

MINUTES
Indiana State Board of Education Business
Meeting

January 15, 2025
9:00 A.M. EST

Conference Room B
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

<https://youtube.com/live/fDwCln1CPP4?feature=share>

Board Members Present: Dr. Katie Jenner, Chair, Ms. Katie Mote, Vice-Chair, Mr. William Durham Jr., Secretary, Mr. Scott Bess, Ms. Erika Dilosa (by video), Dr. Byron Ernest (by video), Mr. Greg Gastineau, Ms. Iris Hammel, Mr. Pat Mapes, Ms. Kristin Rentschler (by video), and Mr. B.J. Watts.

Board Members Absent: None

I. Call to Order:

- A. Roll Call: A quorum is present.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. SBOE Officer Slate: The reslating of current SBOE officers was approved by unanimous vote.

II. Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

III. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes, for the December 11, 2024, meeting, were approved by unanimous vote.

- A. December 11, 2024 - [Memo](#)

IV. Statement from the Chair: Dr. Jenner wished everyone a Happy New Year and remarked on the frigid temperatures. Dr. Jenner congratulated the Milken Educator Award winners, Ms. Katie Lanter, seventh and eighth grade reading and English/language arts teacher at South Ripley Junior High School and Ms. Ashley Johnson, entrepreneurship teacher at DeKalb High School. Both teachers received \$25,000.00 from the Milken Family Foundation. Dr. Jenner then commented on the December 31, 2024, graduation rates announcement. The class of 2024 represents the highest state graduation rate on record, with data showing 90.23% of Indiana students graduating high school. This is up from 88.98% in 2023. Dr. Jenner praised Governor Braun and stated she is looking forward to working with him. Regarding Diploma Rule implementation, she closed with the information that eligible course titles have been distributed and IDOE is now requesting feedback through January 31, 2025.

V. Board Member Comments and Reports: None

VI. Public Comment: None

VII. Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

- A. Summer School Course List - [Memo](#)

VIII. Discussion: School Accountability Framework - [Presentation](#) Mr. Ron Sandlin, IDOE Deputy Chief for Quality Education, presented School Accountability Framework.

- A. Ms. Hammel commented, education leans toward focusing on lagging indicators that measure past performance, rather than leading indicators e.g. leading indicators of how students engage in work that results in future successful performances. How can we create a measure that helps to reinforce the actual pedagogy and way students are engaged in the classroom?
- B. Mr. Watts was excited about the grade bands. He feels they truly give a K-12 vision, where everyone sees their role. Mr. Watts inquired about the metrics for K-1-2, showing a student is on track. He offered the advice, "Keep this simple." Are the students getting better while they are in school? And, what are things schools can control?
- C. Regarding schools who opt in to administering IREAD in grade 2, Mr. Durham asked what types of benchmarks or accountability can be given for students passing IREAD in 2nd grade. Both Mr. Durham and Mr. Watts were seeking indicators that support improving the K-1-2 space.
- D. Ms. Mote guarded the process by asking us to confirm that looking at exciting progress is not a false signal. The student can not only try really hard but can perform. Growth is not mastery. Mr. Sandlin clarified, we ensure our definition of "on track" is truly, "on track".
- E. Mr. Mapes stated we need performance tasks, not assessment. Lay out the skills K-3 needs to perform at and lean into IREAD-3. Mr. Mapes agreed proficiency needs to be weighted heavier than growth but students, as well as teachers, need to celebrate the growth. Mr. Mapes also complimented the grade bands.
- F. Mr. Watts asked if we could have two grades, growth and proficiency.
- G. Mr. Mapes continued grades are subjective and differ from one school district to another. K-3 foundational skills are essential as a foundation for this age group.
- H. Mr. Bess first expressed his compliments to a good framework. The combination of accountability and diploma drives the majority of behavior in schools. Schools want to maximize their grade. With today's accountability system, one can predict school grades based on socio-economic level. This should change. He wished good luck in the process of receiving the required feedback and future work needed to narrow down the information and write the accountability details successfully.
- I. Dr. Ernest is excited we have moved away from remediation factories to student-centered, with no universal expectations. A school is able to look at every single student and receive credit for how they prepare that student for graduation and beyond. Dr. Ernest added the importance of working on the essential skills students need to learn, making sure we look at growth to proficiency, and not seal chasing (seals are not the only way).
- J. Ms. Dilosa agreed the recommended framework is good and supports the accountability changes. The ultimate goal of schools is to help students succeed in our education system. We want to celebrate growth as well as proficiency. Special Education students need access to resources. Accountability should be ALL student-centered, not just better student-centered.
- K. Even though this may be a difficult conversation, Mr. Mapes stated, if a school has excessive growth but is not hitting proficiency, their letter grade should be capped. They cannot receive an A, as they would in the old system, because the school is not proficient.
- L. When building this accountability measurement system, Ms. Mote asked the question, how do we resolve the tension between seal chasing and the reality of economic demand. Since seals prepare students to be successful, they are important, and the economy values the seals.
- M. Let's ask employers what they want and lay out the 5 or 6 skills that make all students successful. Mr. Watts continued, the SAT is a college admittance exam. If college is not my path the SAT is not important to me. Can we create another metric for skills on all levels.
- N. Ms. Dilosa emphasized the importance of appreciating growth. Are students prepared for life, for what they want to do, not only college bound, but all-encompassing!
- O. Mr. Mapes sincerely thanked everyone for the accountability conversation.

IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.