DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019
5:00pm

Cafeteria
Sussex Central High School
26026 Patriots Way, Georgetown, DE 19947

Members Present: Nina Lou Bunting; Candice Fifer; Vincent Lofink; Dr. Audrey Noble; Dorcas Olatunji; Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.; and Wali Rushdan II.

Members Absent: Whitney Sweeney

Others Present: Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Dr. Susan Bunting, SBE Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Education, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE); Emily Cunningham, DDOE; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Leroy Travers, DDOE; Deb Hansen, DDOE; Theresa Bennett, DDOE; Kathy Kelly, DDOE; Cary Knight, DDOE; Jennifer Davis, DDOE; Dr. Linnea Bradshaw, Professional Standards Board; Laura Makransky, DDOJ/PSB; Mark Steele, Indian River School District (IRSD); Celeste Bunting, IRSD; Renee Jerns, IRSD; Iaunia Orklus, Wilmington University; Douglas Garcia, College Board; Tammy Croce, DASA; Judith Loeber, IRSD; Darryl Parson, DDOJ/DDOE; Mike Curry, Wilmington University.

I. Opening

A. Call to Order:

Dr. Noble called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call of State Board Members

Ms. Ahner conducted roll call for the meeting with seven members present (Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Olatunji, Powell, and Rushdan).

C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the November 21, 2019 agenda as presented. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

D. Approval of September 19, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

E. Approval of October 24, 2019 Professional Learning Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No with 1 Abstention – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Powell, and Rushdan; Abstention: Dr. Noble).

F. Approval of October 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Ms. Bunting to approve the October 24, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No with 1 Abstention – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Powell, and Rushdan; Abstention: Dr. Noble).

II. State Board Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Committee and Meeting Reports

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Mr. Lofink joined Ms. Ahner at Eisenberg Elementary as Principal for a Day. He visited Howard High School to learn more about their finance academy, and joined Dr. Bunting for a pathways grant release event in Dover. Mr. Rushdan reported that he attended the initial Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) meeting and the charter school public hearings. He participated in a Communities in Schools event and the P-20 Council's Early Literacy Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Olatunji reported that she attended a Youth in Government event and is continuing to work toward hosting a forum in each county for students to provide input on issues facing students. Dr. Noble reported that she attended the initial CSAC meetings, the P-20 Council's Early Literacy Subcommittee meeting, and the DSBA Board of Directors meeting. She joined Ms. Ahner at the Teacher Advisory Council meeting.

2. CTE Committee Update

Ms. Ahner and Mr. Lofink shared information regarding the CTE Committee. The committee continues to gather stakeholder input. The next CTE subcommittee meeting is December 4, 2019. Participants will discuss stakeholder engagement and the draft Perkins plan, which will be brought to the Board for discussion at the December 19, 2019 SBE meeting.

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office. She attended the DPAS II Advisory Committee meeting. She also discussed getting the word out about SBE meetings by utilizing groups, social media, and sending draft language to schools, all of which will focus on increasing attendance. She shared that the Redding Consortium had its last meeting of 2019; the next meeting is in February 2020. Two workgroups were formed: high quality educators in the classroom, and governance and redistricting. Board members asked whether the group was working within its timeline and who is serving on the high-quality educators subcommittee.

III. Secretary's Report

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report, details of which have been posted online. Board members asked questions about the percentage of unlicensed teachers in charter schools and about the Christina School District's progress toward school reconfiguration.

IV. Presentations

A. Indian River School District Presentation

Dr. Noble welcomed Dr. Mark Steele, Superintendent of the Indian River School District (IRSD). Dr. Steele spoke about the IRSD's programs and accomplishments. Board members inquired about accommodating population growth, student feedback regarding pathways and programs, and how Opportunity Funding is utilized.

V. Regulations

A. PSB Regulations for Discussion or Action

1. Regulation 1501 – Knowledge, Skills, and Responsibility Based Salary Supplements

Regulation 1501 was tabled at the October 24, 2019 meeting pending more information. Dr. Linnea Bradshaw, Executive Director, Professional Standards Board, and Ms. Laura Makransky, Deputy Attorney General, representing the Professional Standards Board, provided language from state code and epilogue. Board members discussed national certification supplements for principals and assistant principals. Board members asked about the removal of the cap for salary supplements.

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve Regulation 1501 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan; No: Bunting).

2. Regulation 1522 – Elementary School Counselor

Dr. Bradshaw and Ms. Makransky reported that the Professional Standards Board (PSB) recommended at its November 7, 2019 meeting that Regulations 1522 and 1545 be presented to the SBE. Jennifer Davis, Education Associate, Student Services and Special Populations, DDOE, was present to answer questions about the regulation. Board members asked questions about the inclusion of trauma-information instruction for school counselors.

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve Regulation 1522 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

3. Regulation 1545 – Secondary School Counselor

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan to approve Regulation 1545 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

4. Regulation 1549 – Dance Teacher

Dr. Bradshaw, Ms. Makransky, and Deb Hansen, Education Associate, Visual & Performing Arts and Gifted & Talented Education, DDOE, were present to answer questions about Regulations 1549, 1558, 1560, and 1563.

Board members thanked the PSB for providing extensive answers to the questions posed at the October meeting and stated that the Board wants quality teachers in all content areas in all schools. Board members asked questions about the second certification requirements in other states with consideration of the pay differences in those states. Board members asked how credits or professional development could be made more easily available or more convenient for teachers. They asked why the PSB chose to begin with the arts regulations. Members inquired about whether the PSB intends to apply these requirements for second certification to other content areas, what the criteria for making these decisions was, and if there are any unintended consequences to making this shift. Board members asked questions about the number of educators impacted by this change.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan to approve Regulation 1549 as presented. ***The motion failed for lack of a second.***

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink to table Regulation 1549. ***The motion failed for lack of a second.***

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Bunting to not approve Regulation 1549 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, and Powell; No: Rushdan).

5. Regulation 1558 – Theater Teacher

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Bunting to not approve Regulation 1558 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, and Powell; No: Rushdan).

6. Regulation 1560 – Art Teacher

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Bunting to not approve Regulation 1560 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, and Powell; No: Rushdan).

7. Regulation 1563 – Music Teacher

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Bunting to not approve Regulation 1563 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 1 No – Yes: Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, and Powell; No: Rushdan).

B. Department of Education Regulations

1. Regulation 902 – Gifted or Talented Education Plan

Emily Cunningham, Chief of Staff, DDOE and Ms. Hansen provided information on Regulation 902. Board members asked questions about the process for identifying gifted and talented students.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve Regulation 902 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

2. Regulation 615 – School Attendance

This regulation has been posted for public comment. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this regulation may do so in writing on or before December 4, 2019 to the DDOE.

3. Regulation 851 - K to 12 Comprehensive Health Education Program

This regulation has been posted for public comment. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this regulation may do so in writing on or before December 4, 2019 to the DDOE.

C. Public Comment on Regulations

Tammy Croce, Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators, provided comment in opposition to Regulations 1549, 1558, 1560, and 1563.

Judith Loeber, Arts Educator, Sussex Central High School, provided comment in support of Regulations 1549, 1558, 1560, and 1563.

VI. Presentations

A. WIDA English Language Development Standards

Theresa Bennett, Director of Office of Assessment, DDOE and Cary Knight, Field Agent, DDOE presented information on English learners in ESSA, English language proficiency for accountability, the WIDA Consortia, and the ACCESS assessment. They provided information on USED Peer Review Feedback and provided information on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Board members discussed the English Language Development Standards.

B. State Board of Education role in adoption of English Language Development Standards

Board members asked if it is appropriate to take on this new role and asked about the alignment with the Board's strategic plan and priorities.

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Bunting to take on the role of approving English Language Development Standards. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No - Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

C. Department of Education Budget Request

Ms. Cunningham provided an overview of the budget process and provided information on the Department of Education's FY21 Budget request.

Board members asked questions regarding how the priorities were established, how certificates of necessity are prioritized, and how school safety funding is allocated.

VII. Charter Schools

A. Charter Schools Update

Leroy Travers, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE, provided the monthly update for Odyssey Charter School. Board members asked questions about the status of updating the school's bylaws and how the school will show evidence that it has made an effort to create a gender balance. Board members clarified the number of Board members that will be appointed by AHEPA and posed questions about how the conditions from the Formal Review will be considered in the renewal process. Board members asked for information on the status of the recovery of funds, about the status and timing of the audit, and if that will be considered as a part of the record for renewal.

B. Charter School Renewals

Board members discussed the process and next steps for the Charter School Accountability Committee. They discussed the importance of reviewing the record, including public hearing transcripts, and will share any comments or questions with Dr. Noble and Mr. Rushdan for consideration during the CSAC meetings.

Board members discussed questions regarding findings in the audit for Odyssey Charter School and discussed the desire of Gateway to expand and purchase a new building.

VIII. Formal Public Comment

No public comment was received.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Mr. Rushdan. ***The motion carried*** (6 Yes to 0 No – Bunting, Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the "audio recordings" section of the State Board of Education's website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.
Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education