

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 10, 2025

9:00 A.M.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. ADRIENNE WOODS, Chair
MS. LISA HUNTER, Vice Chair
MR. JEFF WOOD
MS. LEIGH KEENER
MR. KEN BRAGG
MR. RANDY HENDERSON
DR. GARY ARNOLD

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

MR. JACOB OLIVA, Secretary of Education
MS. JEANIE WILCOXON, 2025 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

ALSO APPEARING:

MS. COURTNEY SALAS-FORD, Chief of Staff - ADE

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. WHITNEY JAMES, Managing Attorney - PLSB

LOCATION:

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
- Auditorium
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas

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P R O C E E D I N G S

**1. CONSIDERATION OF RULES GOVERNING STUDENT DISCIPLINE TO BE
RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR WOODS: All right. Well, with that, we will move on to our action agenda.

I think we have two sets of rules, both are being presented by Ms. Salas-Ford.

MS. SALAS-FORD: Good morning, Courtney Salas Ford.

So the first rules are governing student discipline, and these proposed rules incorporate from Acts 565 and 805 of 2025, as well as Acts 237 of 2023. So specifically these incorporate the Bell to Bell, No Cell Act, one of Governor Sanders key pieces of legislation, as well as changes to provisions regarding bullying and a teacher's ability to address students with severe disciplinary -- disruptive behaviors in the classroom. This is asking for your approval to release these for public comment, so in accordance with our standard process, they would go out for 30 days, they will hold a public-comment hearing; and then, after we review all of the public comments, we will bring them back to you for final approval. So today we are just asking to release them for public comment.

1 CHAIR WOODS: Any questions?

2 (NO RESPONSE)

3 CHAIR WOODS: Seeing none, I need a motion to
4 release for public comment.

5 MR. BRAGG: I move we release them for public
6 comment.

7 CHAIR WOODS: Is there a second?

8 MR. HENDERSON: Second.

9 CHAIR WOODS: Okay. First motion was made by
10 Mr. Bragg, seconded by Mr. Henderson. All in favor,
11 say aye.

12 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

13 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposed?

14 Unanimous. Motion passes.

15 **2. CONSIDERATION OF RULES GOVERNING THE PUBLIC-SCHOOL RATING**
16 **SYSTEM ON ANNUAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND THE SCHOOL**
17 **RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR FINAL APPROVAL**

18 MS. SALAS-FORD: Okay. The next rules we have
19 are for final approval. So these are the rules
20 governing the public-school rating system on annual
21 school performance reports and the school recognition
22 program, otherwise known as school letter grades. We
23 brought these rules to you back in May. That
24 addresses the new way that letter grades will be
25 calculated for schools and for districts. They went

1 out for public comment. We did receive a few public
2 comments, however, we did not make any substantive
3 changes. So if you all approve these for final draft
4 now, then they will go to the legislative council for
5 final, final approval.

6 And happy to answer any questions.

7 CHAIR WOODS: Any questions?

8 MR. BRAGG: Do we need a separate motion for
9 each on?

10 CHAIR WOODS: Well, so we just voted on the
11 releasing for public comment and then these are the
12 final rules on a different set.

13 MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes.

14 SECT. OLIVA: Just so the Board knows, during my
15 update briefing today, I'm going to roll out the
16 timeline for our second-year administration of ATLAS
17 scores and provide some updated information to the
18 Board as well. So this times in perfectly to start
19 lining up how we want to get this information out to
20 students, families and schools.

21 CHAIR WOODS: If there are no questions, I need
22 a motion to move these to final approval.

23 MR. BRAGG: I move we approve for final --

24 CHAIR WOODS: Motion --

25 MR. BRAGG: -- approval.

1 CHAIR WOODS: Motion made by Mr. Bragg.

2 MS. HUNTER: Second.

3 CHAIR WOODS: Seconded by Ms. Hunter. All in
4 favor, say ayes.

5 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

6 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposed?

7 Hearing none, motion passes.

8 MS. SALAS-FORD: Thank you.

9 **4. REQUEST TO CHANGE DATE OF AUGUST STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
10 **MEETING**

11 CHAIR WOODS: Before we move on to our third
12 action item, can I substitute in -- should we go
13 ahead and vote on the final meeting --

14 SECT. OLIVA: Yes.

15 CHAIR WOODS: -- beforehand?

16 SECT. OLIVA: Yeah.

17 CHAIR WOODS: Is there any opposition to moving
18 our final board meeting to the 1st or is there
19 another date that has been proposed? I guess the
20 motion was to --

21 SECT. OLIVA: I don't want to speak on behalf of
22 Mr. Wood, but I think his recommendation was to move
23 the 14th meeting to the 1st.

24 CHAIR WOODS: Correct.

25 MR. WOOD: Correct. Yes.

1 CHAIR WOODS: Dr. Arnold? Oh, it's what you
2 want to do? Okay.

3 Any questions?

4 (NO RESPONSE)

5 CHAIR WOODS: Okay. So then we will vote on
6 moving the regularly scheduled August 14th meeting up
7 to August 1st, which is a Friday.

8 Do I have a motion?

9 MR. WOOD: So moved.

10 DR. ARNOLD: Seconded.

11 CHAIR WOODS: All right. Motion was made by Mr.
12 Wood; it was seconded by Dr. Gary Arnold. All in
13 favor, say aye.

14 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposed?

15 Hearing none, motion passes.

16 So our next regularly scheduled board meeting
17 will be August the 1st, 2025.

18 **3. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL**
19 **LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD FOR CASE NO. 25-098 - DIAMANI DAVIS**

20 CHAIR WOODS: All right. Then our final action
21 item of the day will be the PLSB hearing.

22 Ms. James.

23 Is opposing counsel here or the educator?

24 MS. JAMES: Educator is not here. He did
25 receive notice of the hearing and as far as I know,

1 he did not have counsel. He did not at the
2 evidentiary hearing.

3 CHAIR WOODS: Okay. So there is nobody to swear
4 in?

5 MS. JAMES: There is no one to swear in.

6 But just a reminder of the procedures: each
7 side gets ten minutes; anyone who is speaking that is
8 not an attorney would have to be sworn in. That
9 doesn't really apply today. Normally, the educator
10 would go first, but because he is not here -- and I
11 just checked outside again -- I will go ahead.

12 The transcript has been provided to you in this
13 case. This was an educator at the Hoxie School
14 District who allegedly violated the Code of Ethics on
15 a couple of different occasions. Since he is not
16 here and he doesn't have an argument, I don't know if
17 you want to hear a summary of the case or if you are
18 ready to go ahead and make a decision?

19 CHAIR WOODS: Anyone to my right have questions?

20 DR. ARNOLD: Normally, then a nonappearance, is
21 in essence, a surrender?

22 MS. JAMES: Well, in the rules it says that the
23 educator does not have to appear; if the educator
24 does not appear, then we just proceed without him or
25 her.

1 CHAIR WOODS: So can we just move to adopt the
2 PLSB outcome?

3 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am, if that's what the board
4 wishes to do. As a reminder, there are three
5 motions. The first motion is the violation of the
6 Code of Ethics and the standards; second is the
7 sanction; third is the rationale. And I do have the
8 rationale from the Ethics Subcommittee and the Ethics
9 Hearing Subcommittee.

10 CHAIR WOODS: If there are no questions, does
11 anyone have a motion to adopt the violation found by
12 the PLSB? Or we can have a discussion.

13 DR. ARNOLD: I think that's why I phrased my
14 question the way I did because it seems like if
15 there's -- if there was an objection and we're not
16 hearing it, then the existing decisions stand.

17 CHAIR WOODS: Yes, I would agree with that.

18 I'll move to accept the violation of the Code of
19 Ethics found by the PLSB.

20 MS. JAMES: Would that be the first motion that
21 the educator did violate the Code of Ethics, namely
22 Standards 1 and 2?

23 CHAIR WOODS: Yes.

24 MS. HUNTER: Second that.

25 CHAIR WOODS: Second. So first motion was made

1 by myself, Ms. Wood; seconded by Ms. Hunter. All in
2 favor, say aye.

3 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposed?

5 Hearing none, motion passes.

6 MS. JAMES: Thank you.

7 MS. HUNTER: Is the next one --

8 CHAIR WOODS: The sanction.

9 MS. HUNTER: -- sanction?

10 Okay. So I move to accept the sanction of
11 permanent revocation of license that was put forward
12 by the PLSB.

13 CHAIR WOODS: Motion made by Ms. Hunter.

14 MR. HENDERSON: Second.

15 CHAIR WOODS: Seconded by Mr. Henderson. All in
16 favor, say ayes.

17 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

18 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposition?

19 Hearing none, motion passes.

20 So the third motion would be based on the
21 rationale, to adopt the PLSB rationale.

22 MS. JAMES: There are two rationales in this
23 case: one from the Ethics Subcommittee and one from
24 the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee. They are fairly
25 similar.

1 CHAIR WOODS: I'll move to adopt the rationale.

2 MS. HUNTER: I second.

3 CHAIR WOODS: Motion made by myself, Ms. Woods,
4 seconded by Ms. Hunter. All in favor, say aye.

5 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

6 CHAIR WOODS: Any opposition?

7 Hearing none, motion passes.

8 MS. JAMES: Just to clarify, is that the
9 rationale of the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee or the
10 Ethics Subcommittee?

11 CHAIR WOODS: I'm comfortable with going with
12 the hearing --

13 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

14 CHAIR WOODS: -- but --

15 MS. JAMES: I've got it.

16 CHAIR WOODS: Okay.

17 MS. JAMES: Thank you.

18 (The meeting was concluded at 9:40 a.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

) ss

COUNTY OF PULASKI)

I, Miranda McEntire, Certified Court Reporter #852, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were reported verbatim through the use of the voice-writing method and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested or otherwise, in the outcome of this action, and that I have no contract with the parties, attorneys, or persons with an interest in the action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original deposition transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial attorney, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties in the action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 24th day of July, 2025.



MIRANDA MCENTIRE, CCR

Certified Court Reporter #852

