Agenda Topic: Board Bylaws

Materials: None

Staff Contact(s): Harry Blackburn

Purpose of Agenda Item

To review the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee and Core Team on revisions to the Board Bylaws for future action.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board members will understand the proposed changes, related costs and pros and cons of implementing changes.

Background Information

In February, the State Board of Education discussed the Board Bylaws with the express purpose of identifying improvements to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness on the part of the State Board of Education.

The discussion focused on a review of the bylaws by Article. Primary topics included: 1) Article IV-B.2. – Qualifications of Board Members; 2) the Board’s involvement in the approval of agency contracts; 3) the employment and evaluation of agency senior leadership; 4) the committee structure and the roles and responsibilities of the various committees; 5) the Board meeting calendar as well as locations for future Board meetings; and 6) the honorarium the Board receives for meeting attendance.

Through the discussion, Board members stated the desire to review the language of Article IV-B.2 (Qualifications) and compare it to the language of the revised statute, to wait until the Board work conference to address issues of calendar and meeting locations, and to maintain the existing honorarium for meeting attendance. Following the generation of ideas relating to the committee structure and their respective roles and responsibilities, the Board Chair charged the Strategic Planning Committee and the agency Core Team with the development of proposed revisions and recommendations for presentation in March.
During this discussion, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Superintendent will share for discussion and input the draft text, meeting scenarios, recommendations, and a sample outline of packet materials aligned with the new committee structure.

**Guiding Principles**

In general, the recommendations derive from the concept that committees should handle the majority of presentations and in-depth discussion on issues. Basic principles that guide the recommendations include the following:

- Every Board member must have enough information to make informed decisions.
- Board materials and presentations will differentiate the level of detail appropriate for committee and plenary sessions.
- The committee structure will help the Board achieve its goals.
- Board members will exercise diligence in learning what they need to know, attending committee meetings as their interests and needs require.
- Committee chairs will take responsibility for presenting recommendations to the Board at the plenary session.
- The structure will not create an additional burden on ISBE staff.

The committee recommends that the Board make a transition to the new committee structure over the three months following action, to be completed no later than August 2002.

**Pros and Cons of Various Actions**

Included in draft materials.

**Next Steps**

Provide final proposed changes for first reading in April.