



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 15, 2018
Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held March 15, 2018 in the large conference room of the Office of the State Board of Education, Len B. Jordan Building, in Boise Idaho. Board President Dr. Linda Clark presided and called the meeting to order at 4:47 pm MST. A roll call of members was taken.

Present:

Dr. Linda Clark, President
Debbie Critchfield, Vice President
Emma Atchley
Andrew Scoggin

Don Soltman
Richard Westerberg
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

Absent:

Dr. David Hill, Secretary

PLANNING, POLICY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (PPGA)

1. House Bill 693 – Reading Intervention

M/S (Critchfield/Westerberg): I move the Board strongly supports a single statewide K-3 reading assessment administered and funded by the state; and that the Board will oppose any legislation which would remove the requirement for a single statewide K-3 reading assessment or eliminate state funding for the assessment. The Board reaffirms its support for transitioning from a pilot to a field test of the new reading assessment in year two (2018-2019). The motion carried 7-0. Dr. Hill was absent from voting.

Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Ms. Debbie Critchfield introduced the item, sharing with members the item before the Board today was brought forth in response to House Bill 693 (HB 693), however, the motion Board members would be voting on today would confirm the Board's position relative to a statewide reading assessment.

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Superintendent Ybarra then shared with members of the Board that as a constitutional officer she would testify against any legislation eliminating a statewide assessment for students. Superintendent Ybarra then reiterated her support for the motion before the Board today, adding that removal of a statewide K-3 reading assessment would prevent the collection of consistent data to determine whether Idaho students are on track towards grade level proficiency, would hurt Idaho's Accountability System, would prevent consistent statewide training and professional development for educators and would prevent consistent reporting of data at the district and state level.

Board member Soltman then shared with members of the Board feedback he received from Region I Superintendents who not only support the statewide K-3 reading assessment, but would also like to see the pilot extended.

Board member Scoggin then asked for the current status of House Bill 693 (HB693) to which Dr. Clark responded HB693 was introduced in the House this week and would remove the requirement for a statewide K-3 reading assessment to allow districts to make their own decision about what test to use. Dr. Clark then adds HB693 has no money attached and districts would have to secure funding for their selected assessment from other sources. She continues HB693 was scheduled for a hearing on March 16, 2018 and taken off the agenda March 15, 2018, however, it is still an active bill. Dr. Clark then shares with Board members feedback she received from Region III Superintendents who support the current assessment, and were willing to testify to legislators on the need for a statewide and state funded K-3 reading assessment.

Board member Westerberg then asked if HB693 would impact the state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan to which Superintendent Ybarra responded HB693 would impact the State Accountability Model as it would not provide a way for the State to determine progress. Superintendent Ybarra continued the state could revert back to the Legacy Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), however, a recent study found this model to be inappropriate and in need of updating. Superintendent Ybarra then reminds members the Board and Legislature adopted the State's Accountability Framework with the understanding the IRI would be updated according to the recommendations of the K-12 Education Taskforce (Taskforce) and that HB693 would impact both the ESSA Plan and accountability.

Superintendent Ybarra then adds HB693 not only puts the accountability model and how information is shared with parents at risk, but also impacts the ability for Kindergarten through Grade 2 educators to show movement on the Career Ladder. Superintendent Ybarra continues the lack of a statewide K-3 reading assessment would also directly affect Idaho's highly mobile student population, adding the lack of a statewide assessment would not allow for school districts to quickly intervene and assess students who move frequently between school districts.

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Dr. Clark then reminds Board members of the Taskforce recommendation to strengthen the statewide assessment and that the Literacy Committee, Technical Committee and Accountability Oversight Committee, all formed after the Taskforce recommendations, came back with the same recommendation for a statewide K-3 reading assessment.

Board member Critchfield then stated her concern that removal of a statewide K-3 reading assessment would prevent the collection of student progress data used to help inform policy and funding decisions until four years into a child's school experience.

Board member Scoggin then requested information on the rationale of HB693 to which Dr. Clark responded the authors and sponsors of HB693 believe the school districts are capable of selecting and administering their own assessments and that regardless of the test used the data could be converted to a statewide report.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was entertained.

M/S (Critchfield/Westerberg): To adjourn the meeting at 5:01 pm MST. The motion carried 7-0. Dr. Hill was absent from voting.