

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
December 8, 2022**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair Adrienne Woods; Randy Henderson, Kathy McFetridge; Jeff Wood, Lisa Hunter; Dr. Fitz Hill; Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

ZOOM: Steve Sutton

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, December 8, 2022, Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

**III.1. Arkansas School for the Deaf: Singing Dancers presented by Dr. Janet Dickinson**

**III.2. Arkansas School Board Association - Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month**

Item III.2. was presented by Mr. Dan Jordan, Director, Arkansas School Boards Association of Governmental Relations.

The Arkansas State Board of Education recognizes and salutes the members of local boards of education by proclaiming the month of January 2023 as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

The Resolution to recognize January 2023 as School Board Recognition Month was passed November 2022. Springdale School District school board members were present and recognized.

**III.3. Superintendent of the Year Award – Dr. Jared Cleveland, Superintendent Springdale School District**

Item III.3. was presented by Secretary Key in the absence of Dr. Mike Hernandez, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. Dr. Jared Cleveland was present, along with Springdale school board members.

The Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) annually presents the Superintendent of the Year award to a superintendent who successfully leads the learning in their district; who has strength in both personal and organizational communication; who shows constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills; and who participates in local community activities as well as understanding regional, national, and international issues. Dr. Jared Cleveland, Superintendent, Springdale School District, was announced as the 2023 Superintendent of the Year.

#### **III.4. 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year**

Item III.4. was presented by Ms. Venus Torrence, Educator Impact Coordinator. Present were Dr. Gregory Pilewski, Superintendent, North Little Rock School District and Ms. Elise Hampton, Principal, North Little Rock Middle School-Seventh and Eighth Grade Campus.

The 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jessica Saum introduced the 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Ms. Caprice Salaam.

#### **III.5. 2022 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher of the Year Award**

Item III.5. was presented by Ms. Amber Pirnique, Director, Disciplinary Literacy and Mr. Jeffrey Davidson, Social Studies Program Advisor. Also present was Mr. Buck Bing, Principal, Conway High School.

Brick Cullum, a history teacher at Conway High School, has been named the 2022 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year. Inaugurated in 2004, the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school. In addition to receiving a \$1,000 honorarium from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Mr. Cullum's district held a ceremony in his honor. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education would like to present Mr. Cullum with a certificate.

#### **III.6. Career and Technical Educator Celebrations**

Item III.6. was presented by Mr. Ross White, Director, Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Also present were Dr. Karla Neathery, Superintendent, Sheridan School District; Mr. Jody Wiggins, Superintendent, Siloam Springs School District; Mr. Buck Bing, Principal, and Ms. Donna Lyon, Career Center Supervisor, Conway School District.

Mr. Ross White presented the following three nationally recognized instructors:

Ms. Taylor Donnelly, Agriculture Education, Sheridan High School  
Ms. Jenny Marroquin, Family and Consumer Science, Siloam Springs High School  
Ms. Leslee Tell, Family Consumer Science, Conway High School

#### **Changes to the Agenda**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

Items included for consideration in the Consent Agenda were as follows:

1. Minutes 11-10-22
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
4. Consideration of 2023-2024 State Board of Education Meeting Dates
5. Consent for the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Reallocation of FY23 Slots
6. Community Service Learning Applications
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 22-134 Lisa Renae Smith
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 22-129 Devin Delynn Carr
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 19-176 Joshua N. Smith
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-015 Courtney Leigh Cochran

Ms. Lori Bridges, DESE Director, Arkansas Better Chance provided clarity on the calendar for the Consent for ABC Reallocation of FY23 slots.

The Consent Agenda was temporarily tabled until after lunch to allow Mr. Sutton opportunity to review the Consent agenda prior to voting.

A motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

## **Action Agenda**

### **VI.1. Consideration of Petitions for Minimum School District Size Waivers**

Item VI.1. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel.

If a school district had an ADM of fewer than 350 students in the two years immediately preceding the current school year, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1603 requires the district to be annexed to or consolidated with another school district. The district may petition the State Board for a minimum school district size waiver under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613.

**VI.1.a. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Guy-Perkins School District**

Mr. Timothy Barnes, Principal, was present via ZOOM.

A motion to approve the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Guy-Perkins School District was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.1.b. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Shirley School District**

Present was Mr. Aaron Wiggins, Superintendent.

A motion to approve the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Shirley School District was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.1.c. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Augusta School District**

Present via ZOOM was Ms. Cathy Tanner, Superintendent.

A motion to approve the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Augusta School District was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.1.d. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Strong-Huttig School District**

Present was Ms. Kimberly Thomas, Superintendent.

A motion to approve the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Strong-Huttig School District was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.1.e. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Western Yell County School District**

A motion to approve the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Western Yell County School District was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.1.f. Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver – Marvell-Elaine School District**

Present was Dr. Katina Ray, Superintendent. Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, DESE Deputy Commissioner provided additional information on Human Capital, Ms. Sherri Baird, Director, DESE Assessment, provided clarity on NWEA scores, and Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel provided clarity on legal matters.

The State Board heard public comments from Mr. Clyde Williams, President, Marvell-Elaine School Board.

A motion to deny the waiver request for Minimum School District Size Waiver for Marvell-Elaine School District, Level 5 In Need of Intensive Support, was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. After roll call, the motion unanimously passed.

Roll Call – VI.1.f. Petition for Minimum School District Waiver – Marvell-Elaine School District

Mr. Steve Sutton	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Kathy McFetridge	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes
Dr. Fitz Hill	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Dr. Sarah Moore	Yes

**VI.2. Pine Bluff School District**

Item VI.2. was presented by Secretary Johnny Key, DESE Commissioner. Also present was Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner.

DESE is recommending to the State Board to approve a limited authority board for the Pine Bluff School District. Secretary Key recommended the following applicants for appointment to the Pine Bluff limited authority board:

- Ms. Lozanne Calhoun
- Dr. Stephen Broughton
- Mr. Charles Colen, Jr.
- Ms. Jomeka Edwards
- Ms. Lori Guelache
- Dr. Sederick Rice
- Mr. Ricky Whitmore, Jr.

A motion to accept public comment on Item VI.2. Pine Bluff School District was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

The State Board heard public comment from Ms. Rosalind Mouser.

A motion to accept the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education to appoint the following candidates to the Pine Bluff School District limited authority board:

- Ms. Lozanne Calhoun
- Dr. Stephen Broughton
- Mr. Charles Colen, Jr.
- Ms. Jomeka Edwards
- Ms. Lori Guelache
- Dr. Sederick Rice
- Mr. Ricky Whitmore, Jr.

The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion that once all members of the limited authority board have completed initial training organized by the Office of Coordinated Support & Service (OCSS), it shall consider all matters that would be considered by an elected local board of directors, and that the limited authority board make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education for final determination. The motion was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made that OCSS continue to report quarterly to the State Board concerning Pine Bluff School District operations, and that the Commissioner of Education make recommendations to the State Board concerning transitions of authority to the limited authority board as appropriate. The motion was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.3. Educational Service Cooperative Evaluations**

Item VI.3., Educational Service Cooperative (ESC) Evaluations for North Central and Ozark Unlimited ESCs, was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner.

ESC evaluations occur at least once within a five-year period. North Central and Ozark Unlimited ESC evaluations and self-study reports are attached for review.

A motion to accept the evaluation reports for North Central ESC and Ozark Unlimited ESC was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.4. Revision of Arkansas Social Studies Standards**

Item VI.4. was presented by Dr. Kiffany Pride, DESE, Ms. Amber Pirnique, Program Manager of Disciplinary Literacy, and Mr. Jeffrey Davidson, Social Studies Specialist, DESE Disciplinary Literacy - Social Studies Program Advisor.

A motion to approve the revision of the Arkansas Social Studies Standards was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.5. Consideration for Public Comment Release: DESE Rules Governing Home Schools**

Item VI.5. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel.

The Division requests that the State Board release the DESE Rules Governing Home Schools for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval.

A motion to approve the release for public comment the DESE Rules Governing Home Schools, pending Governor's office approval was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

**VI.6. Request to Approve for Second Public Comment: DESE Rules Governing School Safety**

Item VI.6. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, DESE Chief Legal Counsel.

The State Board approved these rules for public comment release on July 14, 2022, pending Governor's Office approval. The Governor's Office approved them on August 11, 2022. During the public comment period, it was determined that school safety grants be added to these rules. This is a substantive change that requires a second public comment period. The Division requests this Board's approval to release these rules for a second public comment period.

A motion to approve the emergency rules of DESE Rules Governing School Safety was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**New Business**

None

**Public Comments**

The State Board heard public comments from:


Mr. Clyde Williams, President, Marvell-Elaine School Board

Ms. Rosalind Mouser, Pine Bluff School District stakeholder

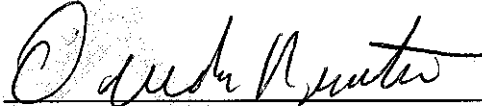
## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 2:33 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnny Key, Secretary  
Arkansas Department of Education

  
Ivy Pletter  
Deputy

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ouida Newton, Chair  
State Board of Education