

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

On May 14, 2015, during a regular meeting of the Arkansas State Board of Education, a hearing was conducted 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 August 2014). Before the Board was the appeal of the Guy-Perkins School District to the Arkansas Department of Education's ("ADE") identification of the District as being in fiscal distress. The District then again appeared before the Board to provide additional information during the Board's regular meeting on June 11, 2015.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In a letter dated March 10, 2015, the ADE notified the Guy-Perkins School District pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1905 that ADE had identified the District as a school district in fiscal distress due to "[a] declining balance determined to jeopardize the fiscal integrity of the school district."

2. In its March 10 letter, the ADE also notified the District that it would request that the State Board of Education classify the Guy-Perkins School District as being in fiscal distress at the Board's May meeting.

3. In a letter dated April 13, 2015, the District filed an appeal to the fiscal distress identification.

4. In a letter dated April 24, 2015, the ADE notified the District that the State Board of Education would consider whether to classify the District as a school district in fiscal distress during its meeting scheduled for May 14, 2015.

5. During the State Board of Education's May 14 meeting, the Board considered documents, other evidence, and arguments presented to it by the Guy-Perkins School District and the ADE. The Board again considered evidence presented by the District and ADE during its June 11 meeting.

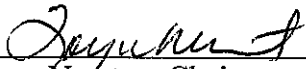
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

6. Upon consideration of the evidence and argument presented by the parties, the Board concludes that the Guy-Perkins School District meets one criterion necessary to be identified as a school district in Fiscal Distress; namely, a declining balance determined to jeopardize the fiscal integrity of a school district. *See* Ark. Code Ann. § 6-20-1904(a)(1)(A).

ORDER

7. For the above reasons, the District's appeal is denied, and the District is classified as a school district in fiscal distress as of June 11, 2015.

Signed this 13th day of August, 2015



Toyce Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education