

Des Moines, Iowa
April 20, 1953

A called meeting of the State Board of Education was held in its office in the State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa, at ten o'clock a.m., April 20, 1953.

PRESENT: Mr. Munger, Mr. Plock, Mr. Rider, Mr. Rupe, and Mr. Stevens, members of the State Board of Education; Mr. Gernetzky and Mr. Dancer, members of the Finance Committee; President Hancher of the State University; President Friley of the Iowa State College; and President Maucker of the Iowa State Teachers College.

ABSENT: Mrs. Archie, Mr. Hagemann, Mr. Hamilton, and Mrs. Kyseth, members of the State Board of Education.

GENERAL OR MISCELLANEOUS

The following business relating to general or miscellaneous matters was transacted:

APPROPRIATION BILL, HOUSE FILE 515 - STATEMENT OF BOARD'S POLICIES. Sections 12 and 13, House File 515, A Bill for an Act to appropriate from the general fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 1953, and ending June 30, 1955, to the State Board of Education for the support, maintenance, repairs, replacements, alterations or equipment of institutions under said Board of Education, were discussed. The aforesaid sections are as follows:

"Section 12. Total expenditures for each institution under the control of the state board of education, including state appropriations and such other receipts as may be available for the same purpose as the state appropriations, during the biennium shall not exceed the budget for each institution as hereinafter set forth: *****."

"Section 13. Chapter eight (8) Code 1950, shall be in full force and effect and the budget and financial control committee may increase the total expenditure authorized in this Act by either authorizing the use of institution appropriations or receipts or by allocations from the general contingent fund of the state."

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The following statement of policies relating to financial matters was submitted:

WHEREAS, there has been introduced in the House of Representatives of the Iowa Legislature, as Sections 12 and 13 of House File No. 515, provisions which propose to, in effect, entirely defeat and nullify the purpose of the law creating the State Board of Education, being Chapter 262 of the Code of Iowa, adopted in the year A.D. 1909 by the people of this State, for the purpose of placing our institutions of higher education under a Board free from political pressure and influence;

AND WHEREAS, such provisions will materially reduce any discretion of the Board of Education in the management of the institutions under its control;

THEREFORE, for the purpose of advising the members of the Legislature, and the people of the State of Iowa, of the policies of the Board of Education relating to financial matters, the Board makes the following statement of its policies:

1. The State Board of Education states its policy to be that only capital improvement funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature should be used to finance capital improvement projects. (This is not intended to prevent the use of gifts to establish capital improvement projects nor is it designed in any way to interfere with the development of the self-liquidating projects of one kind or another.)

2. The Board recognizes the "level of operation" principle, not as a legal restriction, but as a guiding concept of basic importance, defined about as follows - The Board's estimate of income stated in its legislative asking for a given institution plus the legislative appropriation for that institution should be considered the "authorized" level of operation at which the institution should enter the next biennium. This level of operation should not be considered as a legal limit which cannot be exceeded but simply as a level of operation which the legislature understands the Board of Education intends at that time to follow unless there are unanticipated conditions making necessary a larger expenditure.

3. The State Board of Education will incorporate in its statutory Biennial Report information showing whether it has exceeded the "authorized" level of operation and if so, the reasons why it has expended monies beyond that level, clearly distinguishing recurring from non-recurring income and indicating the use of each type of income.

In view of these policies, the State Board of Education submits that said Sections 12 and 13 are unnecessary and against the best interests of the people of the State of Iowa.

Mr. Munger moved that the foregoing statement of policies be approved.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rupe and passed.

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DISTRIBUTION OF STATEMENT OF BOARD'S POLICIES. In view of the foregoing action relating to the Board's policies regarding financial matters, President Rider was authorized to distribute the Statement of Board's Policies to the members of the Legislature and the news services.

Adjourned.

David A. Dancer
David A. Dancer, Secretary