any of the proposed ideas based on feedback. President Miller advised they will review this document and have her come back at the March or April Board meeting with the Board comments.

C. Presentation regarding updates on the K-6 technology based language development and literacy intervention software for English language learners.

Presentation of this item was made by Ashley Berg. She advised of the need to extend the timeline for the Pilot to 2 years. Kelly Koenig, the Deputy Associate Superintendent of the Office of English Language Acquisition Services (OELAS) also provided updates on the program.

Dr. Schmidt requested to clarify that she had contacted JLBC on appropriations for these programs and found they were in the ADE budget not the Board budget.

D. Approval of the Arizona Charter School Program, project year 2017-2019 sub-grantees.

Member Jared Taylor requested a point of order as he needed to recuse himself for conflict of interest on this matter.

Dr. Schmidt advised that this was originally on the Consent Agenda but she pulled it for Member Taylor.

Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the Arizona Charter School Program sub-grantees.

All in favor of approving.

E. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to revoke the certification of Nicholas Ashby.

Presented by Assistant Attorney General Mr. Eric Schwartz. Nicholas Ashby was in attendance. Mr. Schwartz advised that on July 20th 2015, while working in Poston Butte High School, Mr. Ashby was found acting erratically and smelled of alcohol. He was administered a breathalyzer exam and subsequently submitted his resignation. He agreed to undergo alcohol treatment. When it came time to

recommend discipline instead of revocation, Mr. Schwartz advised that he suggested simply suspension of Mr. Ashby's teaching certificate provided he continue treatment, but the PPAC suggested revocation.

Vice President Ballantyne advised that he is troubled not only by the alcohol abuse but also the suggested suicidal actions in the record while on campus.

Member Schmidt requested a statement from Mr. Ashby. He advised he is recovering from alcoholism and is seeking treatment on mental health and wellness as well as alcohol treatment. He advised that he was suffering from stress and external issues and handled it inappropriately, but has overcome these issues. He advised that he is currently working.

Moved by Member Taylor and seconded by Vice President Ballantyne to revoke the certificate of Mr. Nicholas Ashby.

All in favor to revoke Certificate. President Miller advised that the Board cannot take the risk.

F. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to suspend the certification of the following individuals:

1. Lynn Hanna aka Lynn Ruhge

The Accused was not present. Mr. Schmidt advised that Ms. Ruhge was working as a Special Education teacher and tendered her resignation before her contract was expired and did not have her resignation approved by governing board, which is an example of unprofessional conduct. She additionally did not the pay fee stipulated in her district's contract for resignation before completing her contractual terms, but she allegedly found another job at the ADE before she submitted her resignation, which she later denied. The PPAC voted to recommend a 1 year suspension of her certificate if she pays the \$1000 liquidated damages fine stipulated in agreement, but in the event she didn't, the suspension would extend beyond a year until she did. Mr. Schwartz doesn't advise that we should enforce contracts for employment to things we are not a party to.

Member Schmidt advised that he is troubled that the Board is being brought into concerns over contract law and that the Board shouldn't get involved.

Vice President Ballantyne also advised of concerns over a split vote in transcript. Advised that we have dealt with contract breaks before and is wondering over validity of "facts" that seem to be conflicting. Also requests clear statement over what Mr. Schwartz thinks the ruling ought to be.

Mr. Schwartz advised that PPAC removed from record that she had found job at ADE before quitting, because there is no proof. He advised that the Board should decide if the weight of evidence leads us to decide one or the other.

Member Carter advised law doesn't specify that it matters why contract was broken, valid or invalid, only matters if it was accepted by governing board.

Mr. Schwartz responded to VP Ballantyne's question of wording, and he advised that he would move to revoke the certificate for 1 year, not get involved in contract law.

President Miller requested the opinion of Assistant Attorney General Kim Anderson on how to not get involved in contract law. She advised that the additional language raises a couple of issues, in that the breach of contract caused them to come to Board, not Ms. Ruhge's refusal to pay the fee. She advised that the district should pursue this in Court.

Vice President Ballantyne advised that he is still concerned over employment.

Superintendent Douglas advised that she is concerned over what is accurate—the Board packet or things in the record that were not presented to the Board. Mr. Schwartz advised that testimony and items found to be “fact” in hearing are what is included in packet.

Member Taylor inquired about why they are suspending an expired certificate. He also asked when the year suspension would theoretically start. Mr. Schwartz advised that the Board can take action against revoked or expired certificate. Reasoning would be to hold teachers accountable in case of review of unprofessional conduct against teachers whose certifications are about to expire. This assures the teacher wouldn't be able to renew or apply for different certificate. Mr. Schwartz would recommend that the suspension start today.

Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Jacks, to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and a portion of the recommendations of the PPAC to suspend any and all certificates held by Lynn Hannah aka Lynn Ruhge for a period of one year as of the date approved and adopted by the Board and that all states and territories be so notified.

Superintendent Douglas recommended that the Board have a study session over standard consequences and lack of consistency to give to the PPAC; they should have guidelines created by the Board.

Member Carter advised that he also suggested a joint training between this Board and PPAC at the last board meeting.

Chuck Schmidt explained that he voted No because the school seems to have broken the contract on their end before she tendered her resignation and gave her additional duties, then used the contract as a bludgeoning hammer to enforce the contract that she didn't agree to.

All others Aye. Passed.

2. Wallace Kellett

Mr. Schwartz advised that Mr. Kellett was another who breached a contract in employment. The PPAC voted to recommend a 1 year suspension and enforcement of the district's \$2,500 liquidated damages fine. Mr. Schwartz advised that he recommends that the Board remove requirement to pay damages in contract from their decision.

Miller stated that Board should not be an arbiter of contract law, regardless of whether teacher was given approval from local board.

Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Jacks, to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and a portion of the recommendations of the PPAC to suspend any and all certificates held by Wallace Kellett for a period of one year as of the date approved and adopted by the Board and that all states and territories be so notified.

Superintendent Douglas advised that teachers quitting without board approval creates huge problems with the school. She stated that the Board needs to have a meeting before the Board hears any more PPAC "breach of contract" cases. She noted that the teacher being present at one meeting and not at another caused the PPAC to change their tone and is distressing.

President Miller advised that the Board cannot refuse to hear PPAC cases with the current backlog of decisions they are under.

Member Schmidt is opposed, all others voted Aye.

G. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to approve the settlement agreement for Alison M. Smith-Rodriguez

Mr. Schwartz advised that students reported they smelled alcohol on Ms. Smith-Rodriguez and was she found to have blood alcohol level of .08 at 10:00 AM and subsequently resigned her employment from the school. Mr. Schwartz advised that she had called in today, but not available right now. She has a Settlement Agreement for 1 year suspension of certificate and is undergoing substance abuse treatment.

Vice President Ballantyne advised that he is curious over pattern of recommendations from committee over abuse of alcohol. He stated he has concerns over Chairman's comment about not thinking this is sufficient. Schwartz advised the chairman, Mr. Samson, suggested retroactive suspension.

Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Jacks, to approve the proposed settlement agreement to issue a one year suspension of any and all certificates held by Alison M Smith-Rodriguez with the following conditions: that she shall participate in counseling or therapy and furnish a letter of proof of completion of sufficient treatment to resume teaching.

Superintendent Douglas inquired why we received summary of minutes where in other cases we received transcript. Mr. Schwartz advised that it is because they don't use a court recorder for transcripts for a settlement. He advised that they may be able to request a recording as part of Board Packet. Superintendent Douglas suggested this might be a practice because there isn't an appeals process for settlements.

In the roll call, Superintendent Douglas voted Nay because she feels this is the same punishment as those who breached their contract but the Board voted to revoke the certificate for those who were found to be intoxicated previously.

Member Taylor also votes Nay.

All others voted Aye.

The motion does pass.

H. Presentation, discussion and possible action to adopt amendments to the Investigative Unit Handbook.

Dr. Schmidt advised of changes made to the handbook and the negotiated settlement agreements. She advises they are seeking to amend policy so that negotiated settlement agreements are presented to the Board directly, not to the PPAC then the Board. This will significantly cut down on time as it often takes 21 days to mail and receive a response. There is clarifying language that suggests that if the respondent has legal council will meet only with the executive staff. Dr. Schmidt advised that this was not contested by the PPAC as it will help to ease their workload.

Member Carter inquired who drafted the changes. Dr. Schmidt advised that this was worked out between herself and the Attorney General's office. It is supported by the PPAC Chairs to expedite process.

Member Taylor inquired how many people per month would go through expedited process. Dr. Schmidt advised that she expects around 25 per month to be heard by the Board.

Vice President Ballantyne moved, seconded by Member Carter, to adopt the recommended amendments to the Investigative Unit Policy Handbook.

Superintendent Douglas opposes this because it wasn't provided to ADE as in ARS § 15-203(A)(23) the investigations should be conducted by ADE by law, and should be developed in cooperation with the Certification Department.

All others approved. Motion passes.

I. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding motivational assessments pursuant to A.R.S. 15-704(A).

Dr. Schmidt advised of assessments found in the field that measure motivation towards reading. She clarified it is not required of the Board to design, just define the tests. The LEAs are free to create their own if consistent with Board's definition.

Member Jacks inquired how long this has been in the A.R.S. without the Board taking action on it. Dr. Schmidt advised has been in statute for a number of years, but has not been addressed in past. She advised that the funding for the assessment would come from MOWR funds.

President Miller suggested that the Board should bring this requirement to the attention of the Superintendent's Title 15 Advisory Committee that preens Title 15 to remove burdensome statute.

Member Taylor inquired if there is latitude or flexibility over assessments. Dr. Schmidt advised that it is available to them at low costs. It is designed to be a very broad measure of motivation or attitude towards reading. Member Taylor inquired of President Miller if LEAs are okay with this. He advised that teachers are already doing this on a daily basis during the course of their work and that it should be removed. Dr. Schmidt advised could strike item from the agenda.

Amy Hamilton advised that the Board's requirements on this need to be as general as possible just need to gauge motivation.

Superintendent Douglas inquired if it would be better to be designed as a teacher gauge of interest rather than a test; perhaps simply an evaluation of students by the teacher in their records. Member Hamilton advised that teachers are already tired of testing requirements and doesn't help with making students more motivated. The students will like reading if they are good at it, and they will not like it if they are bad: Testing won't help them.

Dr. Schmidt advised that it should be amended to allow teachers to do what they need to do. The motivational assessment measures motivational attitudes towards reading and can be used to monitor reading motivation to be used for intervention.

Member Taylor made a motion, seconded by Vice President Ballantyne to adopt a definition of a reading motivational assessment to be: a motivational assessment measures motivation or attitudes toward reading and produces information to monitor student progress.

All in favor.

J. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding Board's duties as chief education authority for administration and supervision of grants.

Member Schmidt advised that it is important for accounting and transparency that the Board can be given presentations on grant status annually from ADE.

Today, Associate Superintendent Mary Szafranski made a presentation on the Character Education Matching Grant program. Schools put in a request to ADE for reimbursement of their program provider. Once the grant has been approved, schools are open to receive reimbursement requests. If schools don't utilize the money by the end of the year, they must submit a completion report.

Member Schmidt advised of inquiries he has received from the field by vendors who were declined and wanted to know basis of decline. Mrs. Szafranski advised that we did not decline vendors, rather, schools submit an application and identify which vendors they want to work with. Schools either received award based on their scores or they did not. It is the LEA's choice as to whether they use a vendor or not.

President Miller advised that we are hampered, but hopes that we can get a broader reach of vendors so that we do not hurt schools that are trying to be creative. It is open for anyone to apply for an RFP and the law identifies what we are looking for in a vendor. Even creative schools can apply as a vendor. It is based on state law and procurement codes.

Superintendent Douglas advised that quality vendors can't comply with all the things procurement code requires and it is bureaucratically difficult to release funds.

Member Jacks advised of item 2A2, which is a Mathematics and Science Partnership Program. He inquired how these grants are advertised and selections are made. He suggested that if we aren't getting the opportunity for grants out, the Board needs to look at advertising.

Member Jacks inquired if a LEA could be a vendor. Mrs. Szafranski advised that a school just needs to apply.

K. Presentation, discussion and possible action to initiate rulemaking procedures for proposed amendments to rules R7-2-603 regarding Professional Administrative Standards.

Mark McCall, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Educator Excellence, presented this item. These are a set of proposed standard amendments to the Professional Standards for Education Leaders. He advised that it expands the focus on student achievement and effectiveness.

Member Taylor cautioned that this is an example of open rulemaking. The Board wants to make it simple and more focused, and said that this may be a step backwards.

President Miller stated that this may impact the principal certification test.

Mr. McCall stated that this is guidance from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) expanding the standards on to cover the whole child and every student. He stated that it is already in our framework and advised that it is found to be lacking in the field. He clarified it is focused on teacher effectiveness, not leader effectiveness.

Superintendent Douglas advised that she looked at the organization of the national policy board and it is composed of 10 lobbying and trade organizations. She stated that she doesn't approve as she fears it is another set of Top-Down regulations from D.C. trying to tell us how to do things in Arizona. She suggested that it might be better to have this issue opened up to the public. She is concerned about the agendas behind it.

Vice President Ballantyne inquired if the ADE put this item on the agenda. Mr. McCall advised that staff in the Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders (HETL) division brought this forward, but the Superintendent doesn't approve. He stated their only goal was to have best practices initiated in our communication.

Member Carter inquired how this framework came to Department. Mr. McCall advised that it came from national guidance as to how we should look to improve educator excellence.

Member Carter advised that this information from a national organization, but it needs to involve open rulemaking. He stated that the process should be in place before the standards are written and vetted before coming to the Board. Arizona needs to be brought to the table to be able to meet our unique needs. Member Carter advised he would be hesitant to approve. It needs to be vetted in the field first.

President Miller advised that definitions in language needs to be investigated.

Member Schmidt stated he is still trying to figure out who wrote this. He advised he is also concerned over the language. He stated he will vote against it as it needs to be vetted, there is too much open to interpretation. It should be focused on educating children but it is a political quagmire. He stated it needs to be made for Arizona.

Vice President Ballantyne inquired if this request can be withdrawn until after it has been vetted. Mark McCall advised that we can.

Superintendent Douglas advised that ADE had not been brought to the table.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, FUTURE MEETING DATES AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDS. The executive director, presiding officer or a member of the Board may present a brief summary of current events pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.01(K), and may discuss future meeting dates and direct staff to place matters on a future agenda. The Board will not discuss or take action on any current event summary.

Member Hamilton would like to get more information about online AzMERIT test and progress as suggested by Mr. King who spoke during the Call to the Public.

Vice President Ballantyne stated that he is pleased with the new presentation of the SBE board packet.

Member Taylor advised that part of the confusion over legislative activity is Board priorities, and wants to know how input over Board legislative agenda is brought forth. He also wants a report from the ADE over how Arizona is preparing our students for success in AzMERIT.

Member Schmidt agrees it is important to sit down with positions and the procedural rules over Board legislative activity. He also wants an update on litigation.

Member Carter that he agrees he wants input into the legislative process and suggested a summer retreat be held dealing specifically with legislation like other organizations do. He envisions that it would cover "core value" statements and to clarify whether the Board is taking a proactive or reactive stance.

President Miller reminded the Board that the March 21st Board meeting is being held at West-MEC. He also stated he is going to set a date for a study session in April regarding the Investigative Unit.

Vice President Ballantyne suggested that the Board could hold the additional retreat in early fall.

Motion to Adjourn

Adjourned at 12:24 PM.