

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2014

The State Board of Education met Thursday, December 11, 2014, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Present: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Tony Wood, Commissioner

Absent: Mireya Reith (2:00-3:00)

Conference call: Mireya Reith joined the meeting by phone from 10:02 – 12:00.

Report

Commissioner Wood said the Jacksonville/North Pulaski County School District Board and counsel and the Pulaski County Special School District Board (Commissioner Wood) and counsel have reached an agreement that will be filed in Federal Court today and be considered by the Court on December 18.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - November 13, 2014
- Minutes - November 14, 2014
- Minutes - December 1, 2014
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Shannon Sanders
- Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Kelly Heslep Wright
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-045 – Harold W. Starks
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-053 – Dee F. Godwin
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards

- Board for Case #14-164 – Robert Milton Birdsong
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-182 – Linda Faye Stephens
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-188 –Melanie Marie Crumpler

Action Agenda

The Board agreed to pull A-7 and A-17. The Board agreed to add an action item to consider the proposed school board resolution.

Proposed School Board Resolution

The Arkansas School Boards Association requested the Board acknowledge local school boards with a resolution noting January 2015 as School Board month and recognizing the contributions of school board members.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the School Board Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Fiscal Status Special Report for the Helena-West Helena School District

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders said the Helena-West Helena School District was classified by the State Board of Education as being in Fiscal Distress on September 13, 2010. The State assumed authority for the Helena/West Helena School District on June 20, 2011. The Helena/West Helena School District is currently in their 4th year of Fiscal Distress.

Helena-West Helena School District Superintendent Mr. John Hoy said the district has already met most of the concerns. He said he is still working on a few of the audit issues. He said district enrollment is declining.

Fiscal Distress Coordinator Hazel Burnett said the next report would be provided in January 2015.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Fiscal Status Special Report for the Helena-West Helena School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Fiscal Status Special Report for Lee County School District

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders said the Lee County School District was

classified by the State Board of Education as being in Academic Distress on April 8, 2013. The State assumed authority for the Lee County School District on April 10, 2014. The Lee County School District was classified by the State Board of Education as being in Fiscal Distress on May 8, 2014. The Lee County School District was classified by the State Board of Education as being on Year Two Probation for Accreditation on June 12, 2014.

Fiscal Distress Coordinator Hazel Burnett said the district is reducing late fees.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the Fiscal Status Special Report for the Lee County School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Petition for the Voluntary Annexation of the Hartford School District into the Hackett School District

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said on November 6, 2014, the Hackett School District and the Hartford School District submitted a petition for the voluntary annexation of the Hartford School District into the Hackett School District. He said the State Board has the authority to consider the petition pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-13-1401 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts.

Hartford School District Superintendent Mrs. Teresa Ragsdale provided data regarding the district. She said due to declining enrollment the Hartford School Board reached out to other districts to consider annexation. She said the annexation would provide numerous benefits to students.

Hackett School District Superintendent Mr. William Pittman said the annexation would benefit both districts.

Commissioner Wood complimented the two districts and their boards for the collaboration. He supported the annexation.

Chair Ledbetter recognized Representative Bill Gossage who attended the State Board meeting in support of the annexation.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Petition for the Voluntary Annexation of the Hartford School District into the Hackett School District. The motion carried unanimously.

State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations – PLSB Case No. 14-011; Daniel Fullerton

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Jennifer Liwo said Mr.

Fullerton was found in violation of Standard 1: An educator maintains a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom. She said following an evidentiary hearing on June 25, 2014, the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee recommended the State Board suspend Mr. Fullerton's license for two (2) years, assess a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), and require training in classroom management and anger management from a professional provider approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, with said training to be completed prior to reinstatement.

Attorney Marcia Barnes said Mr. Fullerton received a more severe punishment than others with similar violations. She said Mr. Fullerton was requesting a lesser punishment.

Ms. Liwo said Mr. Fullerton received training on how to work with students similar to the student involved in the incident.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to impose probation through the school year 2015-2016, require training in classroom management and anger management from a professional provider approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, and assess a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75) for PLSB Case No. 14-011; Daniel Fullerton. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations – PLSB Case No. 14-060; LeAnna Kelpine (Cook)

Item A-5 was removed from the agenda.

Hearing on Request for Reduced Sanction on Teaching License – Kristine Hoskins

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Cheryl Reinhart said the Department had no objection to a reduced sanction.

Ms. Kristine Hoskins said on January 9, 2012, the State Board placed her teaching license on probation for five (5) years as a result of an ethics violation in PLSB Case No. 11-075. She requested the Board reduce the probation.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to end the probation of teaching license for Kristine Hoskins on December 31, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Amendments to the Criteria for NBPTS Candidates' Eligibility for State Financial Incentives

Item A-7 was pulled from the agenda.

Computer Science and Mathematics: Mathematics Curriculum Framework

Curriculum and Instruction Secondary Mathematics Specialist Mr. Anthony Owen said the Computer Science and Mathematics Curriculum Framework was designed to be an initial step toward filling a void in Arkansas public school course offerings. He said in late October, a committee of educators from across the state met for two days and drafted the framework document. This committee consisted of five (5) secondary computer science/business technology teachers, four (4) secondary mathematics teachers, one (1) secondary mathematics administrator, and one (1) post-secondary computer science professor. He said he represented the Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit and facilitated the committee. ACE STEM Program Coordinator, Timothy Johnston, represented the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE). The design of the curriculum framework was guided by both the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) and the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) K-12 Computer Science Standards. He said the committee designed the strands and the content standards based on the CSTA standards. The Student Learning Expectations (SLE), which were based on computer programming/computer science concepts, are aligned with fifty (50) CCSSM standards. Twenty-one (21) of those fifty (50) aligned CCSSM standards are CCSSM Plus Standards, which are standards that are above the scope of Algebra II. He said a student successfully completing Computer Science and Mathematics, with an appropriately licensed teacher, should receive a fourth-year mathematics course credit under the ADE Smart Core Graduation Pathway.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Computer Science and Mathematics: Mathematics Curriculum Framework. The motion carried unanimously.

Turkish I-IV: Foreign Languages Curriculum Framework

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Debbie Jones said the approval by the State Board of Education of new Modern Language curriculum frameworks on December 16, 2013 facilitated the addition of new foreign language course offerings through the addition of an appendix to the Modern Languages I-IV framework. This process facilitated the addition of American Sign Language, approved by the State Board of Education on May 8, 2014, in partial fulfillment of Act 328 of 2013. In April 2014 The LISA Academy, located in Little Rock, submitted an application to renew its approval to teach Turkish I-IV as year-long courses for high school foreign language credit, which had been approved by this Department previously. She said as part of the 2014 application, the Turkish language faculty of The LISA Academy developed an appendix for Turkish I-IV for submission to and approval by the State Board of Education. The Turkish I-IV appendix has been reviewed by appropriate staff in the Division of Learning Services and is recommended for approval by the State Board of Education. This appendix

provides information on student learning expectations for Turkish language and culture just as the current Modern Languages I-IV framework provides information for several languages currently taught in Arkansas public schools. She said addition of the Turkish I-IV appendix to the Modern Languages framework will enable Arkansas public schools to teach Turkish for high school foreign language credit without having to seek approval from the Arkansas Department of Education.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to table the Turkish I-IV: Foreign Languages Curriculum Framework. The motion carried unanimously.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of Redfield Tri-County Charter School appeared before the panel on November 19 and requested that Redfield Tri-County Charter School, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter school in Redfield to serve students in grades 5-12 with a maximum enrollment of 375. She said by a 4-2 vote, the panel denied the application for Redfield Tri-County Charter School and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas. Ms. Newton, Mr. Black, Ms. Mahony, and Ms. Saviers voted yes. Dr. Barth, Mr. Davis, and Ms. Zook voted no. The vote was 4-3. The motion failed.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Rockbridge Montessori School, Little Rock, Arkansas

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of Rockbridge Montessori School appeared before the panel on November 19 and requested that Rockbridge Montessori School, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter school in Little Rock to serve students in grades K-8 with a maximum enrollment of 325. She said by a unanimous vote, the panel approved the application for Rockbridge Montessori School and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Rockbridge Montessori

School, Little Rock, Arkansas. Ms. Mahony voted no. The final vote was 6-1. The motion carried.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Career Academy of Siloam Springs, Siloam Springs School District

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Siloam Springs School District appeared before the panel on November 19 and requested that Siloam Springs High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 1,600. She said by a unanimous vote, the panel approved the application for the Career Academy of Siloam Springs and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Siloam Springs School District Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jody Wiggins said the district would pursue national certifications for the proposed programs. He said the district is also collaborating with local universities regarding concurrent credit.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Davis, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Career Academy of Siloam Springs, Siloam Springs School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Farmington Career Academies, Farmington School District

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Farmington School District appeared before the panel on November 19 and requested that Farmington High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 10-12 with a maximum enrollment of 650. She said by a unanimous vote, the panel approved the application for the Farmington Career Academies and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Assistant Principal of Farmington High School Mr. Clayton Williams said the district would launch academies that focus on career areas.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Farmington Career Academies, Farmington School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School

Application: Fountain Lake Charter High School, Fountain Lake School District

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Fountain Lake School District appeared before the panel on November 20 and requested that Fountain Lake High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 800. She said by a 4-2 vote, the panel approved the application for the Fountain Lake Charter High School with a requirement that Fountain Lake representatives return in the spring with a report to update the Charter Authorizing Panel on the progress of their plans. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders said he voted no because he needed more information about the courses of study.

Director of Curriculum for Fountain Lake School District Mr. Brad Sullivan said the district was in communication with local universities.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Fountain Lake Charter High School, Fountain Lake School District. Ms. Zook voted no. The final vote was 6-1. The motion carried.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Southside Charter High School, Southside School District

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Southside School District appeared before the panel on November 20 and requested that Southside High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 1,200. She said by a 4-1 vote, the panel approved the application for the Southside Charter High School and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Southside Charter High School, Southside School District. Ms. Mahony voted no. The final vote was 6-1. The motion carried.

Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Warren High School, Warren School District

Director of the Office of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue said on November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Warren School District appeared before the panel on November 20 and requested that Warren High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 600. She said by a unanimous vote, the panel approved the application for the Warren High School and no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the panel was submitted.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Warren High School, Warren School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-17 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification

A-17 was pulled from the agenda.

Consideration for Public Comment: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Enrollment of Military Dependents

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-107 required the State Board of Education to promulgate rules regarding the enrollment of students who are military dependents.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the Proposed Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Emergency Adoption: Arkansas Department of Education Emergency Rules Governing Schools of Innovation

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2802 required the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the District of Innovation Program. He said in order to review schools of innovation applications and provide adequate opportunity for applicants to submit revisions to those applications for the 2015-2016 school year, the Arkansas

Department of Education staff should receive applications by January 30, 2015. He said the proposed emergency rules revise the application dates and include a requirement that schools of innovation abide by applicable requirements for highly qualified teachers.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Arkansas Department of

Education Emergency Rules Governing Schools of Innovation. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Public Comment: Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Schools of Innovation

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2802 required the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the District of Innovation Program.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Schools of Innovation for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of State Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2015

Chief of Staff Ms. Deborah Coffman said Arkansas statute required that each constitutional board and commission set proposed dates for the next calendar year at the last regular meeting of each calendar year. She said the State Board of Education has previously set the second Thursday and Friday of each month as its regular meeting dates.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the adoption of State Board of Education Meeting Dates for calendar year 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Chair's Report

Chair Ledbetter asked Mr. Kim Davis to serve as the State Board liaison to the Arkansas ForwARd initiative.

Ms. Mahony said the El Dorado Promise team recently visited Yale University.

Jonathan said the 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year has been announced and will meet the Board in January.

Ms. Newton and Mr. Ledbetter said the conversation with Dr. James Gates caused reflection about having a student on the State Board. Mr. Ledbetter said a member of a public higher education institution is also not currently permitted to serve on the Board.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Wood said the previous practice of the Board was to consider waivers for inclement weather after a district had missed ten days.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Tony Wood, Commissioner of Education