

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Monday, July 9, 2012

The State Board of Education met Monday, July 9, 2012, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Jim Cooper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Present: Jim Cooper, Chair; Brenda Gullet, Vice Chair; Dr. Jay Barth; Joe Black; Sam Ledbetter; Alice Mahony; Mireya Reith; Vicki Saviers; Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner

Absent: Toyce Newton

Reports

Chair's Report:

Chairman Cooper introduced Dr. Jay Barth as the newest member to the State Board. Dr. Barth, appointed by Governor Beebe, replaces Dr. Ben Mays whose term expired June 30, 2012.

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Kimbrell extended a warm welcome to Dr. Barth and said he looked forward to his involvement in the process of preparing the state's students for college and careers.

Dr. Kimbrell announced Arkansas was one of five states to receive Secretary Duncan's approval of ESEA Flexibility on June 29. He said Department staff had been trained on the requirements of the new accountability system and state educators would receive the training July 16 via compressed interactive video. Dr. Kimbrell also announced a July 19 meeting for superintendents and building administrators of Priority and Focus schools designed to help them understand the next steps and expectations for the first semester of the new school year.

Board members expressed appreciation for the quick turnaround for call to action and next steps.

Dr. Kimbrell said the implementation of those schools' improvement plans would require high ADE engagement. He said it would be a constant evaluation, and the ADE would work with those schools to make adjustments as necessary

Informational Update on Common Core State Standards and PARCC

Dr. Laura Bednar, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, praised the work of educators across the state in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). She said the training available to educators via AETN had been a big help in preparing them to move forward with CCSS.

Dr. Bednar said 24 Arkansas educators would take part in PARCC's Educator Leader Cadres to share best practices, review PARCC materials and provide training across the state in CCSS. The first meeting of that group is planned for July 23-25 in Chicago.

Dr. Bednar expressed her desire that educators embrace the opportunity provided by the ESEA Flexibility to collaborate and work together to ensure effective teaching as the state works to prepare students for college and careers.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the June 11, 2012, Board Meeting
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Sanction for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure
 - Roanne Worsham
 - Allan Charles Ashley
 - Susanne Lavada Eagan
 - Horace Ray Charles
 - Mindy Sue McFarland
 - Jennifer Paul

Action Agenda

(Complete records of the hearings are available in the State Board office.)

Consideration of 2012-13 Arkansas Better Chance Professional Service Contract Grants and Grant Reallocation Slots

The Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education and the Arkansas Better Chance Program requested approval of grants for the 2012-13 program year.

Ms. Mahony asked if KIPP Delta Charter School could offer a Pre-K program without amending its charter.

Commissioner Kimbrell explained that ABC funding was available for any agency, and KIPP, as a 503 C, was eligible.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval of the request. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Waiver of Standards: Arkadelphia High School

Arkadelphia School District requested a waiver of the Standards for Accreditation for Arkadelphia High School.

Superintendent Donnie Whitten explained the school would be implementing the New Tech model as part of the state's STEM Works initiative with the freshman class of 2012-13. Because the class has 158 students, the waiver was needed to allow a teacher to serve more than 150 students.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, approval of the waiver. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Waiver of Standards of Accreditation: Mountain View School District for Timbo High School

Mountain View School District requested a waiver for the 2012-2013 school year from the requirements of the Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts that requires two units of the same foreign language.

Superintendent Rowdy Ross said the school was transitioning from teaching French to teaching Spanish. His proposal was to offer Spanish I and French II by distance learning for the 2012-13 school year to accommodate those students who had already taken French I. The school would discontinue teaching French the following school year.

Dr. Barth expressed concern regarding the use of distance learning in the first year experience of foreign language.

Commissioner Kimbrell said the use of distance learning had been successful and had allowed schools to meet the requirement of 38 academic course offerings.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, approval of the waiver. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing on Waiver Request for Certified Teacher License – Joseph Brewer

Katherine Donovan, legal counsel for the Professional License Standards Board, said Joseph Brewer had applied for a provisional license. She said Mr. Brewer had a 2004 felony theft of property conviction from Missouri and was requesting a waiver.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, approval of the waiver with the stipulation of probation for a period of two years and no other qualifying conviction or violation of code of ethics. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing on Waiver Request for Certified Teacher License – Jerome Mitchell

Ms. Donovan presented a waiver request from Jerome Mitchell who had applied for a provisional license as part of the nontraditional licensing program. She said Mr. Mitchell had a 2003 felony theft of property conviction from Jefferson County.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval of the waiver with the stipulation of probation for a period of two years and no other qualifying conviction or violation of code of ethics. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Postpone the Revision of all Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks for a Period of Two (2) Years

Dr. Tracy Tucker, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, requested approval to postpone revisions to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks for Social Studies for a period of two years. Dr. Tucker explained that as a member of the Social Studies Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction Collaborative, Arkansas is one 20 states collaborating in the development of common social studies standards. She said it would be beneficial for educators in Arkansas to view those standards prior to revising the Arkansas curriculum frameworks.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval to postpone the revision of social studies curriculum frameworks for two years. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection for 2013-2015

Because of his employment with Hendrix College, Dr. Barth recused himself and left the room prior to the discussion of this item.

Mary Katherine Stein, Gifted and Talented and AP Program Coordinator, presented a recommendation for Hendrix College to host Arkansas Governor's School for 2013-2015.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Black, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider Recommendation for New Praxis Test in Mandarin Chinese to be Effective September 1, 2012

Dr. Barth rejoined the meeting.

A recommendation was presented to adopt the Praxis Chinese (Mandarin): World Language (5665) test effective September 1, 2012.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of New Praxis II Cut Score for Gifted Education to be Effective September 1, 2012

A recommendation was presented to adjust the Gifted Education Praxis II (0357) cut score from 156 to 150 effective September 1, 2012.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to accept the recommendation for the adjustment and make it retroactive to 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration to Suspend the Teaching License of Two (2) National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Candidates Who Owe Money to ADE

The Office of Teacher Quality recommended the State Board suspend the license of Robin Caraway and Kelly McMahan until repayment of monies owed the Department of Education for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards program. Both candidates failed to complete the program.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Reith approval to suspend the licenses. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Cut Score for Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for Acceptance into Institutions of Higher Education Teacher Preparation Programs in Lieu of Praxis I Exam

A recommendation was made to set the minimum passing scores for the GRE subtests in Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing be at 142, 142 and 3.5 respectively, thus representing similar percentile levels as the minimum passing scores for the Reading, Mathematics and Writing sections of the Praxis I test.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, acceptance of the recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Declaration of Critical Academic Shortage Areas as Required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-403 and § 6-81-609

Dr. Karen Cushman, Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources and Licensure, presented a recommendation for declaring the following as critical shortage licensure areas: Secondary--Mathematics (7-12); Middle Childhood--Mathematics/Science (4-8); English/Language Arts/Social Studies (4-8); Special Education--Deaf Education; Visually Impaired; Speech Language Pathologist/Speech Therapist; Special Education Instructional Specialist (P-r and 4-12) or (old licenses: {K-12} Mildly Handicapped, Moderately/Profound Handicapped, Severely Emotionally Disturbed); and Secondary Science—Life/Earth Science (7-12); Physical/Earth Science (7-12) or (old licenses:

Biology/Chemistry/Physical Science/Physics). The recommendation also included endorsements for library media; gifted and talented; school counselor and English as a second language.

Board members suggested open dialogue with colleges and universities regarding the shortage areas. They also recommended better communication to communities to help raise awareness of these needs.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the shortage areas. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Public Comment: Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade

Higher Education Director Shane Broadway and Jeremy Lasiter, General Counsel, said state law provides statutory authority for the State Board to adopt rules to permit public school students who have successfully completed the eighth grade to enroll in a publicly supported community college or four- year college or university for the purpose of obtaining concurrent high school and higher education course credit. They reported that during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, the State Board approved a concurrent credit pilot project.

Based upon the results of the pilot project, the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Education recommended the provisions of the pilot project be given permanent effect in the ADE rules.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, approval of the revised rules for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Approval for Public Comment: Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services

The proposed amendments to these rules seek to increase educational continuity for students in Juvenile Detention Centers. State Board approval was requested.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the revised rules for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Public Comment: Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program and the Academic Distress Program

A recommendation was made to revise the Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program and the Academic

Distress Program should be updated to reflect: (1) Revisions to Arkansas law; (2) A new definition for "academic distress;" and (3) Procedures related to the ADE's flexibility proposal as approved by the United States Department of Education. State Board approval was requested.

Board members requested further clarification of the proposed revisions.

Commissioner Kimbrell explained the state would label a school district as academically distressed if no more than 49.5 percent of its students scored proficient or higher on state tests. He stipulated that districts with this student performance were among those in the lowest five percent statewide. In addition, a district that has a school in Priority status that has not made progress toward its interim measurable objectives over a two-year period would trigger academic distress for that district.

Board members highlighted the fact that the state could take over a district within two years.

Dr. Kimbrell said the agency must build capacity to assist these troubled districts. He said it might require an administrative unit that may or may not be directly attached to the Department of Education.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, approval to release the revised rules for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Administrative Consolidation or Annexation of Public School Districts and Boards of Directors of Local School Districts (A-16)

Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011 revised Arkansas law concerning the consolidation and annexation of school districts. The State Board previously approved two separate rules, including this rule, which governs the consolidation and annexation of school districts. Department staff recommended this rule be repealed so that it can be combined with the other rule governing consolidation and annexation of school districts and updated in accordance with Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011.

State Board approval was requested.

Consideration for Final Approval: Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Consolidation or Annexation of Public School Districts and Boards of Directors of Local School Districts (A-17)

Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011 revised Arkansas law concerning the consolidation and annexation of school districts. The State Board of Education previously approved two separate rules, including this rule, which governs the consolidation and annexation of school districts. Department staff recommended this rule be repealed so that it can be

combined with the other rule governing consolidation and annexation of school districts and updated in accordance with Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011.

State Board approval was requested.

Consideration for Final Approval: Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Distribution of Consolidation/Annexation Incentive Funding (A-18)

Each fiscal year, the Arkansas General Assembly appropriates consolidation/annexation incentive funds to the Arkansas Department of Education. The State Board of Education last approved rules governing the distribution of those funds in November 2005. Department staff requested the State Board repeal the existing rules pertaining to consolidation/annexation incentive funding so that the content of those rules can be updated and included in the revised Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts.

State Board approval was requested.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Mr. Black, final approval of Agenda Items 16-18. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Closure of Isolated Schools

Act 1131 of 2011, now codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-602, revised Arkansas law concerning the closure of isolated schools. The proposed rules include the revisions contained in Act 1131 of 2011 and create a procedure for the State Board to follow when considering the closure of an isolated school.

State Board approval was requested.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, final approval of the rules. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts

Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011 revised Arkansas law concerning the consolidation and annexation of school districts. The proposed rules include the revisions contained in Acts 989 and 1217 of 2011. The State Board previously approved two separate rules governing the consolidation and annexation of school districts. A third rule governs the distribution of consolidation and annexation incentive funding. The proposed rules update the separate rules and combine them into one rule.

State Board approval was requested.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, final approval of the rules. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Proposed Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program

On February 13, 2012, the State Board approved for public comment proposed revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program. After a public comment period, revisions were made to the rule.

State Board approval was requested.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Mr. Black, final approval of the rules. The motion carried unanimously.

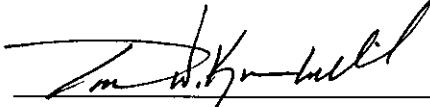
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.



Jim Cooper, Chairman



Dr. Tom W. Kimrell, Commissioner