

Here are some notes I jotted down during our conference call last Wednesday, September 16 at 6 am MST (5 am PST). Please feel free to add or edit as you see necessary.

### **Attendance**

- Pat Dixon
- Travis Edwards
- Kyle Stapleton
- Marc Beitia
- Alan Heikkila
- Robert Hale
- Steve Wilder
- Jaysa Fillmore
- Sam Condie
- Lex Godfrey
- Casey Sanders
- Cody Porath
- Mark Pratt
- Nicole Lebsack
- Larin Crossley
- Shawn Dygert
- Joe Blackstock
- Tom Jacobson

### **Overview of issue**

Robert Hale/ Mark Pratt- Division of PTE wants to make Quality Program Standards grants available to all program areas. They are receiving political pressure from legislators to make the change.

### **Report of committee meeting by Shawn Dygert-**

Committee members included PTE teachers Shannon Holt and Shawn Dygert along with others. Changes or additions to Ag IQPS standards include:

- eliminating curriculum section
- eliminating facility evaluation
- requiring ACTE membership
- eliminating administrator checklist
- basing student leadership section solely on percent membership and percent attending events
- major emphasis on TSA scores
- no application required- just a ranking
- switching award to program instead of individual teachers

### **Discussion**

- Amount of grant needs to stay at \$10,000
- Current legislation is very specific, can't include all program areas at this point
- Mark Pratt- would not welcome the job of going back to supporters to tell them that we're going backward
- October 14- 4 instructors and admin from each program area are meeting with the Division to discuss how to move forward
  - Names submitted by Sam Condie- Shawn Dygert, Marc Beitia, Kyle Stapleton, Steve Wilder, Gaylen Smyer (admin), and Mark Pratt (bus & industry)
- Need to develop an official IVATA position
- Some dissent in AgEd, but most will get on board

- Mark Pratt- what is our desired outcome? To increase quality and create environment to encourage teachers to be better.
- Mark Pratt- what could cause this to fail? Going backward- rewarding mediocrity
- Steve Wilder- Dwight Johnson is meeting with Alan Heikkila and Steve Wilder Wednesday afternoon- what is the opinion from around the state? Most- stay the course, it's not an entitlement- not everyone should be getting the grant, concerns with application but can be ironed out with more work
- TSA discussion
  - Virginia CTECs
  - Workplace Readiness will be administered- tests soft skills- not technical at all
  - Steve Rayborn is advocating for changes in TSAs
  - Have to give a TSA for Carl Perkins but Idaho isn't meeting that requirement like other states- there are other ways to meet requirement
  - New changes are a smoke screen- not a real measure of success
- Tammy Ackerland is our #1 fan and helping keep Glenn informed of changes and advocating for Division leaders to meet with ag teachers
- Discussion on more roundtables
  - Article recently cited 60,000 ag jobs available for our students with only 35,000 ag grads to fill the need
  - Ag is alive and well
  - Need to launch a fall PR campaign to promote positives of Ag Ed Initiative
    - Capital Press article
    - News release template for local papers
    - 43% increase in added cost in one year
- Need to focus on the whole picture of Ag Ed Initiative- not just IQPS
  - Created Casey Zufelt's position- Idaho FFA Executive Secretary
  - Additional added cost funding- 43% in one year
  - Incentive grant process
  - New program start up funds

### **Next steps**

- Sam Condie and Robert Hale will draft IVATA position and share with IVATA officers and district directors
- Jaysa Fillmore will send out email on the ListServ asking for positive stories and examples on how the Idaho Ag Education Initiative has helped programs
- Shawn Dygert and Jaysa Fillmore will work together to create a news release template for local programs to fill in and share with local papers to promote positive PR
- Information from Roundtables in June will be compiled and disseminated to help with PR