

**Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
**PLSB Full Board Minutes**

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held via Zoom on **June 9, 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions**. Voting members of the Board present were Dr. Greg Murry, Chair, Dr. Donny Lee, Vice-Chair, Kathy Howell, Luanne Baroni, Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, Brenda Brown, Doretta Griffin, Lynne Gronseth, Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, John D. Keeling Dr. Andrea Martin, Dr. Ellen Treadway, Hosea Born, Dr. Sheena Williamson, and Cindy Nations. Non-voting members present were Karli Saracini and Tonya Williams. ADE staff members present were Amy Douglas, Eric James, Sarah Banker, Cheri Rolett, Shannon Rostad-Hall, Brittany Felix, Ashton Middleton, Joan Luneau, Dr. Frank Servedio, and Michael Rowland  
Guests: Theresa Hildreth

Member(s) who were not present were Dudley Webb, III

**1. Call to Order – Dr. Greg Murry, Chair**

Dr. Murry called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Keeling made a motion to approve the March 6, 2020, PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Ms. Howell.  
Motion passed; none opposed.

**3. Action Items**

- **Approval for Middle School Science Test – Joan Luneau**

Ms. Luneau discussed that Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its middle school science licensure test. The Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) is the current test for Middle School Science (4-8) licensure. The updated test is the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442). For the Middle School Science (4-8) licensure assessment, the Division recommends adopting the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) with a cut score of 147 replacing the Middle School Science (5440), effective September 1, 2020.

Ms. Howell made a motion to adopt the middle school science test at a cut score of 147, effective September 1, 2020; seconded by Dr. Lee.

- **Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) Test Change – Joan Luneau**

Since September 2014, the licensure tests for Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth – K) have been the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) and the Praxis® Education of Young Children (5024). Effective July 1, 2020, for the Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (B – K) license,

the Department recommends requiring one licensure test instead of two: remove the Praxis ® Education of Young Children (5024) but continue the Praxis ® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) test with current cut score of 160.

Ms. Griffin made a motion to change the Early Childhood SpEd Integrated (Birth – K) to one licensure test instead of two tests, but continue the Praxis ® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) test with current cut score of 160, effective July 1, 2020; seconded by Ms. Brown.

- **Approval for Praxis ® Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) as a Content Area Performance Assessment**

In May 2020, Educator Licensure rules were revised to include an option for first-time licensure candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area if they score within -2 Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) based on the national standard or an approved score by the State Board on the content area assessment.

The option includes the need for a DESE approved micro-credential or content area performance assessment. To provide an option for applicable candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area, the Division recommends adopting the Praxis ® Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) with a cut score of 38 as a content area performance assessment.

Ms. Howell made a motion to approve the PPAT test with a cut score of 38 as a content performance assessment; seconded by Dr. Bradley.  
Motion passed; none opposed.

#### 4. Discussion and Reports:

- **COVID-19 – Karli Saracini, Asst. Deputy Commissioner**

Ms. Saracini reported that all background checks were suspended when DESE was closed to the public. Background checks will begin by the end of June 2020. Background checks will be scheduled in twenty minute intervals. DESE is currently waiting on the appropriate PPE. These supplies will be distributed to each unit upon their arrival.

DESE has been in contact with the FBI for fingerprinting and has requested an extension for this process online. The deadline was extended from fifteen day to 180 days. With the exception of the FBI background check, everything is being entered into AELS. Educators need to start the FBI process so that this can be uploaded into AELS. The Licensure rules are currently pending. They have passed State Board and should be finalized by June 15, 2020, with potential updates in the fall of 2020.

- **Ethics Investigation Update – Amy Douglas, Managing Attorney, PLSB**

There are currently six evidentiary hearings pending with two going before a hearing panel on June 25, 2020. The balance of the hearings should be done by August unless there are more investigations completed during this time.

Investigations are being pushed for completion within ninety (90) days to go before the Ethics Subcommittee for recommendations. Due to COVID-19, we are doing investigation interviews by phone and Zoom.

- **Training – Ethics Subcommittee/Hearing Subcommittee/State Board – Karli Saracini, Asst. Deputy Commissioner**

The State Board has indicated that they would like to see more consistency in sanctions. They have also requested training to be able to discuss these issues, how sanctions are determined and the PLSB timeline.

Ms. Douglas stated that the ESC tries its best to go by the Rubric to make sure educators are held accountable for their actions. The State Board is limited to information compared to the ESC and the Hearing Panel. This in turn does not give them the full picture of the investigation.

Hopefully, within the next two months, the State Board members can start the training with PLSB. Ms. Howell suggested PLSB get on the State Board's agenda in the fall of 2020, after Ms. Zooks' term has expired, which is at the end of June 2020. Dr. Murry volunteered to write the letter so that this training can be approved and added to the State Board's agenda.

- **Report on CAEP Accreditation - decisions spring 2020 – Joan Luneau**

The following CAEP visits for the three higher education accreditations that were visited last fall were Philander Smith College, University of Pine Bluff, and University of Fayetteville. These three sites are accredited for the next seven years. Arkansas Tech University and University of Central Arkansas will be visited in the fall of 2020. Arkansas Baptist College will be starting the EdPrep program with a physical education/health program.

- **Report on 2020 EPPQR – Dr. Frank Servedio**

Dr. Servedio discussed the EPPQR report's status as follows:

- ❖ Overview – The overview section will be completed the first week of July 2020
- ❖ Workforce Data – New information to be added to this section will be met or not met enrollment and completers for teachers to complete; this is in progress
- ❖ Adding institutions not passing tests; this is in progress
- ❖ Not adding institutions – novice teachers and novice supervisor surveys; this is in progress

- The following PLSB members have been renewed for an additional three year term:

- ❖ Hosea Born
- ❖ Lynne Gronseth
- ❖ J. D. Keeling
- ❖ Dr. Andrea Martin

❖ Dudley Webb, III

A motion was made by Dr. Lee to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.; seconded by Ms. Griffin. Motion passed; none opposed.

The next PLSB Full Board meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.