

CONSIDERATION OF NORMANDY SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Sections 161.092, and 162.081, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOALS NO. 1:

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

The State Board of Education classified the Normandy School District as unaccredited on September 18, 2012, effective January 1, 2013.

On May 20, 2014, the State Board of Education determined that the only feasible way to maintain schools in the Normandy district was to lapse the Normandy School District effective June 30, 2014, with direct oversight by the State Board of Education effective immediately. The State Board also authorized the establishment of the Normandy Schools Collaborative (NSC) to be governed by a Joint Executive Governing Board (JEGB) to provide leadership to the new local education agency, pursuant to Missouri law, Section 162.081, RSMo.

Since current standards of the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) do not address the state intervention and alternative governance recently authorized under new legislation, the board voted on June 16, 2014 to waive its own rule and to accredit the NSC using a new school accreditation, "state oversight district."

As a state oversight district, the JEGB is required to submit quarterly status reports to the State Board of Education. The first quarterly report was provided during the October board meeting. Following this report, the Department proposed to the JEGB the following changes to operations and Accountability Plan implementation:

- The State Board of Education delegates all final authority for the evaluation, hiring and discipline of personnel to the JEGB. If, in any case, the JEGB wishes to defer this authority, the State Board of Education remains open to recommendations and is prepared to take action in support of these recommendations upon request.
- The State Board of Education directs the Department to provide support to the JEGB and the NSC administration in the evaluation, hiring and other personnel functions of the NSC upon request, but will defer final authority to the JEGB and the NSC.
- The State Board of Education delegates all final authority for the ongoing implementation of the NSC Accountability Plan to the JEGB. Decisions regarding professional development, instructional programs and other issues embedded in the Accountability Plan will be made by the NSC board and administration.
- The State Board of Education directs the Department to provide support to the JEGB and the NSC administration in the implementation of the Accountability Plan upon request, but will defer final authority to the JEGB and the NSC.
- The State Board of Education continues to hold the JEGB accountable for improved performance.
- The JEGB will continue to provide quarterly reports to the State Board of Education on the progress of the NSC in achieving the goals of the Accountability Plan.

- The monthly Regional School Improvement Team (RSIT) meetings will continue, with monthly written reports available for the Team, the Department and the State Board of Education.
- While decision-making will rest with the JEGB, the Department will continue to provide financial oversight. This is consistent with Department practice for all districts in financial stress.

This presentation will focus on the rationale for these proposed adjustments.

PRESENTER:

Commissioner Chris Nicastro will present this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education accept the above-mentioned changes to operations and implementation of the NSC Accountability Plan.