

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

The State Board of Education met Thursday, September 14, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

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

Absent: None

Consent Agenda

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the consent agenda minus Consent Item #10 Rockbridge Probationary Reporting Chart and Consent Item #12 End-of-Year Reports of Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools in the Initial Year of Operation: Arkansas Connections Academy and Future School of Fort Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – August 10, 2017
- Minutes – August 11, 2017
- 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 for Public Comment Release: Proposed Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-045 – Chad McPherson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-075 – Michael Pitts
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-146 - Johnny Taylor
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-147 – Kendra Skaggs
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-150 – John Gibson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-179 – Stephanie Hicks

Action Agenda A

Consent Item 11- Rockbridge Probationary Reporting Chart

Rockbridge Montessori Public Charter School Superintendent Mr. William Felton said the school has decreased external expenditures.

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said the Department will keep the Charter Authorizing Panel aware of what is going on with the school. She said the State Board can ask the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an additional report in the future.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to accept the Rockbridge Montessori report. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Item 12- End-of-Year Reports of Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools in the Initial Year of Operation: Arkansas Connections Academy and Future School of Fort Smith

Arkansas Connections Academy Principal Ms. Darla Gardner said School Financial Services Accounting Manager Mr. Benjamin Shifflet would explain the low end-of-year balance. Mr. Shifflet said the end-of-year balance was tight, but the financial performance of the school was good given what the school aimed to accomplish.

Coordinator of Fiscal Distress Ms. Cindy Smith said the Department was not able to identify issues and support Arkansas Connections Academy because the school was not adding its financial transactions throughout the year. Ms. Smith said the Department found out about the fiscal trouble at the end of the fiscal year. Program Fiscal Manager Ms. Saliha Qazi said there was no financial statement until July 2017. Ms. Boyd said the Charter Authorizing Panel could ask Arkansas Connections Academy to present data in December 2017.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to request that the Charter Authorizing Panel call in Arkansas Connections Academy in December 2017 for review. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept the Arkansas Connections Academy and Future School of Fort Smith reports. The motion carried unanimously.

A-1 2017-2018 Testing Calendar and K-2 Assessments

Special Advisor Ms. Hope Allen said approval is requested from the State Board of Education for the proposed 2017-2018 Testing Calendar and approval of the K-2 assessments: Istation, NWEA and Renaissance.

Special Advisor Ms. Allen said the Department signed a two (2) year contract with ACT/ACT Aspire.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the 2017-2018 Testing Calendar and K-2 Assessments. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 (a) Fiscal Distress- Consider removal of Maynard School District from Fiscal Distress Classification

Coordinator of Fiscal Distress Ms. Cynthia Smith said the Department is reporting that Maynard School District has satisfied all criteria for removal from Fiscal Distress. The Department recommends that Maynard School District be removed from Fiscal Distress.

Superintendent Ms. Pat Rawlings shared that the student population dropped, but the staff numbers did not. She said having teachers retire and not rehiring helped the district fiscally. Ms. Rawlings thanked Ms. Smith and the Department for their support.

Ms. Smith said that the Maynard School District has built a school and are currently building another school in this process.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve removal of Maynard School District from Fiscal Distress classification. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 (b) Fiscal Distress- Consider removal of Lee County School District from Fiscal Distress Classification

Coordinator of Fiscal Distress Ms. Cynthia Smith said the Department is reporting that Lee County School District has satisfied all criteria for removal from Fiscal Distress. She said the district was placed on fiscal distress on May 8, 2014. The Department recommends that Lee County School District be removed from Fiscal Distress.

Superintendent Mr. Antony Hobbs thanked Ms. Smith and the Department for their support.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve removal of Lee County School District from Fiscal Distress classification. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License- Carl Mouton

Managing Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said the Department recommends that the State Board revoke Mr. Mouton's license. Ms. Taylor went through the evidence provided to State Board members.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to revoke the teaching license of Mr. Carl Mouton. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License- Michael Patrick Hynes

Managing Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said Mr. Hynes holds a teaching license issued by the State Board. Arkansas law provides that the State Board of Education shall revoke the license of any person who has a disqualifying offense Ark. Code Sections 6-17-410 and 6-17-411. She said the Department notified Mr. Hynes of the disqualification on August 1, 2017. Mr. Hynes requested a waiver of disqualification from the State Board on August 8, 2017. She said Mr. Hynes is represented by Attorney Mr. Clayton Blackstock.

Mr. Blackstock stated that Mr. Hynes has employment and character references. Mr. Blackstock stated that he is requesting a waiver be granted on behalf of his client, Mr. Hynes. Mr. Hynes and wife Mrs. Hynes testified individually before the Board.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to grant teaching license waiver to Mr. Michael Patrick Hynes. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 (a) Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver filed by the Kirby School District

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the Kirby School District had fewer than 350 students in the two years immediately preceding the current school year. Consequently, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1603 requires the District to be consolidated with or annexed to another school district unless the State Board grants the District's petition for a minimum school district size waiver pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613.

Ms. Freno said this is the first year Kirby School District is on the consolidation list. She said the district is under no Academic or Fiscal distress classification.

Superintendent Mr. Mike Palmer said the district ended at ADM 332 for the 2016-2017 school year. He said local mill closures may have impacted school enrollment. Mr. Palmer said the district is highly mobile.

Former state representative Mr. Randy Stewart stated the Kirby School District produces quality students.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the minimum school district size waiver petition filed by Kirby School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 (b) Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver filed by the Strong-Huttig School District

Ms. Freno said this is the second year that Strong-Huttig has filed a petition for minimum school district size waiver. She said the district is under no Academic or Fiscal Distress classification.

Superintendent Mr. Jeff Alphin stated the district has just under 300 students. He said district test scores have improved. He said the district offers electives in addition to all required courses.

Senator Trent Garner said the community fully supports the district.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the minimum school district size waiver request filed by Strong-Huttig School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 (a) Act 1240 District Waiver Requests- Lafayette County School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said the State Board is being petitioned by Lafayette County School District to be granted the same waivers that are granted to open-enrollment public charter schools. She said the district is requesting a five (5) year teacher licensure waiver.

Superintendent Mr. Robert Edwards said there were four (4) out of twelve (12) applicants that were Arkansas certified teachers. He said the remaining eight (8) teachers are continuing to work on their certification. He said Curriculum Coordinator Ms. Anderson and other certified teachers are in place to support teachers who are not Arkansas certified.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the teacher licensure waiver request filed by Lafayette County School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 (b) Act 1240 District Waiver Requests- Palestine-Wheatley School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said the State Board is being petitioned by Palestine-Wheatley School District to be granted the same waivers that are granted to open-enrollment public charter schools. Ms. McLaughlin said the district is seeking classroom size and Teacher Fair Dismissal Act waivers. She said the request is for two (2) years.

Palestine-Wheatley School District Superintendent Mr. Jon Estes said there were 13 vacancies for the current school year and all were filled. He said seven (7) of the 13

teachers were licensed teachers. He said he is asking for a Teacher Fair Dismissal Act waiver in order to dismiss teachers who are doing harm by their presence in the classroom. He said the district must hire who applies because of its location limitations.

On behalf of the Arkansas Education Association, Executive Director Ms. Tracy Nelson signed up for public comment opposing the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act waiver requested by Palestine-Wheatley School District. Ms. Nelson's comments were heard during the regular opposition period.

Mr. Estes stated he would not exceed 25 kindergarten students if the district received the classroom size waiver. He said he would not exceed three (3) students for all other grades.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the classroom size waiver request filed by Palestine-Wheatley School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to deny the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act waiver request filed by Palestine-Wheatley School District. Final vote 5-4. The motion carried.

A-6 (c) Act 1240 District Waiver Requests- Batesville School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said the State Board is being petitioned by Batesville School District to be granted the same waivers that are granted to open-enrollment public charter schools. She said the district is requesting flexible school day, educator licensure, and library media services waivers.

Batesville Superintendent Dr. Mike Hester said the library media services waiver will be used to implement technical initiatives led by students and supervised by librarians. He said everything will stay the same for non-instructional time.

Representative James Sturch said he fully supported the waiver requests presented by Batesville School District.

Batesville School District Assistant Superintendent Ms. Jennifer Douglass said the district is requesting a five (5) year waiver. She said the district believes a flexible modified schedule will benefit students. She said prior waivers have allowed the district to expand concurrent credit offerings for students.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the flexible school day waiver request filed by Batesville School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the educator licensure waiver request filed by Batesville School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the library media services waiver request filed by Batesville School District. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

A-7 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) 2017-2018 Allocation of Funding

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 of the Arkansas Better Chance to allocate funding to programs as provided to implement services during the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. McKinney said since approval of the ABC renewal grants presented during the April Board meeting, three programs relinquished all of their ABC slots and one program reduced the number of children being served. Ms. McKinney said ABC is seeking approval to reassign these slots to existing programs.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) 2017-2018 Allocation of Funding report. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Provision of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) 2017- 2018 Funding Targeting Foster Care

DHS Program Administrator Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney requested approval to use ABC funding to serve children in foster care as they are placed in various communities throughout the year. She said these funds will support the services of children in foster care when the ABC program exceeds the initial state approved funding amount.

Ms. McKinney said ABC was requested by foster care to place students transitioning through the foster care system to have access to quality ABC programs.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the use of ABC funding to serve in placement of foster care children throughout the year. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions-Summary Information

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said the Board will have the opportunity to review each of the schools. Ms. Boyd said if the State Board decides to review a school that is denied, the State Board will automatically have to also hear the five (5) other applicants that were approved. Ms. Boyd said if there are six (6) schools

that are approved by the State Board, applications will be ranked, and the top five (5) schools will be considered approved, and the sixth school would be considered denied.

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Mike Poore recommended to change the order of the agenda to hear denied charters first.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to change the order of the agenda to hear denied charter school agenda items first. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (b) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Focus STEM Academy, Bentonville

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Focus STEM Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 15, 2017, requesting a charter in the Bentonville School District area. By a vote of 3-2, the Panel denied the request. She said a request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted by the applicant.

Focus STEM Academy representative Ms. Micah Cummings said she believed Focus STEM Academy should be reviewed due to a misunderstanding of financial viability. She said the capital lease would strictly be for hard goods. Ms. Cummings said she is committed to helping Benton County.

Ms. Boyd said there is a process and in each step of the process the applicant is involved. She said the applicant was aware of the budget concern before the hearing.

Representative Jim Dotson said he will not ask for special consideration to this applicant if there are five (5) spots filled by qualified applicants, but if there is a spot available, he asks that special consideration be made.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to deny the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Focus STEM Academy, Bentonville. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (d) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: P3 Academy Charter School, McGehee

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of P3 Academy Charter School, McGehee appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 15, 2017, requesting a charter in the McGehee School District area. By a unanimous vote, the Panel denied the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to deny the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by P3 Academy Charter School, McGehee. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (e) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Prolific Learning Arts Academy, Little Rock

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Prolific Learning Arts Academy, Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 16, 2017, requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By a unanimous vote, the Panel denied the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to deny the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Prolific Learning Arts Academy, Little Rock. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (f) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Weiner Academy of Agriculture and Technology, Weiner

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Weiner Academy of Agriculture and Technology appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 16, 2017, requesting a charter in the Harrisburg School District area. By a vote of 6-1, the Panel denied the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to deny the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Weiner Academy of Agriculture and Technology. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (a) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Einstein Charter School, Little Rock

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Einstein Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 15, 2017, requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said a request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted by Little Rock School District.

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Mike Poore said Board Zone 1 has had a 46% drop in students from 2000-2016. Mr. Poore said there has only been a student population increase in Board Zone 4 and 5.

Einstein Charter School CMO Chief Strategy Officer Mr. Dan Davis said the application process was thorough. He said Einstein Charter believes there is a need for a high quality school for the Southwest Little Rock area.

Mr. Poore said Little Rock School District was one of three districts in Arkansas that has improved in the midst of a decreased budget. Mr. Poore shared data on school improvement in Rockefeller, Booker, and Gibbs Elementary Schools. Mr. Poore said there are negative academic and financial implications that this charter and other charter schools would cause to the district.

Arkansas Public School Resource Center Staff Attorney Mr. Trip Walter said all evidence was fully vetted by the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Senator Joyce Elliott said one (1) school and potentially three (3) schools will be located in Senate District 31. Senator Elliott said there were three (3) schools closed in Senate District 31 last year. Senator Elliott asked the Board to consider the implications of the disruption of school closings and potential openings

Senator Will Bond said everyone should consider the comments by Superintendent Poore who was hired by Commissioner Key.

Representative Jim Dotson said he is a proponent of giving parents and kids options.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to hear public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Public comment was heard from Save Our Schools parent advocate Ms. Vicky Hatter. She said she did not believe that expanding charter schools in the Little Rock School District was the best option. She concurred the opinion of Superintendent Poore and Senator Elliott.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Einstein Charter School, Little Rock. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

B-1 (c) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: ScholarMade Achievement Place, Little Rock

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of ScholarMade Achievement Place, Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing

Panel on August 15, 2017, requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said a request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted by Little Rock School District.

Mr. Poore said Dr. Anderson was the only administrator among the charter school applicants to reach out to him.

Dr. Anderson said ScholarMade went through a thorough application process. Dr. Anderson said ScholarMade has the opportunity to meet an opportunity gap in the district.

Architect Mr. Chad Young said there would be an elevator and the school will be fully accessible.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by ScholarMade Achievement Place, Little Rock. Final vote 6-2. The motion carried.

B-1 (g) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School, Pine Bluff

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School, Pine Bluff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 17, 2017, requesting a charter in the Pine Bluff School District area. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School, Pine Bluff. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (h) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock, Little Rock

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 17, 2017, to request a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said a request for the State

Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted by Little Rock School District.

Mr. Poore said there was not a specific transportation plan in the applicant's application. He said the list of waivers presented should also be taken into consideration.

Friendship Aspire Academy National Executive Director Mr. Joe Harris said the school's charter was accepted unanimously. He said the school held two (2) hearings in the community. He said parents were supportive of choice in the Southwest Little Rock community. Mr. Harris said the charter has been in existence for 20 years in urban and rural areas.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Friendship Aspire Academy at Little Rock at the next State Board meeting. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

B-1 (i) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Friendship Aspire Academy at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Friendship Aspire Academy at Pine Bluff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 17, 2017, requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision was submitted.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Friendship Aspire Academy at Pine Bluff at the next State Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B-1 (j) Consideration on the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Ozark Montessori Academy, Springdale

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of Ozark Montessori Academy, Springdale appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on August 17, 2017, requesting a charter in the Little Rock School District area. By a vote of 6-1, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision was submitted.

Ozark Montessori Academy Director Dr. Christine Silano the school is asking for a change to the length of the school year due to the hardship placed on at the beginning of the school year due to scheduling issues.

Dr. Silano said the school is not shortening the staff day. She said students who are not college or career-ready but are in the "close" range are working with special resource staff after school. She said all teachers are required to do two (2) afternoons of tutoring per week. She said gifted and talented opportunities will be offered for high achieving students.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application filed by Ozark Montessori Academy, Springdale. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

B-1 (k) Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Amendment Request: Springdale School of Innovation, Springdale

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on December 10, 2015, the State Board of Education approved the district conversion charter application for Springdale School of Innovation, Springdale. On May 25, 2016, the State Board approved the charter's request to partner with an outside provider. She said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Megan Slocum would appear before the Board to represent Springdale School of Innovation.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve amendments to the current charter of Springdale School of Innovation. The motion carried unanimously.

B-2 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Background Checks

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said the State Board released proposed rules for public comment on July 13, 2017. A public comment hearing was held on August 18, 2017. She said the public comment period expired on August 26, 2017. She said comments received during the public comment period did not result in substantive changes to the proposed rules. She said the Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board give final approval to these proposed rules pending Arkansas Legislative Council review.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve ADE rules governing background checks. The motion carried unanimously.

B-3 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Professional Learning Communities

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said the State Board released these proposed rules for public comment on June 8, 2017. A public comment hearing was held on July 5, 2017, and again on August 18, 2017. The public comment period expired on August 26, 2017. Ms. Smith said there were no public comments received. She said the Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board give final approval to these proposed rules pending Arkansas Legislative Council review.

Commissioner Key said appropriation can only be given one year at a time, but the legislature would like to have a three (3) year pilot. He said the intent is for the pilot to grow over a three (3) year period of time.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve ADE rules governing Professional Learning Communities. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair