

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On September 13, 2018, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, pursuant to the legal authority and jurisdiction vested in the Board by the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1901 *et seq.*, and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Identifying and Governing the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program (effective June 25, 2018), the Board considered whether to classify the Pine Bluff School District as a school district in fiscal distress.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In a letter dated August 8, 2018, the Arkansas Department of Education notified the Pine Bluff School District that ADE had identified the District as being a school district in fiscal distress. The letter notified the District of its right to appeal the identification to the State Board, and that the State Board would be considering whether to classify the District as being in fiscal distress during its meeting on September 13, 2018.
2. The Pine Bluff School District did not appeal the identification.
3. This matter was heard by the State Board on September 13, 2018, at which time the Board considered evidence presented by the ADE and the District.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

4. Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the State Board concluded that the Pine Bluff School District should be classified as a school district in fiscal distress in accordance with the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1901 *et seq.*, and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Identifying

and Governing the Arkansas Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program (effective June 25, 2018).

ORDER

5. For the above reasons, State Board Orders that effective September 13, 2018:

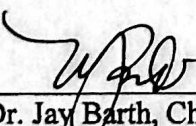
a) The Pine Bluff School District be classified as a school district in fiscal distress;

b) All members of the Pine Bluff School District's Board of Directors be removed and the Commissioner of Education assume the authority of the Board for the governance of the District;

c) The Superintendent of the Pine Bluff School District be removed and the Commissioner of Education appoint a superintendent to act under the Commissioner's supervision;

d) The Commissioner of Education take other actions he deems appropriate to assist the District in removing the classification of fiscal distress.

Signed this 14th day of September, 2018.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education