

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Monday, September 10, 2012**

The State Board of Education met Monday, September 10, 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; Sam Ledbetter; Alice Mahony; Mireya Reith, Vicki Saviers; Toyce Newton; Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner; and Kim Wilson, Teacher of the Year

Absent: Joe Black

**Reports**

**Chair's Report:**

Ms. Gullett announced her appointment as representative of the National Association of School Boards of Education in working with the Chief Council of State School Officers.

**Commissioner's Report**

Dr. Kimbrell noted the Arkansas Tech University leadership class in the audience. He recognized Class Instructor Dr. Frank Holman and Leadership Program Director Dr. Mary Gunter.

**Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science Report**

Tommie Sue Anthony, Director of the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS), presented results from the 2011-12 school year. AAIMS is funded by a grant from Exxon Mobil and is focused on improving STEM education by having more students take Advanced Placement math, science and English. AAIMS is currently in the fifth year of the program and worked with 39 high schools around the state during the 2011-12 school year.

Highlights from the report include:

- In 2011-12, 23,765 students took an AP test in math, science, and English in Arkansas; and 9,794 of those students were in the AAIMS program (41%).
- Of 7,059 qualifying scores (receiving a score of 3, 4, or 5), AAIMS had 3,036 qualifying scores (43%).
- These qualifying scores allow students to either receive college credit or opt out of certain lower-level college classes.
- In 2011-12, 30% of math, science, and English tests received a qualifying score,

and 31% of AAIMS tests received a qualifying score.

- In 2011-12, there were 4,618 tests taken by African-American and Hispanic students (20% of total tests taken); and 13% received a qualifying score.

### **Informational Update on Common Core State Standards and PARCC**

Dr. Laura Bednar, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, reported the PARCC Proposal for College Ready Determination was still open for public comment. She encouraged Board Members to take a look at the proposal and the recently released assessment item prototypes.

Dr. Bednar said 24 educators throughout the state were participating in the PARCC educator leader cadre work. The cadre committed to 24 months of work and will develop an action plan to be shared with Arkansas stakeholders. In addition, eight Arkansas educators are working with Achieve to develop a tool to review instructional lessons and units.

As reported by Dr. Bednar, Arkansas collaborated with other states and the Mid-Continent Comprehensive Center (MC3) to develop resources for English Language Learners (ELL). Additionally, she welcomed Jennifer Brown to the Office of Special Education and Mary Perry to the Charter School Office

Dr. Bednar announced the next generation science standards would be released in November. She said the work with SREB on the literacy and math design collaborative was ongoing and thanked all participating schools.

### **2012 Home School Annual Report**

In the 2012 home school annual report, Program Coordinator Lisa Crook said the state's number of home-schooled students increased by approximately 400 over the previous year. The 16,405 children home schooled last school year is equal to 3.5 percent of the state's 468,000 public school students.

Ms. Crook said 84 percent of the home-school students take state assessments in third through ninth grade, as required. She said families rarely refuse to have children tested, and students who move or enroll in traditional schools are possible reasons the percentage isn't higher.

Dr. Barth said it would be helpful to see comparisons from previous years to look for trouble spots such as a district with a large number of students opting to study at home.

Ms. Gullett said she respects the rights of parents to educate their children at home but there should be enough oversight to ensure students are learning what they need.

## **Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School Quarterly Report**

Dr. Valerie Tatum, Director of Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School, presented the school's quarterly report on finance and management. She said the school hired a bookkeeper and was working closely with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC).

Doug Brown with APSRC said the school finished the 2011-12 school year with \$60,000. He said internal controls were in place for effective and efficient operations.

Tripp Walters with APSRC said staff was fulfilling a commitment to help and was actively engaged with Covenant Keepers.

## **Progress Report on Dollarway School District**

Frank Anthony, state appointed superintendent of the Dollarway School District, said that in the 13 weeks he had been leading the district it had been a struggle to balance the budget, fill vacancies with qualified teachers and correct the problems with high school transcripts. He said the district was now fully staffed with a mix of traditional and nontraditional teachers.

Mr. Anthony said the district's past work in scheduling students into classes for graduation was inappropriate, and the high school counselor resigned shortly after his arrival in the district. He was successful in temporarily filling the position with a retired counselor.

Mr. Anthony said the past seven to eight days had been spent working with seniors exclusively. About 80 of the 105 students had adjustments made to their schedules and are on track to graduate in May 2013. Others may not be able to graduate on time even if they participate in summer school and other credit recovery programs. Mr. Anthony said some of the fault was with students not passing courses.

He said the district would begin to rework schedules with juniors and sophomores to catch them up on credits in summer school and some classes in core subjects after the traditional school day.

According to the report, loss of students is another problem the district will have to deal with. Mr. Anthony said student enrollment dropped from 1,450 last year to a current count of 1,325. He said the district spent \$2 million from its reserves over the past three years as a result of declining revenue and increased expenditures. The district's projected budget for 2012-13 will include spending another \$1 million from balances. Mr. Anthony said the district was over staffed, but he was appointed after the May 1 deadline of notifying teachers if their contracts are going to change in the forthcoming school year. He indicated staffing adjustments could be considered for the 2013-14 school year.

Commissioner Kimbrell and State Board members expressed appreciation to Mr. Anthony for his leadership and his willingness to come out of retirement to help correct the problems in Dollarway.

### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Mahony asked that more information regarding the Pulaski County Special School District climate survey mentioned in the Project Management Tool be presented at the next meeting.

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the August 13, 2012, Board Meeting
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Waivers for Teachers Teaching out of Area
- Initial Year Charter School Enrollment and Financial Report
- Annual Review of Academics Plus Charter School, Arkansas Virtual Academy and Benton County School of the Arts
- Sanction for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure
  - Kathy Diane Tosh
  - Phillip Lane Scoggins
  - Glenn Ray McFadden
  - Melissa Rene Grice
  - Cathy Lyn Davis
  - Donald Harold Price

### **Action Agenda**

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

### **Hearing on Waiver Request for Certified Teacher License – James Arender**

Katherine Donovan, legal counsel for the Professional Licensure Standards Board, said James Arender holds a current teacher license subject to revocation, suspension, or probation under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17- 410. Mr. Arender had a 2003 charge for attempted manufacture of methamphetamine but was pardoned by Governor Beebe. The offense occurred prior to licensing, and Mr. Arender requested a waiver.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, 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 – Janie Atwood May**

Ms. Donovan said Janie Atwood May holds a current teacher license subject to revocation, suspension, or probation under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17- 410. Ms. May pleaded guilty to a disqualifying offense (violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances law) while holding a valid license and requested a waiver.

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 of Request to Suspend the Teacher License of One (1) National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Teacher Who Owes Money to ADE**

Dr. Karen Cushman, Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources and Licensure, recommended the State Board suspend the teacher license of Lauralee Alber who achieved National Board certification in 2007 but did not teach two (2) additional years after certification. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-413 (b) (3) allows the State Board of Education to suspend the teacher license of any person that fails, when required to do so, to repay moneys contributed by the Department for the certification program of the National Board. Pursuant to A.C.A. § 6-17-413 (b) (2) teachers who leave the employment of a public school district before three (3) continuous years are required to repay the Department. Dr. Cushman said every effort had been made to contact Ms. Alber and secure repayment of the \$2,500 debt, but all efforts had been unsuccessful.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to suspend the teacher license of Lauralee Alber until repayment of the funds. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of Recommendation of Suspension of Educators' Licenses with Unpaid PLSB Fines**

Ms. Donovan presented a recommendation to suspend the teacher license of four educators who have not paid fines ordered by the State Board for violation of the Code of Ethics. She said the PLSB staff has made every effort to contact the teachers and their districts (if currently employed by a school district in Arkansas).

The educators are: Robin Elizabeth Carraway--\$100; Geoffrey D. Trisollini--\$75; Horace Ray Charles--\$50; and Martha Enyart Moore--\$75.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to suspend the educators' licenses until payment of the fines. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade**

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-223 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. The State Board approved a concurrent credit pilot project during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. Based upon the results of the pilot project, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) recommended the provisions of the pilot project be given permanent effect in the ADE rules.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, final approval. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for Approval for Second Public Comment Period: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program and the Academic Distress Program**

On July 9, 2012, the State Board approved for public comment certain revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program and the Academic Distress Program. During the public comment period, it became necessary to revise and clarify certain provisions of the proposed rules. Department staff revised the proposed rules to include a procedure for notification to school districts of their preliminary statuses and to allow time for school districts to review data upon which their statuses were based (See Section 13.10). Given the revisions, Department staff requested the rules be released for a second public comment period.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, to release the rules for a second public comment period. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for Approval for Public Comment: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts (A-7)**

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1608(f) states a school district may not incur debt without the prior written approval of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) if the school district is identified by the ADE as having fewer than three hundred fifty (350) students according to the school district's average daily membership in the school year immediately preceding the current school year. ADE staff recommends that the rules be revised to include a definition of "debt." The proposed definition of "debt" can be found at Section 3.08 of the proposed rules. Department staff requested the State Board approve the proposed rules for public comment.

**Consideration of Approval for Public Comment: Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules and Regulations Arkansas Compulsory Attendance Requirements (A-8)**

The State Board adopted these rules August 9, 1999. These Rules have not been amended since that time, even though the substantive law governing compulsory attendance has changed substantially. Because these Rules are outdated and no longer needed, Department staff requested the State Board approve for public comment the proposed repeal of these rules.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to release for public comment agenda items A-7 and A-8. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Address the Board: Renaldo J. Hemphill, Ph.D.**

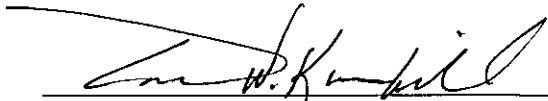
Dr. Renaldo J. Hemphill, author of How to Go to College in Seven EASY Steps, told the State Board he wrote the book to guide prospective college students through all the confusion and pitfalls of the application process. He said financing college studies was also included in the book along with how to apply for scholarships.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

*These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.*

  
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Jim Cooper, Chairman

  
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Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner