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Dec. 9, 2008

News Release

Board Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, Dec. 10

The Colorado State Board of Education will hold one meeting this week on Wednesday, Dec. 10 beginning at 9 a.m.

The meeting will combine work session and regular board meeting business. The meeting will be held in the first-floor board room at the Colorado Department of Education, 201 E. Colfax Ave. in Denver.

Following the meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m., the board will adjourn to a reception in the lobby for outgoing Board of Education chair Pamela Jo Suckla and board member Evie Hudak.

Following are the agenda items that are due to start at precise times during the meeting on Dec. 10:

- 10 a.m. – Update from Matt Gianneschi, senior policy analyst for Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, on recommendations from the P-20 Education Coordinating Council.
- 11 a.m. – Rulemaking hearing on amendment to the rules for administration of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Assessments Pilot Program. One portion of Senate Bill 08-212 concerns establishment of a pilot assessment project for high schools. The Colorado State Board of Education adopted the permanent Rules for the Administration of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Assessments Pilot Program on Sept. 11, 2008. The Office of Legislative Legal Services staff has recommended that the department make four minor revisions to the permanent rules to be compliant with the law. These

proposed revisions are designed to provide clarity for both vendors and districts involved in the pilot.

- 11:30 a.m. – Public rulemaking hearing on the permanent rules pertaining to the standardized calculation for counting attendance and truancy. House Bill 08-1336 requires that on or before Thursday, Jan. 1, 2009 that the state board shall adopt rules establishing a standardized calculation for counting unexcused absences of students, including the circumstances in which a student is absent for part of a school day and the format for reporting the information to the department. The modifications must be in place in time for local education agencies to collect the data beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. If the board approves permanent rules on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, they will go into effect on Friday, Jan. 30, 2009.
- 1 p.m. – Public rulemaking hearing on rules for the administration of the healthy beverages policy. Senate Bill 08-129 requires the state board to promulgate rules describing the beverages that school districts and schools may permit to be sold to students. Under the proposed rules, each beverage described by a school district shall satisfy minimum nutritional standards for beverages. The standards must be science-based and established by a national organization. The proposed rules set forth the minimum nutritional standards for beverages; however, school district boards of education may adopt more restrictive policies based on these rules.

Other legislative agenda items:

- Adoption of 12 regional service areas. Senate Bill 08-038 calls for the state board to divide Colorado into 12 regional service areas. The Colorado BOCES Association worked closely with the Colorado Department of Education in the establishment of the 12 proposed regions, which were based on two primary components: 1) geographical regions/physical barriers and 2) not splitting a BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services). The vision for the regional service areas is to create effective ways to align the state's education system and maximize resources in order to expand and extend delivery of services and to serve as an efficient and effective link to leverage scarce resources for education reform initiatives.

- Approval of request by Douglas County Schools for a waiver of specific educator licensing rules. Douglas County Schools requested a waiver from the Colorado State Board of Education two years ago to start an internal pilot teacher preparation program. The program was created for hard-to-fill endorsement areas. By waiving the sections of the Educator Licensing Act, Douglas County requested to be responsible for the hiring and performance of educators in its district, to prepare and grant endorsements in hard-to-fill and non-existent areas for teachers to teach in Douglas County, to hire non-licensed individuals and to set its own probation, dismissal and termination policies. Douglas County is seeking to renew these waivers for an additional two year period. The waivers would only apply to Douglas County Schools and teachers the district allows to teach would have to meet state statute should they decide to seek employment in another district.
- Adoption of "School Readiness" description. The description outlines both what skills children need to enter school and what schools need to do to be prepared to serve all entering students. The description of school readiness will serve as a bookend to descriptions of postsecondary and workforce readiness being developed under Senate Bill 08-212. These descriptions will guide final selection of new statewide model content standards.
- Approval of accreditation contracts, submitted by Colorado school districts as required by statute and state board rule. In May 2008, the state board extended current accreditation contracts to permit an orderly and effective implementation of the new accreditation process resulting from the revised accreditation rules. The state board extended the current accreditation contracts an additional six months to expire Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008. Approval of the new accreditation contracts will be in effect for the remaining term of the contract through June 30, 2014.
- Approval of revisions to the state board's procedures governing exclusive chartering authority.
- Approval of the state board's operating procedures.
- Approval of the state board's procedures pertaining to charter school appeals.

- Approval of emergency initial authorizations (27 total).
- Approval of emergency renewal authorizations (two).
- Certification of amounts payable to school districts for the Public School Finance Act of 1994.
- Approval of the five-year re-authorization of the Teacher Preparation Program at Colorado State University.

Other Work Session Agenda Items:

- Report from State Board of Education members
- Report from Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones
- Report from communications office, state board office
- Update – Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Assessment Pilot
- Update – Adoption of School Readiness Description
- Update – Budget
- Update – Legislative
- Executive Session – (Legal Advice) from noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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