

Missouri NEA State Board Report

*Notes from May 19, 2015 meeting of the State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Activities of board members:

- Victor Lentz-- Attended two Normandy Collaborative School Board meetings and Superintendent's Round Table.
- Charlie Shields-- Met with superintendents in the Kansas City area and discussed advocacy at the capital.
- Russ Still-- Attended the Partners in Education breakfast in Columbia.

State Board of Education Elects officers for a two year term

Vice President of the State Board of Education, Mike Jones, explained he would not accept the position of president of the state board. He gave three reasons for his decision. First, the next president must develop a relationship with the state legislature and his political positions would not allow him to be that person. Second, Mr. Jones wants to work on the transfer issue. Third, he wants to focus his efforts on helping Normandy Schools Collaborative. Mr. Jones understands that the president of the school board is the spokesperson for the board on all issues, not just issues of one individual. Mr. Jones stated that teacher unions have the opinion about Normandy of "we will do anything as long as it is not hard or different." After his comments, Mr. Jones nominated former state senator Charlie Shields for President and Victor Lentz, former superintendent, as Vice President of the Missouri State Board of Education. Both were elected unanimously.

Status report on Normandy Schools Collaborative presents to State Board of Education

April 14, 2015, the Joint Education Governing Board named Dr. Charles Pearson as the next Superintendent of Normandy School Collaborative (NSC). Dr. Pearson had been serving as the interim superintendent after the resignation of Dr. Ty McNichols. DESE reported to the state board that Normandy's financial picture is better than anticipated. This is due to the decrease in the number of students that transferred out of the district last year (424) and the 544 students eligible to transfer in the 2015-16 school year. While the financial picture is better, the district is still in financial crisis mode which means that the district will have difficulty providing all the resources needed to educate the 3500 students enrolled at Normandy for the 2015-16 school year.

Next year the district will move sixth grade from the middle school back to the elementary schools. NSC is exploring the possibility of reopening an elementary building for just kindergarten students. The district has sixty certified positions to fill for 2015-2016 school year. Candidates will have to demonstrate a lesson plan during the interview process.

Caruthersville 18 and Hayti R-II school districts present status reports

J.J. Bullington, Caruthersville Superintendent, and Jackie Jackson, new Superintendent of Hayti, presented an update on the development and implementation of their respective school improvement plans. Ms. Bullington explained that Caruthersville has a student population of 1196 students. The district qualified as a Community Eligibility School, which means the district is considered 100% free and reduce lunch.

Caruthersville Annual Performance Percentage Report percentage points:
2012--73.2%, 2013—61.1%, 2014—82.9% and 2015 projection—82%
Attendance: 2012—89.7%, 2013—88.6% and 2014—90.5%

The academic goal each year is to increase student achievement by 3%. Ms. Bullington explained that the increase in student test scores is due to small group interventions. Based on data, targeted students were pulled out for intervention throughout the school year. The pullout program started in 2012.

Hayti R-II Annual Performance Percentage Report percentage points for:
2013—52.5% and 2014—53.2%

Mr. Jackson explained some of the strategies to improve academic achievement. Reconfiguration of the grade levels; elementary will be K-4 instead of K-6; there will now be a 5-8 middle school and 9-12 high school instead of 7-12 secondary school; and rearranging of staff in the elementary and middle school to address ELA needs. Hayti has hired an individual responsible for attendance. That person will do home visits and update administration regularly on attendance numbers throughout the year.

The first annual report presented to DESE from the Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Children

The Gifted Advisory Council was established by SB 17 (2013) to provide advice regarding all rules and policies to be adopted by the State Board of Education relating to the education of gifted and talented children. Appointed members began meeting in January 2014. Over the following sixteen months, the Council gathered data related to DESE-approved gifted programs, student-served program expenditures and comparison states.

Gifted education no longer has specific funds allocated for gifted programs. Their funds have been rolled into the states general revenue and allocated to the district to budget as needed. Since the rollover of funds to general revenue, there has been a 16% decline in district funding for gifted education. Missouri and Illinois are the only states in the surrounding area that do not have a state gifted program mandate. Gifted education does not have a federal mandate or federal funding as special education does; therefore for every \$1,000 spent on gifted education, \$20,000 is spent on Special Education.

DESE presents update of Missouri's Equity Plan

The U.S. Department of Education is requesting that each state education agency submit an Equity Plan that describes the steps it will take to ensure “poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers” as required by section 111(b)(8)(c) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA). The presentation included a review of the stakeholder engagement that has been

collected; the equity gaps that have been identified; potential strategies to address the gaps; and the process for monitoring the progress of the strategies. DESE explained six strategies as a part of their equity plan

- Recruit high quality and diverse individuals
- Ensure relevant and effective preparation
- Provide an adequate quantity of candidates
- Attract candidates to hard-to-staff areas and locations
- Ensure teacher support and development
- Ensure effective principals

Other Business

- State Board approved proposed Rulemaking for Early Learning Facilities Funding Formula for Lease Agreements. The formula will be used for facility lease cost incurred starting July 1, 2016. It is estimated this proposed rule will save DESE \$1,444,651.04.
- State Board approved a notice of proposed Rulemaking to amend Rule 5 CSR 20-600.110 General Provisions Governing Programs authorized under The Early Childhood Development Act. Proposed revisions include:
 - Increasing alignment to the Parents as Teachers National Center curriculum implementations
 - Encouraging programs to offer participating families all four components of the Parents as Teachers Program
- Constance Rush, Director of Legislative Outreach, presented to the state board the legislative update.
- Ron Lankford, Deputy Commissioner, and Shari Le Page, CFO, gave an update on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

The next meeting of the state board of education will be June 15-16, 2015. Missouri NEA will be there! If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236. Details of state board agenda items can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/stateboard/meetings/agendas.htm>.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Fullington, Vice President, MNEA

Brent.Fullington@mnea.org

Ann Jarrett, Teaching and Learning Director, MNEA

Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org