

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2019

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, May 9, 2019, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Brett Williamson

Recognitions

National ESEA Distinguished Schools for 2018

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Otistene Smith said Greenbrier Springhill Elementary School and Lavaca Middle School were recipients of the National ESEA Distinguished School Award for 2018-2019.

Ms. Smith said that Greenbrier Springhill Elementary School is being recognized for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years. Greenbrier School District Superintendent Mr. Scott Spainhour thanked everyone for their support, saying that it takes a lot of hard work to be recognized for something like this. Mr. Spainhour said he appreciates his teachers and is very proud of them. Greenbrier Springhill Elementary Principal Stephanie Worthey said that it is important to build school systems around the children and not the adults, which is what they do at Greenbrier Springhill Elementary School. She also said she is excited to share this award with her staff in Greenbrier.

Ms. Smith said that Lavaca Middle School is being recognized for closing the achievement gap between student groups. Lavaca School District Superintendent Mr. Steve Rose said their ultimate goal is educating the whole child. He said that it is an honor for the middle school to be recognized and that all of the credit goes to the students and their teachers. Lavaca Middle School Principal Mr. Kenny Holland said that the reason they are receiving this award started in Professional Learning Community meeting a couple of years ago. They began having the difficult conversations and they benefitted from the changes that came from those talks. He thanked everyone involved in awarding the school the designation.

Changes to Agenda

Dr. Barth said that there was one change, a waiver request from the Concord School District. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to add the item to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the Concord School District is seeking a Standards of Accreditation waiver for Standard 1-A.5.1, which provides that each school provide a minimum of 178 days of student/teacher interaction time.

Superintendent Ms. Michael Davidson said that the district is still trying to heal from a recent tragedy and they are requesting to not make-up the school days lost due to that event.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Newton wanted to discuss items 9, 11, and 23. Ms. Zook requested to pull item 23.

Ms. Newton, on item 9, asked if a school district that is interested in hiring someone who had had a three year suspension be able to be aware of the suspension. PLSB Chief Investigator Mr. Eric James said yes, this information is available to school districts.

Ms. Newton said that, on item 11, the Brown case, she wanted to publicly state that it may not have been a severe enough punishment and she is uneasy with the determination. Mr. James said that the punishment falls in line with their sanctioning matrix.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge to approve the consent agenda, minus item 23. The motion passed unanimously.

Items included in the consent agenda:

Minutes

- 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 Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 18-103 – Christopher Wilks
- Presenter: Taylor Dugan
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 17-199 – Stephen Andrews
- Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License –James Thomas Garcia Licensure Action Case No. 19-05
- Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License –Charles Clay McKewen Licensure Action Case No. 19-09
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-163 Sirl Wright
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 19-005 Margaret Johnson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 19-018 Jessica Kaplan
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 19-023 Chris Brown
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 19-056 Victor Joyner
- Beebe School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Bentonville School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report

- Bismarck School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Bryant School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Cabot School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Clarendon School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Caddo Hills School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Camden Fairview School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Corning School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Cotter School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- ***Pulled*** - *Statewide Approval to Allow Algebra I to Be Taught in Grade 8 for High School Credit*

Ms. Zook, on item 23, said that it would be an exception, rather than a rule that students would be ready for Algebra I in eighth grade. She fears that it would become a social status issue if students were not taking Algebra I. Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith said that they are not looking to force students to take Algebra I in the eighth grade. She said that most schools already offered the course; however, this would streamline the paperwork currently required to do so. Chief State STEM Officer and State Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen said that he agrees that there always needs to be consideration of student readiness for this course. Ms. Newton said that she has always felt that student in eighth grade benefit more from rigorous math courses. She asked if there is still a route to get the eighth grade Algebra I if this item is not approved. Ms. Smith said that it requires that they submit a request to the Department. Mr. Owen reiterated that this item would just help reduce the paperwork load of the schools. Ms. Chambers asked how many schools have eighth grade students in Algebra I. Mr. Owen said there are currently 141 schools which serve at least one student taking Algebra I in eighth grade.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the policy change. Ms. Zook and Ms. Newton voted no. The final vote was 5-2. The motion passed.

Action Agenda A

A-1 Consideration of Petition by Cleveland County School District to Close the Kingsland Elementary School Campus

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said on April 8, 2019, the Cleveland County School District Board of Directors petitioned the State Board for an order to close the Kingsland Elementary School campus. The Cleveland County School District Board of Directors voted to close the school with a vote of 6-to-1; however, a less than unanimous vote requires consideration by the State Board. Ms. Dedman reviewed the procedures and the related standard, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602(c).

Superintendent Mr. Craig Dupuy provided the State Board with information on the buildings within the school district's physical boundaries as well as enrollment data. The projected enrollment data estimates that the district will lose approximately 80 students in the next five years and 177 students over the next 10 years. He also discussed the State aid notice in the State Board's packet of information; pointing out the declining student enrollment and enhanced transportation funding sections. He also discussed the recent changes to teacher salary and how several of the schools in the Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative will face

shortfalls at the end of the fourth year of the salary plan. Starting in year five they will have to be ready to take on the expense of the salary and benefits.

Mr. Dupuy said that on the Kingsland campus, the cost-per-student is \$832.92, versus the \$456.68 cost-per-student on the Rison campus. He also said that it would cost more to transport students from the Rison campus to the Kingsland campus. Also mentioned was that the Kingsland campus has 11 classrooms; however, they would need at least 17 classrooms to fit the combined campuses. The Rison campus is already equipped to handle the extra students. He closed by saying that closing the Kingsland campus is only one of the cost-saving avenues the district will be looking into over the next few years.

Mr. Shane Matthews, a parent at Kingsland Elementary School spoke in opposition to the request to close the Kingsland campus. Mr. Matthews said that he would like to see a feasibility study done on the comparative costs of consolidation from both Kingsland to Rison and vice versa. He acknowledged that financial situation; however, he would like to be sure that this is the best option available. He also acknowledged that Rison has a larger school; however, he also pointed out that Kingsland recently received the Blue Ribbon Award and had a teacher receive the Milken Award for Excellence. He also said that the Kingsland community raises money every year to provide school supplies for the students and would include the students coming from Rison too. Mr. Matthews said that a petition to keep the Kingsland campus open has been prepared and signed by more than 124 individuals.

Ms. Newton asked about the district's plans for use of the Kingsland campus if the students were moved to the Rison campus. Mr. Dupuy said that they plan to move the Head Start program there. He noted that the Head Start program is federally funded and the program pays a large part of their use of the building, utilities, etc. Mr. Dupuy also said that Southeast Arkansas College is interested in using their building offer satellite campus courses.

Ms. Chambers asked how the district engaged the community in this decision. Mr. Dupuy said that there was a work session of their Board on March 28, 2019. However, the district did not speak with the community-at-large or individual citizens regarding the district's decision making process. Mr. Dupuy said that he met with Mr. Matthews after the decision came out and Mr. Matthews took the information to the community members whom he is working with.

Ms. McFetridge said that it may be helpful to build school partnerships and community support. She said that she knows that this was not an easy decision, but she appreciates the work they have put into making the decision.

Ms. Zook asked if they had an ABC program in Cleveland County. Mr. Dupuy acknowledged that they do have an ABC program and are a grantee of the Head Start program. Ms. Zook asked what the reasoning of the school board member was for voting in opposition to closing the Kingsland campus. Mr. Dupuy said that he was not sure outside of the member feeling that he was making the right decision for his community.

Dr. Moore asked if students from Rison would be bused to Kingsland to participate in the Head Start program. Mr. Dupuy said that they would be bussed and that would include about 45 students from Rison. Dr. Moore asked Mr. Dupuy to give examples of the opportunities that would be available to students on the Rison campus. Mr. Dupuy said that elementary principal at Rison has instituted enrichment time and he said that elementary quiz bowls would be an option. Dr. Moore asked about extracurricular teachers. Regarding extracurricular activities, Mr.

Dupuy said that the art and music teachers are currently shared between campuses and that is would be beneficial to have those teachers on one campus full-time. Mr. Dupuy also noted that the Kingsland principal and counselor are both only half-time. Dr. Moore asked what the plan was for the teachers from Kingsland who wish to continue teaching in the district. Mr. Dupuy said that they are still working on the plan. He said that he was going to be meeting with the Kingsland teachers to get their input after the State Board meeting.

Dr. Barth asked Commissioner Key to comment regarding the challenges from the teacher pay increase. Commissioner Key said that the district is very close to what the new minimum is going to be. He also said that one factor that will also affect the numbers is how much the district's foundation funding may increase. Commissioner Key also said that the General Assembly is evaluating a new adequacy study and that may affect the figures as well.

Ms. Chambers asked if there was anything that could be done to preempt questions from schools that are considering a similar path to Kingsland's down the road. Mr. Dupuy said that he is not sure that you can be much more preemptive. Commissioner Key said that the Department's Finance unit and the Coordinated Support Services unit both are available to district to answer questions in general. There are also informational conversations happening between the Department and the education service cooperatives.

Mr. Dupuy said that he also understands the emotional impact that school a school will have. However, he said that his job as superintendent is to ensure the sustainability of the school district. While making the recommendation to the local school board to close the school was hard, it was the correct thing to do. The local school board has requested that the district not RIF anyone in the district and that means that the Kingsland teachers can go to Rison to teach.

Mr. Matthews said that he appreciates the superintendent and both schools. He said that he would stand behind whatever decision is made, if it is financially for the best.

Ms. House said that school culture is important and encouraged the district to have a strategic plan in place to help the teachers and students feel like they belong on the new campus.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to accept the petition to close Kingsland Elementary School. There was a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A-2 Consideration for Fiscal Distress Classification – Lee County School District

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said on April 1, 2019, ADE notified the Lee County School District that the Department had identified the District as being in fiscal distress and that the Department would recommend that the State Board classify the District as being in fiscal distress. The District did not appeal the identification. If the State Board classifies the District as being in fiscal distress, the State Board or Commissioner of Education may take one or more of the actions set forth in the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1901 et seq.

Assistant Commissioner Mr. Greg Rogers said that the reasoning listed in the letter identifying the district as being fiscal distress was audit findings and fund balance. Examples of the audit findings were IRS penalties or \$54,000; miscoding of EBD payments; and bookkeeping and budget errors. Regarding the fund balance, Mr. Rogers said that district has been classified as being fiscal distress before. In 2014, the district was identified as being in fiscal distress with a

fund balance of \$367,000. By 2017, the fund balance had increased to be over \$1.2 million. However, they are now projected to end the year with \$141,000 net legal fund balance.

Coordinator of Fiscal Distress Ms. Cynthia Smith said the Department is currently working with Dr. Bowles to remedy the audit findings and they are working on the new budget.

Ms. Newton said that it is concerning when the schools come back again for fiscal distress. She asked if there was anything that can be done to prevent repeated instances of fiscal distress from happening. Mr. Key said that there were changes made to the fiscal reporting and accountability law during the Session to have ongoing monitoring for three years by the Fiscal Support Unit.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to deem the Lee County School District in fiscal distress. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zook asked if there are any checks and balances at the State level that a district spend millage money on what they said it was for. Ms. Smith said that if a district receives millages for building funds or technology, the Department is having them move that to another fund or down to the debt service fund to ensure the funds are not spent elsewhere.

A-3 Consideration of Classifying the Earle School District as in Need of Level 5 -- Intensive Support

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the Earle School District has requested that it receive Level 5 support, Intensive Support, from the ADE. The ADE consequently recommends that the State Board classify the Earle School District as in need of Level 5 support in accordance with the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2901 et seq. and governing rules. Should the State Board classify the Earle School District as in need of Level 5 -- Intensive support, the Board may take one or more of the actions set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2916.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Wilde said the district is continuing to struggle financially, which puts academics at risk and so the district is requesting to receive support. He said that they had involved the community in this decision.

Earle School District Community Advisory Chair Pastor Eric Cox said that Dr. Wilde brought the idea to the Advisory meeting around January and they shared with the community. He said that everyone is supportive of this plan. Pastor Cox said he thinks it is great that while the financial side is being fixed that the academic process is also being addressed.

Ms. Zook asked if a vote to classify in need of Level 5 support would restart the district's five-year timeline. Ms. Freno said no, the support can be provided on a standalone basis. Commissioner Key said that the Department is not asking the State Board to take any additional actions in conjunction with the Level 5 support.

Ms. Chambers said that the district coming to request support is a model have how she believes things need to happen and she expressed her appreciation to the district for providing this model. She said that she wanted all those who were viewing the meeting to know that this is a great approach to support. Commissioner Key said that the district and community recognize that this a partnership with the Department and actions like this set the stage for other districts to request the Department's collaboration and support, if needed. Earle School District Incoming

Superintendent Ms. Tish Knowles said that the community has embraced the assistance from the Department.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant the Earle School District Level 5 support. The motion passed unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Waiver Request – Licensure Action Case No. 19-01 – Wendy Joy Nauman

Staff Attorney Mr. Taylor Dugan said Ms. Wendy Joy Nauman is represented by Mr. Ryan Blue. Ms. Nauman is a licensed educator who has a true report on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. On January 4th, 2019, the Department notified Ms. Nauman that she is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410, and is entitled to a hearing. Ms. Nauman did request a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board.

Mr. Dugan reviewed the Department exhibits to the show the reason for the request. The Department has no recommendation in this case.

Attorney Mr. Ryan Blue said in September 2017, Ms. Nauman received a DWI. He said that she was also charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Minor; however, the charge was dismissed. He said that because of the guilty finding for the DWI there was a True finding for Child Maltreatment of inadequate supervision. A request was been made to the Department of Human Services to have Ms. Nauman removed from the Child Maltreatment Registry and is in pending status. Mr. Blue said the incident did not happen on school grounds and there were no students under her care. He reviewed several exhibits with the State Board.

Ms. Newton asked if Ms. Nauman has a problem with alcohol abuse or if this was a one-time incident. Mr. Blue said it was a one-time occurrence. He said she was attending a football game and she left early to take her children home. She was pulled over for speeding and when tested for alcohol, she was barely over the limit.

Ms. Zook requested that the State Board be notified when she comes off the Child Maltreatment Registry List, if the State Board decides to grant the waiver. Mr. Blue said that he would send that information when it became available.

Ms. Newton asked if Ms. Nauman was currently teaching. Ms. Nauman said that she currently works with an online program called VIP Kids, teaching children in China to speak English.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to grant the request with no additional conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Licensure Action Case No. 19-10 –Andrea Shontay Anderson

Staff Attorney Mr. Taylor Dugan said Ms. Andrea Shontay Anderson is seeking a teaching license and is a preservice teacher enrolled at Philander Smith College. On April 10, 2019, the Department notified Ms. Anderson that she was ineligible for licensure and employment in an Arkansas public school based on a disqualifying offense enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Ms. Anderson requested a waiver of the disqualifying offense. Ms. Anderson represents herself.

Ms. Anderson said that she is currently a junior at Philander Smith College with a 3.5 GPA and is on the President's list.

Mr. Dugan reviewed the Department exhibits to show the reason for the request. The Department has no recommendation in this case.

Ms. Zook asked who Ms. Anderson had assaulted. Ms. Anderson said that the event was 17 years ago with another adult. She noted that she regrets the situation and has not been in trouble since then. Ms. Zook asked how old she was at the time and the answer was 20 years old. Ms. Zook asked what Ms. Anderson's relationship to the person she assaulted was. Ms. Anderson said that was no relationship and that they were fighting over something that went too far. Ms. Zook asked if this was an anger management issue. Ms. Anderson said that she does not have anger issues and the assault was not with a deadly weapon.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant the waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dean was absent for this action item.

A-6 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License – Licensure Action Case No. 19-03 Charity Nicole Allen-Grace

Staff Attorney Mr. Taylor Dugan said Ms. Charity Nicole Allen-Grace is a licensed educator. On February 15th, 2019, the Department notified Ms. Allen-Grace that she is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 and entitled to a hearing. Ms. Charity Nicole Grace did not request a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board. Mr. Dugan said that Ms. Allen-Grace signed in acknowledgement receiving the notification; however, he did not receive a response to the notification. He received the exhibits regarding the request for revocation of Ms. Allen-Grace's licensure.

Ms. Zook asked if she is currently teaching and Mr. Dugan said she is not teaching. She also asked when the event happened. Mr. Dugan said that the order for the offense was dated January 9, 2019.

Ms. Chambers asked how the Department knows when there is an issue. Mr. Dugan said that it is normally when someone is applying for, transferring, or renewing their teaching license. However, he said that now the Arkansas State Police sends notifications regarding licensed educators or classified employees who are arrested. Upon receipt of that list, the Department looks to see if they are still working in the district and notify the district, if so. Other times the district or a private citizen notifies the Department of the offense.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to revoke the license. The motion passed unanimously.

A-7 Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas for the 2019-2020 School Year

Special Projects Administrator Mr. Frank Servedio said the following areas were determined to be shortage areas in Arkansas for the 2019-2020 school year based on previously published supply and demand calculations: art, agriculture, chemistry, computer science, English, family and consumer science, French, library media, mathematics, music, physics, Spanish, and special education.

Ms. Newton asked which areas came off the list and the answer was journalism and middle childhood.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2019

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Suzanne Bailey said under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms, and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. Doretta Griffin has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators (ArkASPA) to represent their membership. Ms. Griffin is a current member of the ArkASPA Board of Directors and an employee of the Hamburg School District. The term of this member is to begin July 1, 2019 and end on June 30, 2022.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

A-9 End-of-Semester Reviews of Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools in the Initial Year of Operation: Friendship Aspire Academy in Pine Bluff, ScholarMade Achievement Place, and Southeast Arkansas Preparatory High School

Public School Program Advisory Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said that all three schools had representatives on the phone if there are questions. She said has provided data to meet Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-406, which requires the Department of Education to conduct an end-of-semester review of each open-enrollment public charter school in its initial school year of operation and report to the State Board of Education on the charter school's overall financial condition and condition of student enrollment.

Ms. Newton asked if there were any concerns about Southeast Arkansas Prep School's balance. Superintendent/Principal Mr. Alex Noguera said that they have been working with the Department to getting their financials back on track. Assistant Commissioner Mr. Greg Rogers agreed and said that they are following the school closely and working with them.

Ms. McLaughlin said that the end-of-the-year report will be in July.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Request for Transfer of Succeed Scholarship: Hughes

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the ADE Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program require the parent of a student receiving a Succeed Scholarship who wishes to enroll the student in another private school from the list of eligible private schools, to request approval from the State Board of Education. The Hughes family requests approval to transfer the scholarship from the St. Edward's Catholic School to the Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic School, due to St. Edward's closing at the end of the school year.

Dr. Moore asked if the State Board approved the original application. Ms. Salas-Ford said, per rule, State Board approval is only required for a transfer.

Ms. Zook noted that none of the schools on this action item are known for their special education programs.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the transfer request. The motion passed unanimously.

B-2 Request for Transfer of Succeed Scholarship: Aguirre

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the Aguirre family requests approval to transfer the scholarship from the Immaculate Conception School to the Trinity Jr. High School. She said the request is because the current school only serves through sixth grade and their student is entering the seventh grade.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the transfer request. The motion passed unanimously.

B-3 Request for Transfer of Succeed Scholarship: Gomez

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the Gomez family requests approval to transfer the scholarship from the St. Theresa Catholic School to the Catholic High School for Boys. She said the request is because the current school only serves through eighth grade and their student is entering the ninth grade.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the transfer request. The motion passed unanimously.

B-4 Request for Transfer of Succeed Scholarship: Harter

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the Harter family requests approval to transfer the scholarship from the St. Edward's Catholic School to the Christ Lutheran School, due to St. Edward's closing at the end of the school year.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the transfer request. The motion passed unanimously.

B-5 Oral Communication Courses

Public School Program Manager Mr. Thomas Coy said the two courses, Personal Communication and Professional Communication, place greater emphasis on interpersonal and collaborative communication, which is a reflection of expectations in school and in the workplace and less emphasis on oratory. Additionally, as one-semester offerings, these courses will offer districts greater flexibility in scheduling and will offer students and parents greater choice in determining educational priorities, while still fulfilling the one-half credit of Oral Communication, which is required for graduation.

Ms. Newton said that oral communications is a class that some school district choose to embed and asked how that would work. Mr. Coy said that they would still have to embed and make a request within the content area. He said that schools will get to choose which, but they would still have to be approved on a case-by-case basis by the State Board.

Mr. Coy noted that these look different than the health standards and are not “I can” statements. He said that they anticipate a revision of ELA standards and will move everything to the new format at that time.

Dr. Barth asked what the stakeholder engagement was on this process. Mr. Coy said that Ms. Lana Hallmark engagement a committee of teachers to assist in this process. This information was also sent to additional teachers for feedback prior to State Board submission.

Ms. Zook said that the use of subjective terms (appropriate and effective) bother her for Standard use and asked if those types of words could be changed. Mr. Coy said that they would entertain the changes if she is concerned. Ms. Zook requested the team come up with more objective terms. Ms. Zook said that she would like to table this item until they fix the wording. Ms. Newton said that objective language bothered her, saying that it creates a checklist mentality.

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith said they have bigger plans for ELA with future revisions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

B-6 Arkansas World Language Standards

Public School Program Manager Mr. Thomas Coy said these new standards are written in the “I can” statement format. These new standards build on the strengths of the previous standards but focus more on attaining proficiency in the language. They also provide innovative new ways for schools to differentiate course offerings, tailored to the needs and interests of their students.

Dr. Moore asked if there will be professional development or campaign regarding these standards. Public School Program Advisor Mr. David Nance said he has been working for the last several summers with teachers doing professional development at various education service cooperative around Arkansas.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the standards. The motion passed unanimously.

B-7 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Special Education and Related Services, Sec. 24.00 Special Education Catastrophic Occurrences

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said on February 14, 2019, the State Board of Education released the proposed rules for public comment. The Department of Education held a public hearing on the proposed rules on March 4, 2019. The public comment period expired on March 26, 2019. No substantive changes were made as a result of the four public comments received. ADE staff respectfully requests that the State Board approve these rules as final.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Barth introduced Ms. Elizabeth Ryan, a student who requested to observe the State Board.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair



Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner