

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Public Schools Agenda – April 20, 2000

8:15 a.m. - 11:00

Eastern Idaho Technical College

Alexander D. Creek Building, Room 541

- A. Proposed School Accreditation Process, Bob Haley**
- B. Requests for Letters of Authorization, Bob West**
- C. Physical Education Waiver Request, Lewiston District, Bob West**
- D. Property Transfer Between Shoshone #312 and Dietrich #314, Bob West**
- E. ICTL Accountability Report, Cliff Green**
- F. Superintendent's Report, Marilyn Howard**

A. SUBJECT:

G. Proposed School Accreditation Process

BACKGROUND:

Idaho Code 33-119 gives the State Board of Education the authority to establish accreditation standards for secondary schools and set standards for elementary schools. On April 1, 1997, new State Board of Education rules went into effect that outlined the requirement that all public schools be State accredited. Four methods are given in the rules to which all schools respond.

The annual school accreditation report, filed by October 15 of each year, has been predominately a report of “inputs”. Considerable discussion has surfaced regarding the purpose of accreditation, how it helps schools, and what accountability is inherent in the process. While inputs may describe important aspects of program quality, ways to increase the “outputs” and their relative values have been recommended to be a significant part of the process.

DISCUSSION:

During the summer of 2000 Dr. Marilyn Howard named a ten person ad hoc committee chaired by Dr. Bob Haley to study the State's accreditation process and make recommendations. Schools were surveyed to gain their input and the committee met three times over the course of the summer. Three major improvement recommendations came out of the committee's work: (1) Amend Idaho Code, Section 33-119; (2) change State Board of Education rules to allow for only two ways to be accredited [Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Idaho State Accreditation Standards]; and (3) rewrite the criteria for the state accreditation standards to reflect an output driven process.

A report was delivered to the State Board at the October 2000 meeting requesting permission to conduct field tests of the changes being made in the state method of accreditation. The Board recommended strengthening the output frameworks and a review of changes before approval could be considered.

When the refinements are approved, the Department of Education will field-test the new accreditation reporting process. It is anticipated that language to amend Section 33-119, Idaho Code, and changes in State Board Administrative Rules for Elementary and Secondary Education that match the updated accreditation standards will be brought for discussion after field tests of the new standards have been established.

Dr. Haley will present an update on the refinements that have been made in the State Accreditation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The State Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education approve field-testing of the proposed public school accreditation process.

BOARD ACTION:

The State Board of Education approved/disapproved/tabled the State Department of Education's request to field test new accreditation process. Moved _____ by _____, seconded by _____, and carried.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Proposed School Accreditation Process

Note: Attachment not received in electronic format. For more information, contact Vicki Barker, State Board office, 208-334-2270.

B. SUBJECT:

H. Letters of Authorization

BACKGROUND:

At its March 8-9, 2001, meeting, the Professional Standards Commission approved one (1) Letter of Authorization for recommendation to the State Board of Education for its final approval.

Pertinent to the Letters of Authorization, State Board of Education Rule IDAPA 08.02.02.070.01 states that, "The final recommendation of the Commission will be submitted to the State Board of Education by the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The State Department of Education recommends that the State Board of Education give final approval for the Letters of Authorization that have been submitted as approved by the Professional Standards Commission at its March 8-9, 2001, meeting.

BOARD ACTION:

It was carried to approve/disapprove/table the requests for Letters of Authorization as submitted by the Professional Standards Commission and listed on the attachments. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, and carried.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A is a complete list of individuals for whom a request for a Letter of Authorization approval is being made. The request is being presented to the Board at its April 19-20, 2001, meeting.

[illegible]

C. SUBJECT:

Request for Waiver of State Board Rules - Lewiston Independent School District

BACKGROUND:

The Administrative Rules of the State Board of Education, IDAPA 08.02.03.104.02.a., list health (wellness) and physical education (fitness) as required courses for middle school/junior high school students.

DISCUSSION:

In April, 2000, the State Board granted a fourth, one year waiver of the above-referenced rule to Lewiston Independent School District, to give the district additional time to assess the impact of the rule on the junior high curriculum. The district had requested an "ongoing" waiver of the rule. Again, the district requests an "ongoing" waiver of this rule, based on considerations set forth by Superintendent Joy C. Rapp in her letter dated March 16, 2001 (see Attachment C.1.).

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Education recommends approval of a one-year waiver of IDAPA 08.02.03.104.02.a. for Lewiston Independent School District for the 2001-2002 school year.

The Department does not recommend approval of this waiver request on an ongoing basis.

BOARD ACTION:

The State Board of Education approved/disapproved/tabled the request for waiver of State Board Rules by Lewiston Independent School District as submitted. Moved by _____, seconded by _____ and carried.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Superintendent Rapp to Dr. West

Note: Attachment not received in electronic format. For more information, contact Vicki Barker, State Board office, 208-334-2270.

D. SUBJECT:

Petition to Transfer Property from Shoshone Jt. School District No. 312 to Dietrich School District No. 314

BACKGROUND:

A petition submitted under the provisions of § 33-308, Idaho Code, to transfer approximately 24 square miles of land from Shoshone Jt. School District No. 312 to Dietrich School District No. 314 was received by the Department of Education. Pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board, the Department appointed a hearing officer. A hearing was held on May 2, 2000, and the hearing officer recommended that the petition be approved and an election held. The State Board of Education at its meeting on November 17, 2000, remanded this matter to the hearing officer to review three issues. The hearing officer's comments were submitted for the Board's March meeting. The State Board of Education at its meeting on March 22, 2001, directed the Department of Education to draft a letter to both school districts asking them to research the potential financial impact of transferring federal lands in light of new federal legislation.

DISCUSSION:

The Department of Education has sent a letter to the school districts asking for the information requested by the State Board members. Their responses are attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The State Department of Education agrees with the hearing officer's initial recommendation to approve the petition to transfer property and allow the matter to be voted on by the electors in the area affected.

BOARD ACTION:

The State Board carried to approve/disapprove/table the hearing officer's recommendation to approve the petition to transfer property. It was moved by _____, seconded by _____, and carried.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Response from Shoshone School District
2. Response from Dietrich School District

Note: Attachments not received in electronic format. For more information, contact Vicki Barker, State Board office, 208-334-2270.

E. SUBJECT:

Presentation on the Accountability Report to the ICTL on the Idaho Technology Initiative

BACKGROUND:

The presentation will focus on the findings of a study prepared for the ICTL to measure the effect of technology on reading, math and language in K-12 public education between 1998 and 2000. Additionally, comparisons will be made to a similar study conducted in 1998.

F. SUBJECT:

Superintendent's Report