

Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Monday, October 10, 2005

The State Board of Education met Monday, October 10, 2005, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Board members were present: Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Chair; Mrs. Dianne Tatum, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Sherry Burrow; Mrs. Shelby Hillman; Mr. Randy Lawson; Mrs. Mary Jane Rebick; and Dr. Naccaman Williams.

The following Board member was absent: Dr. Calvin King

**Chair's Report**

Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland invited the Board members to share visits made or related activities.

Ms. Rebick reported having attended a luncheon in the Little Rock School District at the beginning of September. The topic during the luncheon was student achievement and the goal the district has to be the number one highest performing urban school district in the United States. Ms. Rebick stated she felt this was an attainable goal and was appreciative of Dr. Brooks willingness to visit and speak to the community concerning educational issues.

Dr. Williams reported visiting Boone Park Elementary during September. During his visit, he observed their literacy program, which is sponsored by UALR. Dr. Williams expressed the school is doing exceptionally well on their literacy program. He also stated he would be visiting the school again following the Board meeting to sit in on a conference to learn more about the program.

Dr. Williams shared he had attended the dedication of Harbor High School in Springdale. He reported the dedication as a wonderful, exciting event. He also stated he toured the facility with Dr. Jim Rollins, and noted what an exceptional facility it is. He also quoted Dr. Rollins regarding the new facility, "It is not so much the facility, but what goes on in the facility." Dr. Williams stated the expectations in Springdale are high.

Ms. Hillman reported she had been invited to visit several school district board meetings. She stated there is a lot of interest, excitement and concern about some of the new rules. Ms. Hillman noted the districts seem eager to get on the right track.

Ms. Tatum reported visiting with administrators for the El Dorado Education Foundation. She noted they spoke highly of the improvements in the math scores of minority students of El Dorado. Ms. Tatum noted the new and exciting work that has been done to improve the scores, and stated the scores are above the national and state average.

## Commissioner's Report

Dr. James commended the Board for visibly taking an active role in a variety of activities around the state. Dr. James stated his sincere appreciation for the meaningful work each one is doing.

Dr. James gave an update regarding the annual Joint Board Meeting with Workforce Education and Higher Education, which will be held next month. He also stated he would give a more detailed report on the American Diploma Project and the NGA grant focused on high school reform. Dr. James briefly informed the Board of a recent meeting he attended with Ms. Janinne Riggs and Ms. Kristi Pugh. The meeting was the first session held for the 10 Honor States Grant recipients. He noted the forming of the Institute teams, which will attend three rigorous training sessions to begin the work of looking at high school standards, and aligning those standards to workplace and college readiness. Dr. James noted the standards for workplace and college should be the same. The standards will be developed to make sure they are competitive, and our assessment and accountability systems are lined up as well. Dr. James stated we are one of only four states recognized with the rigorous course of study with Smart Core.

Dr. James recognized the following representatives of the Springdale School District: Dr. Jim Rollins, Superintendent; Dr. Don Love, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; Dr. Allen Williams, High School Principal; Mr. David Kellogg, Assistant Principal and Ms. Jan Struebing, District Vocational Coordinator. Dr. James announced that Springdale High School had been selected to receive the Gold Implementation Award, based on the 2004 High Schools That Work (HSTW) Assessment results. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) presents this award to schools that rate the highest on 16 measures of implementation of the Improvement Model, and have mean scores at or above the HSTW performance goals in two or more subject areas. The HSTW assessment administered consists of NAEP-based achievement tests in reading, mathematics, and science. Springdale High School scored above the HSTW goals and Arkansas' average in Reading, Math and Science. Dr. James noted that Springdale High School is one of only 18 sites to receive the Gold Implementation Award this year, and was duly recognized at the 2005 HSTW Summer Conference in Nashville, TN. Dr. James commended the representatives present on the tremendous accomplishments. Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland presented a plaque to Dr. Allen Williams. Dr. Williams was recognized to speak. He expressed his appreciation to the Board and the Department for recognizing the accomplishments. He also noted Springdale had implemented four years of math to graduate, and was the first school to do so in the state. He acknowledged the work of the Springdale High School staff, and the relationship with SREB in working with the HSTW model.

Dr. Westmoreland expressed her appreciation to Springdale School District. Dr. Westmoreland brought an item to be added to the agenda to the Board's attention.

Mr. Lawson moved to add the item to the agenda as Action Item A-19a. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Westmoreland noted a correction to page C4-15: Lafayette School District, out of area teaching assignment for Ms. Patricia Nishiuchi, should be in the area of Reading and not Social Studies.

## Work Session

### Report on the Status of Schools Classified in Fiscal Distress for the 2004/2005 School Year

Dr. Davis was recognized to report the status of the six (6) districts classified in fiscal distress for the 2004/2005 school year. Dr. Davis reported Department staff have visited each site and have provided technical assistance. She noted it is time to look at proof of accomplishment of what was in the plans. She stated the data have been received but not reviewed. Dr. Davis reported this is an update of where the districts are, and will give further more detailed report in November. She noted the Board received a copy of an update on how districts are doing and what they have accomplished. Each District has projected an increase in balance for the end of the 2004/2005 school year. Dr. Davis stated each has worked on cutting expenditures, programs and staff. The handout provided outlines the actions each district has taken to improve their financial standing. Dr. Davis noted further information for these six districts and information regarding the twelve districts classified in fiscal distress for this school year will be on the November agenda.

Ms. Rebick stated it would help to include the pupil enrollment in the future report. Dr. Davis stated that information would be included in future reports.

Dr. Williams asked what causes a district such as these, to go on fiscal distress. Dr. Davis stated every one of the districts have different reasons, noting some desire not to cut staff when enrollment drops, current year cash flow loans, and many do not want to give up programs, even when the funding is not there. Dr. Williams inquired if it is the managing of resources currently available. Dr. Davis stated in most cases it is a management and efficiency issue. Dr. Williams asked if it is a question of millage. Dr. Davis replied not in all instances.

Ms. Rebick asked that the report of student enrollment include whether the numbers are increasing or decreasing. Dr. Davis said it would be added.

### Proposed Rating System

Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to report on the proposed rating system as required in Act 35. The state will now have a rating system on growth and annual performance. Dr. Smith introduced Dr. Robert Kennedy, a mathematician/statistician at the University of Arkansas for Medical Science campuses. Dr. Kennedy is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on Accountability for Arkansas. Dr. Smith also noted Dr. Oliver, chair of the states accountability committee, had been invited to attend today's session as well.

Dr. Smith provided an overview of the new rating system for all schools through a PowerPoint presentation. She pointed out that the state system would measure improvement gains as well as co-hort growth. The system will be on a rating of five levels, with level one (1) being those in need of the most improvement and level five (5) being those schools with an excellent rating. Dr. Smith noted this would be on the state's report card in the future. She explained the system will include co-hort growth and improvement gains, and must be easy to read and easily understood by parents, teachers, and administrators.

Dr. Smith noted today's focus is only on the performance category, and would give two options for the Board to consider. The first option is a weighted average approach and the second option is the stanine approach. Dr. Smith noted that every school would be given an index performance score, ranking top to bottom to see how they actually perform. She noted each school would be given an index performance score, weight that score and finally assign a rating

category as required in Act 35. Dr. Smith outlined the process through examples given in the PowerPoint.

Dr. Smith stated the second approach is the stanine approach, which would have a range of one through nine. Dr. Kennedy was recognized and reported this approach as another alternative. He stated it is divided into nine different categories. He noted an expert panel of stakeholders would examine this, to define the approach. The panel will review how the scores are distributed, the history of achievement, school sizes, capabilities, etc... He stated the panel would take into consideration the priorities. Dr. Kennedy gave an example of the five levels developed from the original nine stanines, showing an overview included in the presentation.

Dr. Smith reviewed the two options outlined. The first being the stanine growth and the percentage of growth of each school, and the second option being the weighted average approach. She noted Act 35 states it must be easily identified by districts and parents. Dr. Smith stated since some schools would like to know how they currently rate, the department is proposing to do the rating system now, but noted it must be in place by 2009/2010. Dr. Smith explained that these two options would be in accordance with what the law states, which is to keep it simple, easy to read and transparent. She noted the co-hort measure would track student growth with the system. After two years of data has been collected, the growth measure will be in place. She noted the baseline year for the data is the 2006/2007 school year allowing two years of data. One last item Dr. Smith addressed was the required annual ratings. She outlined the five levels as being: level five – school of excellence, level four – school exceeding the standards, level three – school meeting the standards, level two – school on alert, and level one – school in need of immediate improvement.

Mr. Lawson acknowledged and applauded the Department's work. He stated a focus on growth offers much more utility for teachers. He also stated it is exciting to focus on growth, as opposed to what the focus has been in the past. Mr. Lawson also complimented "commish" James regarding the newspaper editorial. He stated it is good that we are raising the bar.

Dr. Smith replied that prior to implementing the rating system the bar had to be raised.

Ms. Rebick asked if the proposed weighted system would be for the 2009/2010 school year, and the value added system would be used now. Dr. Smith stated we do not have the value added system in place now, but will once two years of data has been collected. The TAC is currently reviewing value added models that are transparent and easily understood. She noted the importance of using the live data prior to adopting one system or another. Once that is done, Dr. Smith stated she would bring the TAC's recommendation back to the Board for a decision. Ms. Rebick asked if the value added model is a third option. Dr. Smith stated the rating system is one system with two categories. The first being the annual performance and the second being the growth/value added model.

Dr. Williams asked if the value added model is being looked at today. Dr. Smith stated no. Dr. Williams complimented the presentation. He also asked if schools would be forced into using the stanine approach vs. the weighted index. Dr. Smith noted the data would fall in a distributed way most of the time. She noted as improvement continues to move up, the whole group will move up.

Dr. Kennedy added as distribution continues to move upward, the panel will come back and review from time to time, and with this many students, we will still have a normal distribution.

Ms. Burrow asked when these two methods are used; if we will see comparable categories. Dr. Kennedy stated probably, because of the even distribution when using either.

Dr. Williams asked if this is an either/or approach, or looking at both. Dr. Smith stated yes, either/or, not both.

Ms. Rebick asked if this must go out for a public hearing. Dr. Smith indicated it does not.

Dr. Williams asked what were some other considerations, other than the raw data. Dr. Smith stated there is nothing else other than the test scores. Dr. Williams inquired if this is a direct line from what is taught in the classroom, to what students learn, to how the school is rated. Dr. Smith stated yes, absolutely.

Dr. James complimented the excellent presentation. He noted the complexity of the entire conversation. He also noted the importance of public input and the transparency required in Act 35. He stated the conversation around the country regarding value added models is extremely complex, and even the experts around the country can, and often do, disagree as to what is the best model. He noted the dialog will continue and will be brought back before the Board.

Dr. Westmoreland asked what was Dr. Smith's projected timeline. Dr. Smith explained the information would be taken out for 30plus days to get input from various focus groups on the system. She noted the plan is to come back to the Board in December with a formal recommendation. She stated at that point the TAC would have had the opportunity to use live data in both of the systems.

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Williams inquired about item #4 regarding the number of waivers where one district requested 13 special education waivers. He asked if there is anything special requiring districts to get as many teachers as possible licensed in special education. Ms. Beverly Williams was recognized and stated the years shown on the waiver report indicates what year they are in the waiver, noting six were there last year, and only 7 were new ones this year. She also noted Cabot School District had shared they had 24 Special Education teachers to either resign or retire last year.

Ms. Hillman stated her concern regarding teachers now in counseling who are licensed in other areas, noting an example. Ms. Williams stated many are on ALP's because of shortages in the area of counseling. Ms. Hillman inquired as to how they can counsel without the proper training, especially with emergencies where counseling is so important to children. Ms. Williams explained the Initial Teaching License requires at least three hours of psychology/counseling. Ms. Hillman stated this is an area where a flag should be raised when this comes up. Ms. Williams stated she would follow-up on this issue, and elaborated on the intent of an ALP.

Ms. Rebick inquired if counselors still work in the area of academic counseling. Ms. Williams stated yes, many work with career planning, college choices, etc... Ms. Rebick noted that their work is not just psychological areas.

Ms. Williams pointed out the page in the report that indicates some of the waivers have been denied. She also reported a fall co-hort of Non-Traditional candidates would begin their training Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Lawson moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

- September 7, 2005 Special Board Meeting minutes
- September 12, 2005 SBE minutes
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Report of Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field for Longer than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days, Act 1623 of 2001
- Consideration of Loan and Bond Applications

### **Action Agenda**

#### **Approval of Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program Recommendations 2005-2006**

Mr. Paul Lazenby was recognized to present this item. Mr. Lazenby stated all issues have been resolved and requested the Board approve the proposed recommendations.

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the ABC recommendations. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Hillman asked what the plan would be when the grant money runs out. Mr. Lazenby stated the beer tax would run out in 2006 that covered the original programs. Ms. Hillman inquired what the standing is for funding the classes in coming years. Mr. Lazenby indicated they are working with higher education and making a plan to seek additional funding. Ms. Hillman recognized that the programs are going well, and can see the good from the programs. She stated a hope that something is in motion to continue funding. Mr. Lazenby stated they are looking ahead and meeting with other early childhood education agencies and legislators. Also wanted to address inquire about the Special Education shortage issue and wanted to know if it has anything to do with the increase in P-4 challenges. He noted they are making plans for the challenges and working the Educational Cooperatives.

#### **Approval of the Rule Governing the Public Education Salvage Computer Loan Program**

Mr. Jim Boardman was recognized to present this item. Mr. Boardman requested the Board adopt the proposed Rule, stating a public hearing was held in July. He noted the information was sent out again and did not come back with any further changes. Mr. Boardman pointed out that the last section had been added, but was not required by legislation. He stated he thought it was necessary to have written policy if there are more students than computers available.

Ms. Rebick asked when this is anticipated to roll out. Mr. Boardman replied this year. He stated it would be at least sixty days before this will be finalized.

Ms. Tatum moved approval of the Rule. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### **Approval of the Repeal of the Rule Governing Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas in Arkansas High Schools**

Ms. Ann Biggers was recognized to present this item. Ms. Biggers gave an overview of the three consecutive items regarding AP and International Baccalaureate. Ms. Biggers explained the incorporation of this rule into the combined rule in the following action item. She reported a

public hearing was held on all three. One comment was made but did not pertain to rules, so no changes were made.

Mr. Lawson moved approval to repeal the Rule. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Approval of the Rule Governing Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Programs and Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas in Arkansas High Schools**

Ms. Ann Biggers was recognized to present this item. Mr. Lawson inquired about the discussion in the past and the intent for the state to pay. He noted the wording of the Rule 7.01. He suggested the wording be changed to *shall* instead of *may*. Mr. Scott Smith stated the language in the Rule is following the language of the statute. Mr. Lawson inquired where that is stated in the law.

Dr. James stated the language could be found on page six of the law. He noted the strike through of *will* and the insertion of *may*.

Mr. Lawson voiced his concern that if we mandate students to take the test, it does not make sense for us not to pay.

Dr. James explained if the language is *shall*, and in the event the legislature does not appropriate the funding, the Department would have to find the funding.

Mr. Smith also noted the Board does not have the authority to go above the legislature.

Mr. Lawson reiterated his statement, if the state is going to mandate students take the test, we must pay for it.

Ms. Hillman noted it is necessary to have that conversation with the legislators to see that they fund this mandate.

Dr. Westmoreland made note that it appears under the original act, legislation did say *shall*, but in the most recent session was changed to *may*. Mr. Smith stated if it was struck through that does indicate a change from the original law.

Ms. Hillman asked if the Board should postpone voting. Dr. Westmoreland stated the Board does not have the authority to change the language, but stated she is in agreement with Mr. Lawson. Mr. Smith stated the language did say prior, that the state will pay a share not to exceed \$65, but was changed to *may* with recent legislation.

Ms. Rebick moved approval of the Rule. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Approval of the Rule Governing Uniform Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools**

Ms. Ann Biggers was recognized to present this item. Ms. Rebick asked if there was a reference to special education in the original legislation. Ms. Biggers stated Act 2151 repealed the section of Arkansas law that had any special education notation.

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the Rule. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

(A full transcript of the following items was recorded and reported by a court reporter. That document is attached as an amendment to the Minutes. The following minutes reflect the actions taken by the Board.)

Mr. Scott Smith was recognized to outline the process and information regarding the action(s) the Board is required to take under A.C.A § 6-15-206. He noted information for each district will be presented and a recommendation will be made as to what the department staff has determined.

Ms. Annette Barnes was recognized to present each of the individual items. Ms. Barnes stated each of the districts have been notified of their status.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – C.V. White High School**

C.V. White High School did not teach the required 38 units for two consecutive years. The School District has closed C.V. White High School. It is requested that the Board approve the action initiated by the District.

Mr. Lawson moved approval. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Clinton High School**

Clinton High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. Department staff visits have shown students are now enrolled in 38 units at Clinton High School campus. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Tatum moved approval. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Gould High School**

Gould High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. The district has since closed the Gould High School campus. It is requested the Board approve the action initiated by the District.

Mr. Lawson moved approval. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Saratoga High School**

Saratoga High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. The Department requests the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by



February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Burrow asked if the 38 units were offered, but students just not enrolled. Ms. Barnes stated the students must be enrolled. Ms. Burrow inquired if the classes were included in curriculum. Ms. Barnes stated yes.

Dr. Westmoreland inquired if the law allows the distinction. Ms. Barnes stated no.

Ms. Hillman moved approval. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Arkansas High School**

Arkansas High School did not have a valid Arkansas license in 2003-2004, and did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units in 2004-2005. The Department has visited the school and the district has taken care of violations. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if the District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Tatum moved approval. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Wonderview High School**

Wonderview High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. A Department visit verified students are currently enrolled. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Rebick asked if the school districts would submit their letters prior to February deadline. Ms. Barnes stated the districts may submit their letters at any time.

Ms. Tatum moved approval. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Marvell High School**

Marvell High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. A Department visit verified students are currently enrolled. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by Feb. 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Mr. Lawson moved approval. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Strong High School**

Strong High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. A Department visit verified students are currently enrolled. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Burrow moved approval. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Jasper High School**

Jasper High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units in 2003-2004, and had a teacher teaching in area not licensed, with expired time 2004-2005. A Department visit verified students are currently enrolled. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Mr. Lawson moved approval. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Huttig High School**

Huttig High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. A Department visit verified the district has corrected the violations by reconfiguration of schools. All high school students are now on the Strong campus, and the Huttig campus is now a middle school. It is requested the Board approve the action initiated by the District.

Ms. Hillman moved approval. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Gurdon High School**

Gurdon High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years and also had a student/teacher ratio violation in 2003-2004, and a teacher teaching on an expired license in 2004-2005. A Department visit made staff aware of required courses, but district has since provided verification of correction. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Dr. Williams moved approval. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Carthage High School**

Carthage High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units for two consecutive years. The District has closed Carthage High School and the students are now enrolled at the Malvern High School campus. It is requested the Board approve action initiated by the District.

Ms. Hillman moved approval. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Spring Hill High School**

Spring Hill High School did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units. A Department visit made by staff verified corrections, and there have been Administrative reassignments by the district. It is requested that the Board approve requiring the District issue a written certification verifying the violation has been corrected and no other violations exist by February 1, 2006. A follow-up visit will be conducted prior to May 15, 2006, to verify if District has maintained compliance. A report will be made to the Board regarding the status.

Ms. Burrow moved approval. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

**Failure to meet all Standards of Accreditation for two (2) Consecutive Years – Mount Holly High School**

Mount Holly High School had a teacher teaching under an expired ALP in 2003-2004 and did not have students enrolled in the required 38 units in 2004-2005. The District has closed the Mount Holly High School and all students now attend on the Smackover High School campus. It is requested the Board approve action initiated by the District.

Mr. Lawson moved approval. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously through a roll call vote.

Ms. Hillman thanked the School Districts for stepping up to correct the problems and expressed appreciation for the Department staff.

**Approval of Performance Levels for Grades 3-8 for Benchmark Examinations; Performance Levels for Alternate Assessment for Limited English Proficient Students for Grades 3-8; and Performance Levels for Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities for Grades 3-8**

Dr. Gayle Potter was recognized to present this item. Dr. Potter noted three separate motions would be needed for this item. She requested the Board give final approval for each of the items presented. Dr. Potter stated a public hearing was held, with two people in attendance. She noted the hearing for all three was held at one time, and she did not receive any comments.

Ms. Rebick commended Dr. Potter on a job well done since no comments were made. Dr. Potter reported she had not received any complaints about the idea of raising standards.

Ms. Rebick moved approval of Performance Level for Grades 3-8 for Benchmark Examinations. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Lawson moved approval of Performance Levels for Alternate Assessment for Limited English Proficient Students for Grades 3-8. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Hillman moved approval of Performance Levels for Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities Grades 3-8. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Revocation of Teacher/Administrator's License: Roger Brooks**

Ms. Valerie Bailey was recognized to present this item. Ms. Bailey stated Mr. Brooks plead guilty on August 29, 2005, to one count of sexual indecency with a child, a Class D Felony, which is a disqualifying offense under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c)(14). Mr. Brooks' teacher and administrators licenses are valid from 1/01/1999 through 12/31/2009. Ms. Bailey noted further charges are pending.

Ms. Hillman moved for permanent revocation. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

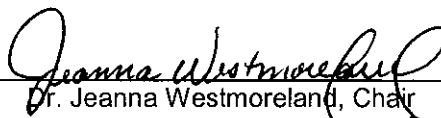
**Revocation of Teacher's License: Richard Estes**

Ms. Valerie Bailey was recognized to present this item. Mr. Estes entered a plea of nolo contendere on August 24, 2005, to one count of Battery in the First Degree, a Class B Felony, which is disqualifying offense under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c)(14). Ms. Bailey noted Mr. Estes is a former teacher at Pocahontas and his license is valid from 1/01/2004 through 12/31/2008.

Ms. Tatum moved for permanent revocation. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Tatum moved to adjourn. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47a.m.

  
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Dr. Kenneth James, Commissioner of Education

  
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Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Chair