

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, December 14, 2017

The State Board of Education met Thursday, December 14, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Joe Black, Vice-Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers (via conference call); Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean (via conference call); Courtney Cochran, 2017 Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Mireya Reith

Recognitions

1- Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Courtney Cochran recognized 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Randi House. She said Randi House is a kindergarten teacher at Theodore Jones Elementary in the Conway School District, where she personalizes learning for each student. She said Randi was announced 2018 ATOY by Commissioner Key on Friday, September 29, during a RISE Arkansas reading program at her school. She said Ms. House will begin her journey as 2018 ATOY on July 1, 2018, ready to share her message of "One Year. One Teacher."

2- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Recognition

Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen and Public School Program Advisor Ms. Michele Snyder said seven Arkansas teachers were recently selected as 2017 state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Recognized teachers are as follows: Corey Boby – Benton High School in Benton; Travis Fink – Har-Ber High School in Springdale; Kyla Gentry – Ahlf Junior High School in Searcy; Mary Parson – Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock; Carol Stubblefield – Charleston High School in Charleston; Tiffany Taylor – Rogers Heritage High School in Rogers; and John Williams – Bryant High School in Bryant.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the Consent Agenda minus Consent Agenda Item 6 and Consent Agenda Item 18. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – November 9, 2017
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6- 17-309
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-110 Carrol Vandergriff
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-202 Stephanie Howard
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-018 William Flannigan
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. T15-005 – Debra Reynolds
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 15-121 – Nancy Stillman
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 15-149 – Anthony Bridgeforth
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 16-058 – Gina White
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 16-083 – Kaley Brewer
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case Nos. 16-095 & 17-115 – Colton Turner
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 16-144 – Nash Simpson
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 17-009 – Stephen Harshaw
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 17-031 – Bennie Butler
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications

Action Agenda A

Consent Item 6 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-215 Melisa Dillard

Mr. Eric James said the case could be sent back the PLSB for further consideration.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson to return the case to the Professional Licensure Standards Board. Final vote 4-1. The motion carried.

Consent Item 18 Rockbridge Montessori School Probationary Report

Ms. Alexandra Boyd said Rockbridge has a contract with Ally to provide occupational therapy, physical therapy, and any needed testing at Rockbridge. She said the school has a contract with APSRC for a special education specialist who provides support to the Rockbridge special education teacher. She said the special education teacher is on an approved additional licensure plan (ALP).

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said the educator has to be a licensed educator if they are on an ALP. She said there is no specific area in the current special education teacher's licensure. She said Special Education is now a first time license. She said there is a new mentoring program offered for novice special education teachers. She said the mentoring program is not required.

Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said a rule could be implemented to make mentoring for novice special education students required. She said it is a state requirement that parents be notified if their child's teacher is not fully licensed in the content area.

Ms. Stacy Smith said the Special Education division can bring a report in January if needed.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Newton to accept the Rockbridge Montessori School Probationary Report. The motion carried unanimously.

A-1 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License- Trixie Lantham

This item was removed from the agenda.

A-2 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License-Phyllis Brooks

Managing Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said Ms. Brooks holds a standard teaching license issued by the State Board. The Department notified Ms. Brooks of the disqualification in a letter dated on September 28, 2017. Ms. Taylor said Ms. Brooks requested a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board on October 5, 2017. Ms. Taylor said Ms. Brooks is represented by Attorney Greg Alagood.

Mr. Alagood said Ms. Brooks was placed on the maltreatment registry for briefly leaving a child in a car. He said she was placed on the registry list in 1993, but was not notified until she tried to renew her license in 2017. Mr. Alagood said Ms. Brooks has taught since she was placed on the registry. He said the most important factor is to consider whether she poses a threat to the health and safety to students, teachers, and staff.

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said Ms. Brooks would not have been required to have a background check before 2017 due to previous laws. She said this is the first opportunity for Ms. Brooks to renew her license and have a background check.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant teaching license waiver request to Ms. Phyllis Brooks. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License- James Paul Dill

Managing Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said Mr. James Dill holds a teaching license issued by the State Board. She said Arkansas law provides that the State Board of Education shall revoke the license of any person who has a disqualifier articulated in Ark. Code Sections 6-17-410 and 6-17-411. The Department notified Mr. Dill of the disqualification in a letter dated September 11, 2017. Ms. Taylor said Mr. Dill did not request a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board. Ms. Taylor said the Department recommends that the State Board revoke Mr. Dill's license.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to revoke teaching license for Mr. James Paul Dill. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decisions - Summary Information

Director of Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-703 and ADE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools (Section 9.00) requires the State Board of Education (State Board) to consider requests for review of Charter Authorizing Panel (Panel) decisions at its next meeting after the decisions are made. She said the decision of whether to review a Panel decision is discretionary. Ms. Boyd said regardless of whether a review of the Panel's decision is requested, consideration of the decision must be an action item for the next State Board meeting.

A-4 (a) Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School: Arkansas Connections Academy Financial Review

Director of Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on November 15, 2017, representatives of Arkansas Connections Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel for a financial review. She said the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the financial view by unanimous vote. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Boyd said there will be a report for Arkansas Connections Academy on the February 2018 Charter Authorizing Panel agenda, and it will appear on the March State Board meeting agenda.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School: Arkansas Connections Academy Financial Review. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Requested Reporting from Haas Hall Academy

Director of Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on January 12, 2004, the State Board of Education approved the application for Haas Hall Academy. She said representatives from Haas Hall Academy are appearing before the Charter Authorizing Panel to report on the success of its diversity outreach efforts and student enrollment demographics.

Haas Hall Academy Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Ms. Heather Holaway said that the academy has expanded to four campuses. She said the campuses are located in Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville. She said the 2017 report is similar to the 2016 report. She said this year is the first year for the cafeteria program. She said there are no students in need of English-language learning services at any of their campuses. She said there is no data on college retention rates.

Dr. Hill requested a monitoring report from the leadership team in one year. The report is to include effort and outcome information on special education enrollment, English language learner enrollment, the school's leadership diversity recruitment, and data on free and reduced lunch enrollment.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to accept Haas Hall Academy report. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to request Haas Hall Academy report on efforts and outcomes annually. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters

Director of Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the state Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. She said the Board may grant or deny any of these requests in whole or in part.

Ms. Boyd said there were 196 individual districts represented in the waiver requests were under consideration for the same waiver.

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative Director Mr. Charles Cudney said he came before the Board to speak on behalf of the 14 cooperatives, Jacksonville North Pulaski School District, and North Little Rock School District with school start waiver requests. He said the waiver request is for 5 years. He said the advantages of an early start date include the opportunity for events that celebrate the community, provide professional development, and more days of engaged instruction before the assessment period.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve waiver requests filed by the 14 cooperatives, Jacksonville North Pulaski School District, and North Little Rock School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Embedded Course Approval: Fort Smith Public School District

Public School Program Manager Mr. Thomas Coy said Fort Smith Public School District is seeking to embed Physical Education in the ROTC program and award 1.5 units of credit for a one-year study. He said the Arkansas Department of Education staff respectfully request the State Board of Education approve the embedded course.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve Fort Smith Public School District embedded course. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance One-Time Cost of Living Increase

DHS Program Administrator Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney said \$1.5 million was appropriated to provide a one-time cost of living increase. She said this increase will be equally distributed across all ABC programs according to the number of children each program serves. Ms. McKinney said this is the second part of the biennial funding. She said the Board is requested to approve the attached payments for a total of \$1,499,629.86.

Ms. McKinney said COLA funds can be used to cover the costs of the program including materials and supplies. She said the money can be used to enhance ABC in-class services. Ms. McKinney the local school board governs local school classrooms in their district. She said this is a one-time increase.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve Arkansas Better Chance one-time cost of living increase in the amount of 1,499,629.86. The motion carried unanimously.

B-2 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance 2017-2018 Reallocation Grant Award

DHS Program Administrator Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney said pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education respectfully requests approval for the reallocation of Arkansas Better Chance funding. She said funding would expand Melbourne School District program from 20 slots to 40 slots, increasing the current monthly payment by \$9,720.00. She said the funding for this grant resulted from programs relinquishing their slots. Ms. McKinney

said there is a demand for both slots and an increased cost per child. She said the need is cumulative.

Ms. McKinney said the Dollarway School District slots were school-based, and some of the buildings were consolidated. She said the district struggled to fulfill their funded slots.

Dr. Hernandez said there are many seats that have left Jefferson County. He said transportation is also a major issue.

Ms. McKinney said some districts make the choice not to transport children not in their district due to safety concerns and costs associated with providing the minimum standards for childcare of pre-kindergarten aged children.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve Arkansas Better Chance 2017-2018 reallocation grant award. The motion carried unanimously.

B-3 Approval of Standards: Personal Finance

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said the Arkansas Department of Education, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Career Education, developed personal finance standards to meet Act 480 of 2017. She said a list of qualified courses of study are available for schools to choose from, or the standards can be a stand-alone personal finance course. Ms. Smith said all high schools are to use these standards to help meet the intent of Act 480 of 2017.

Ms. Stacy Smith said a Commissioner's Memo will be released to explain how these standards can be imbedded into courses. She said these standards can exist as a stand-alone course worth .5 credits.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve Personal Finance standards to meet intent of Act 480 of 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

B-4 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Home Schools

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said Acts 173, 592, 635, and 863 of 2017 amended Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-501 et seq. regarding Home Schools. She said changes to this rule are necessary to implement these changes. Ms. Salas-Ford said the ADE staff respectfully requests that the State Board release this rule for public comment.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve Proposed Rules Governing Home Schools for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-5 Consideration for Public Comment Release: Proposed Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the purpose of these proposed rules is to improve student learning and strengthen teaching by encouraging teachers to participate in and complete NBPTS certification, to authorize the ADE to fund the full amount of the participation fee of the certification and fund incentive bonuses, to outline the eligibility criteria and funding structure for the incentive bonuses, and to outline the establishment of a support program for NBPTS participants.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh said the Department has national statistics on the impact of national board certified teachers on students in a classroom.

Public School Program Manager Ms. Barbara Culpepper said the Department has a board of national advisors who were the stakeholders in developing these rules.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve Proposed Rules Governing Home Schools for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-6 Consideration of Transitional Support Plans

School Improvement Coordinator Ms. Tiah Frazier said there were 28 districts with transitional support plans. She said the goal of this plan is to clarify the relationship between SEAs and LEAs during the transition to ESSA.

Ms. Frazier said school-level goals were included in transitional support plans. She said the data collection effort was led by district liaisons. She said the transitional plans will be used to categorize the requested supports from the LEAs. She said School Improvement will communicate the needed supports across the Department. She said 29 more district plans will be on the January agenda.

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the support plans for Dollarway School District and Little Rock School District have portions that are specific to a number of needs pre-identified by the Department.

Dr. Hernandez said the goal of the Department is to assist the districts on what to do to serve their schools. He said many districts wrote their plans with the goal of Act 1003 funds. He said the districts may not have included all of their initiatives if they were not tied to 1003 funds.

Commissioner Key said these support plans are not the end of the transition plans for the districts. He said these plans will be more articulated throughout this transition period.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said the Department is looking for long-term improvement. She said the Department is moving from a one-size fits all approach to individualized support. She said the districts have articulated what they believe they need. She said the Department will provide training to help them further unpack these needs.

Ms. Frazier said 1003 funds are tied to innovative education interventions that are evidence-based. She said many districts have created logic models that will measure district progress over time.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to accept Transitional Support Plans. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

