

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 7, 2005**

The State Board of Education met for a specially called session on Wednesday, September 7, 2005. Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, chair, called the Special meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following Board members were present: Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Chair; Ms. Diane Tatum, Vice-Chair; Ms. Sherry Burrow; Ms. Shelby Hillman; Dr. Calvin King; Mr. Randy Lawson; and Dr. Naccaman Williams.

The following Board member was not present: Ms. MaryJane Rebick.

(A full transcript of the meeting 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.)

The Special meeting was called to conduct a hearing regarding an Emergency Annexation of the Parkin School District. The following outlines the information presented:

- Scott Smith started the meeting by providing an overview of the request for annexation, outlining the legal options under the Omnibus Act and Act 60.
- Dave Floyd was recognized to present information regarding the facilities. Mr. Floyd traveled to several of the districts, conducting a walk through, to present additional information.
- Mr. Jim Boardman was recognized to present demographics and locations of the districts. He noted the distance between Parkin School District and the surrounding districts was provided in the Board notebook map.
- Scott Smith was again recognized to present information regarding the desegregation information, the legal requirements and the Attorney General's opinions provided.
- Dr. Bobbie Davis was recognized to present the fiscal information of each of the districts.
- Dr. Dianna Julian was recognized to present information regarding the Districts' academic performance, noting all districts represented have at least one school in school improvement.
- Annette Barnes was recognized to present Standards of Accreditation for Parkin and the other six districts. She stated the Board notebook included a three-year history of each.
- Ms. Sylvia Moore, Superintendent, was recognized to represent the Parkin School District. Ms. Moore presented an overview of discussion between school district and department officials.
- Five (5) of the six (6) Contiguous School Districts were represented, and a response reported:
 - Earle - Mr. Jack Crumbly
 - Cross County - Mr. Don Smith
 - Forrest City - Mr. Lee Vent
 - Hughes - District not represented
 - Wynne - Mr. Darrell Smith
 - Marked Tree - Mr. Gary Masters

Mr. Scott Smith opened the session back up, following a thirty-minute lunch break. Mr. Smith recognized the individuals who signed up to speak in regard to the Parkin issue.

Ms. Hillman moved to limit the speaking time to three minutes per/person. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- The following individuals spoke regarding Parkin School District:
 - Mr. Charlie Patterson, Mayor of Parkin
 - Ms. Marilyn Jones, Parkin School Board Vice-President
 - Mr. Wesley McGee, Parkin School Board President
 - Reverend Larry Atkins, Pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Earle
 - Senator Luker
 - Representative Dangeau
 - Representative Otis Davis

- Mr. Wesley McGee gave a rebuttal and closing remarks for the Parkin School District.
- Mr. Scott Smith and Dr. Ken James gave closing remarks for the Department.
- Dr. Westmoreland reminded the Board of the process in which they would abide during the question/answer period. The Board proceeded in conducting numerous questions regarding the Parkin School District and the six contiguous districts.
- Following discussion by the Board:


Dr. Calvin King moved to annex Parkin School District with the Earle School District. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was defeated with a four (4) No, three (3) Yes roll-call vote.

- After further discussion by the Board:

Ms. Hillman moved to annex Parkin School District with the Wynne School District, with consideration that the petition of Parkin School District to the Earle School District is denied. The motion passed with five (5) Yes, one (1) No, and one (1) Abstention roll-call vote.

Ms. Hillman moved adjournment. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The minutes were recorded and reported by Kristi H. Pugh.



Dr. T. Kenneth James, Commissioner of Education



Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Chair