

**AGENDA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 14, 2002**

Auditorium, Department of Education Building

9:00 a.m.

Special Report

Report: Task Force for the Creation of Knowledge-Based Jobs – Dr. James Herndon

This Task Force was formed more than a year ago to work under the Arkansas Department of Economic Development to study the issues and needs for knowledge-based workers in Arkansas and to frame a set of recommendations. This report will highlight the work of the Task Force and focus on education recommendations contained in the report.

Recommended action: No action is required.

Work Session

WS – 1 Implementation of No Child Left Behind: A Progress Report – Janinne Riggs and Dr. Charles Watson

Since its enactment in January 2002, the Arkansas Department of Education has worked to implement the revisions to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – No Child Left Behind. This report will note the major changes in programming and policy that the Department and schools must under-go to meet the tenet of the law.

Recommended action: No action is required.

WS – 2 Presentation – Test Scores – Dr. Gayle Potter/Dr. Charity Smith

Department staff will summarize the results from the Benchmark Exams administered in all public schools in the spring of 2002.

Recommended action: No action is required.

Chair’s Report – Shelby Hillman

Director’s Report – Raymond Simon

Consent Agenda

C – 1 Minutes - Regular Meeting September 09, 2002.

Recommended action: Approve the Minutes

Minutes – Teleconference August 28, 2002.

Recommended action: Approve the Minutes

C – 2 Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations – Clemetta Hood

Information item only

Recommended action: No action to be taken

- C – 3 **Arkansas School Self-Insurance Program Rate Correction – Patricia Martin**
State statutes require the State Board of Education to approve the premium rate for the Public Elementary and Secondary School Insurance Program. The Board approved a new premium rate schedule at the August 12, 2002 meeting. The rate approved for earthquake coverage was 0.00007. That rate should be 0.0007
Recommended action: Approve this revision.
- C – 4 **Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan – Willie Morris**
As part of the Agency's continuing obligation to the Pulaski County desegregation suit, the Board receives a monthly update of activities and events. Highlights of activities since the last report include: professional development opportunities for schools in the districts, school improvement planning, and activities of the New Teacher Project as it relates to recruitment of minority teachers.
Recommended action: Receive this report.
- C – 5 **Report of Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field for Longer than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days, Act 1623 – Dr. Charity Smith**
Act 1623 requires local school districts to secure a waiver when classrooms are staffed with unlicensed teachers for longer than 30 days. Waiver requests were received from 22 districts covering a total of 64 positions. These requests have been reviewed by Department staff and are recommended for approval. A summary of the review process as prepared by Dr. Charity Smith is attached under the supporting documents.
Recommended action: Approve these waiver requests.
- C – 6 **Review of Loan and Bond Applications – Cindy Hedrick**
State statutes require that the State Board of Education review and approve all requests for funds from the Revolving Loan Fund and commercial bond applications. These requests include Revolving Loans from three districts, Voted Bond Requests from 2 districts, and Second Lien bonds from 1 district.
Recommended action: Approve these requests
- C – 7 **Approval of Revised Physical Education and Health Education Framework – Dr. Gayle Potter**
In keeping with the scheduled revision of Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks, the Department of Education established a committee of teachers, administrators, and others to prepare an update to the Physical Education and Health Education Framework. These revisions were edited by Department staff and are presented for final review and approval.
Recommended action: Approve these revised Frameworks
- C - 8 **Approval of English Language Acquisition Framework – Dr. Gayle Potter**
In keeping with the scheduled revision of Content Standards and Curriculum Frameworks, the Department of Education established a committee of teachers, administrators, and others to prepare an update to the English Language Acquisition Framework. This revision was edited by Department staff and is presented for final review and approval.
Recommended action: Approve this revised Framework

Action Agenda

- A – 1 Approval of Revised Version of the Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for Ark. Code Ann. 12-12-901 Et Seq or “Megan’s Law”. – Scott Smith

In February 1998 the State Board of Education adopted guidelines pursuant to Arkansas statute that require notification of communities when a known sexual offender is relocated in an area. Subsequent legislation requires that the State Board of Education develop guidelines for disclosure of this information to school district staff, students and parents. These guidelines reflect revision to the February 1998 document necessary to meet the new statute. These revisions were prepared by Department staff.

Recommended action: Approve these Guidelines.

- A – 2 Praxis III Performance Assessment Cut-Score Recommendation – Paulette Blevins

The Praxis III assessment has been designated as the evaluation measure for all teachers who will be licensed under the revised policies. Beginning in January 2003, every teacher must meet the proposed composite score as well as the minimum score for each Domain on the assessment. A pilot assessment period – November 2001 through May 2002 – was used to establish recommended cut scores. These cut scores were recommended by the Department of Education Professional Quality Enhancement staff upon the advice of the Arkansas Praxis III assessors. The Management Team of the Department of Education has reviewed and supports these recommendations.

Recommended action: Adopt the recommended cut scores.

Minutes
State Board of Education
Monday, October 14, 2002

The State Board of Education met on Monday, October 14, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Education Building. Shelby Hillman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following members were present: Shelby Hillman, Chairman; JoNell Caldwell, Vice-Chairman; Luke Gordy; Robert Hackler; Peggy Jeffries; and Lewis Thompson, Jr.

The following member was absent: Dr. Calvin King.

SPECIAL REPORT

Dr. James Herndon was recognized to present a summary and recommendations from the work of the Task Force for the Creation of Knowledge-Based Jobs. Dr. Herndon's comments were parallel to those distributed in the Agenda materials.

WORK SESSION

Implementation of *No Child Left Behind*: A Progress Report: Janinne Riggs and Dr. Charles Watson were recognized to provide information pursuant to the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. The presentation highlighted progress to date for implementation of the legislation in Arkansas and a projection of actions that are yet to come for full compliance. The major work yet to be accomplished is in the area of assessment at additional grade levels and the development of working descriptions of Adequate Yearly Progress based on the State's accountability system. It was emphasized that before these components can be fully defined, the State must receive final program guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Presentation – Test Scores: Dr. Charity Smith and Dr. Gayle Potter were recognized to present this report. Summary scores from the Spring 2002 administration of the Benchmark Exams were provided along with progress reports for Grades 4 and 8. Points of clarification were made regarding combined vs. general populations; consistent progress over time; and the expectation for improvement is scores as more teachers and staff participate in professional development, specifically Smart Start and Smart Step. Issues raised included the impact of block scheduling on test performance, linkage with the norm-referenced testing, developing new test times to replace those that are released each year and the need for consistency of the level of difficulty over time.

Mr. Gordy expressed his congratulations to the staff and to schools for the focus on accountability and the early demonstration that student performance is improving.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Hillman announced that Mr. Simon was recently appointed as a member of the National Assessment Governing Board. This Board provides administrative guidance and oversight for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Simon recognized Dan Farley, Arkansas School Boards Association, to announce a new series of Study Circle events in various districts across the state. Mr. Simon noted that a goal of Study Circles was meaningful participation in public schools by local school board members, parents, and community leaders.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hackler moved approval of the Consent Agenda as published. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 9, 2002
- Minutes – Teleconference Meeting, August 28, 2002
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Arkansas School Self-Insurance Program Rate Correction
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field for Longer than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days, Act 1623
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Approval of Revised Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks
- Approval of English Language Acquisition Framework

ACTION AGENDA

Approval of Revised Version of the Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for Ark. Code Ann. 12-12-901 Et Seq or “Megan’s Law”

Scott Smith was recognized to present this item. Mr. Smith noted that revisions in previous guidelines are suggested to bring the policy to compliance with current statutes. He indicated that these revisions provide guidance for the responsibility of local districts to inform staff, students and parents when a known sexual offender assumes residence in the area. Mr. Gordy moved adoption of these guidelines and that they be distributed to all local districts. Mr. Hackler seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Praxis III Performance Assessment Cut-Score Recommendation

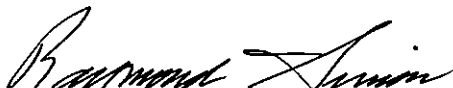
Paulette Blevins was recognized to present this item. Ms. Blevins indicated that the Department was revising the recommendation made in the printed Board materials. Mr. Simon distributed a revised set of recommendations. (Attachment 1) Mr. Simon explained that a revised recommendation was made after staff fully examined the initial proposal. The ultimate minimum score for passing remains the same as the advisory committee's proposal. However, he reported that staff believes that there is inadequate data to support a cut score for each of the domains as well as a different cut score for the entire battery. Mr. Simon stated that additional recommendations for minimum scores on the domains could be brought to the Board at a future time.


Ms. Jeffries moved adoption of the revised recommendation. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Hackler moved adjournment. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The minutes were recorded and reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson


Raymond Simon, Director


Shelby Hillman, Chair

Praxis III Performance Assessment Cut-Score Recommendations

Background:

- The Praxis III (PIII) performance assessment for all novice teachers becomes consequential for standard licensure effective 1/01/03.
- Pilot testing of PIII was operational from November, 2001 to May, 2002. During that time 196 assessments were conducted.
- PIII scoring requires four separate learning domain scores and one composite score.
- The standard setting study value, recommended by a panel of Arkansas PIII assessors through a formal analysis, was a minimum composite score of 41. The Professional Quality Enhancement staff's recommended composite cut-score (40) is slightly lower than the study value; the rationale being that this score would allow for further data review and score reconsideration (if warranted) in two years.
- The assessment contains four (4) separate domains. Arkansas Department of Education staff will monitor this information the first year to determine if minimum domain scores are warranted.

Cut-Score Recommendations:

- Total Composite: passing score 40 (maximum score 57)

Of the 196 candidates testing under pilot conditions (with these proposed cut-scores), 21 (11%) would not have passed. The resulting pass rate would have been 89%.