

**Arkansas Department of Education  
Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)  
Friday, March 3, 2017  
8:00 a.m.**

**A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the ADE Professional Licensure Standards Board Conference Room at #4 Capitol Mall, Room 105-C, Little Rock, Arkansas on March 3, 2017. Members of the Board present were Kathy Howell, Chair; voting members: Dr. Suzanne Bailey, Brenda Brown, Lillian Hemphill, Dr. Zaidy MohdZain, Dr. Greg Murry, and Cindy Romeo; non-voting members: Dr. Ivy Pfeffer and Tonya Williams; ADE staff members in attendance were Eric James, Bilenda Harris-Ritter, Cheri Rolett, Paula Thurmond, Sarah Banker, Matthew Newcomb, and Shari Misener. Attending ADE guest speakers were Ms. Joan Luneau, Dr. Frank Servedio, and Michael Rowland**

**1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Kathy Howell, Chair at 8:10 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – Kathy Howell, Chair**

Motion made by Dr. Greg Murry to approve the December 2, 2016 minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Brenda Brown; Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**3. Action**

**a) Support for Novice Teacher Mentoring – Grants to co-ops – Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**

Dr. Pfeffer spoke on monies used for a grant; \$100,000 grant money was used for the Pro-Ethica training. There was discussion on using grant money for this training for co-ops.

There was discussion on how the grant process works; such as how much money is needed, what they will do with the money, and follow-up on the outcome of this process.

A motion was made by Dr. MohdZain to provide grant money to co-ops for novice teacher training; seconded by Ms. Lillian Hemphill; Motion passed.

**b) Harding University – Dr. Donnie Lee**

Ms. Luneau gave the report on the Harding audit. Dr. MohdZain asked how the first audit has gone. Ms. Luneau commented it was a good first attempt and all has gone smoothly. The final audit for Harding University will be in June 2017.

Action: To accept the report as presented to the Board.

Dr. MohdZain made a motion to approve the audit report presented by Ms. Luneau; seconded by Dr. Bailey; Motion passed to accept the audit report presented by Ms. Luneau.

#### **4. Discussions and Reports**

##### **a) Introduction of Investigators - Eric James**

Sarah Banker, Shari Misener, Matthew Newcomb; two new investigators will start March 13<sup>th</sup>, and March 20, 2017.

##### **b) Update on positions and planning for new appointments – Kathy Howell**

Ms. Howell addressed the Board on the PLSB Rotation. There are two terms expiring in June 2017. The nominations will be presented at the next State Board meeting. Ms. Howell asked that the new members replacing the out-going board members attend the June meeting.

##### **c) Update on Legislation – Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**

Dr. Pfeffer discussed that ADE tests and licensure are now bills. PLSB changes went to legislation. The background check is not complete yet from legislation Rules and Regulations for Code of Ethics were discussed and that volunteers were needed to meet on this process. Ms. Lillian Hemphill, Dr. Suzanne Bailey, Dr. Zaidy MohdZain, Ms. Tonya Williams and Ms. Kathy Howell offered to be volunteers for this project.

Dr. Pfeffer discussed that Senator Elliott pulled a bill for teachers that would allow them to reinstate their license after one year from having their license revoked. This will be difficult for the State Board to make a determination on this. Dr. Pfeffer and ADE expressed their concern on this bill to Senator Elliott. They discussed the topic of suspensions being cut in half. For example, a three (3) year suspension would be decreased to one and a half (1.5) years.

Ms. Kathy Howell reached out to Senator Elliot as to suspensions and how much time and effort go into these decisions. It takes time and effort to diagnose the problem and to implement the reprimand.

Representative Douglas' bill was presented to Legislation. This bill would require PLSB members to oversee the ethics of the school board members and use our investigators to investigate the board members. Dr. Pfeffer said that the PLSB board does not govern non-elected officials on ethics. Representative Douglas was working on changing this to see if it could go under the Ethics Commission because they deal with elected officials.

Senator Clark's bill for bonuses for teachers in high poverty areas was filed; this is not an ADE bill.

Senator Clark's bill requires all K6-K12 to test for proficiency and awareness. Dr. MohdZain spoke on Arkansas being short on teachers. Dr. MohdZain said for educators to receive a Standard License they will have to take a read alone test. They will have to demonstrate proficiency or awareness. Ms. Hemphill asked if there is a program in place to prepare the teachers who have been in the profession longer.

Ms. Williams spoke on poverty and early childhood and how a child needs instruction at an early age. She also said middle income kids have issues as well and they do not have access to these K-12 tools. Ms. Howell, spoke on how the additional requirements will hurt the schools on keeping the teachers that they have now.

This bill was filed because Reading scores were low. Dr. MohnZaid spoke on how many universities want to do away with the ACT testing and rely on GPA scores.

**Note: Recorder was not turned on until 8:53 a.m.**

Dr. Murry asked if the reading proficiency was parallel to the writing standards. Ms. Hemphill spoke on the Civics Bill. This bill didn't mention when the students would take the test; the test is administered to 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and can be administered at any time. It has to be taken before they graduate.

**d) Fundamentals Subject for K-12 SpEd Licensure – Joan Luneau (See handout)**

SpEd Group, Arkansas Qualified Teachers (AQT) met in November 2016 with Ms. Luneau to discuss the Special Education (K-12) Licensure Assessments. This is for new teacher's presentation. The board did not vote on this today. They first need to hear from the school districts. Ms. Luneau asked that the board send their suggestions to Ms. Howell by April 1<sup>st</sup> so Ms. Luneau has time to review or make changes before the June meeting.

Ms. Luneau wants to vote on this at the June 2017 board meeting.

**e) Move to end of agenda – Update on the ESSA plan- Educator Equity**

**f) Audit Schedule – APPEL and eStem Residency Program are scheduled for June PLSB – Joan Luneau (See handout)**

1) Joan discussed the CAEP Spring and EPP Audit Schedules:  
Lyon College, Ouachita Baptist University, UA Fort Smith

Next CAEP Visit – Lyon College April 2-4, 2017  
Ouachita Baptist University - March 26-28, 2017  
UA Fort Smith - April 23-25, 2017

Off-Site Review:  
Lyon College: Dec. 8, 2016

Ouachita Baptist University: Nov. 30, 2016  
UA Fort Smith: November 18, 2016

- 2) EPP Audit Schedule: Spring 2017: APPEL and eSTEM residency  
Fall 2017: Lyon College, Ouachita Baptist University, UA Fort Smith, and ABCTE  
Spring 2018: UA Little Rock, University of the Ozarks, Central Baptist College, and Arkansas State University

Fall 2018: Henderson State University, John Brown University, Southern Arkansas University, and Arkansas Teacher Corps

Spring 2019: Crowley's Ridge College, Hendrix College, and Teach for America  
(See handout for future schedules)

**g) Title II Higher Education Regulations – Dr. Frank Servedio**

Dr. Servedio talked about the new administration and that some things were on hold but that data collection process will continue until further notice.

Discussion: Dr. MohdZain complimented Dr. Servedio on the collection of data and presentation. Dr. MohdZain commented on how much he and his staff benefit from this data.

**h) CAEP Report – Michael Rowland (See handout)**

Spoke on the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation Partnership Agreement.

**i. Revised agreement**

Mr. Rowland discussed the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation and Partnership Agreement. He alluded to the information in his handout that the information on Page. 6, line item number 47 (blue print is where ADE has flexibility in language; the red print is set in stone).

**ii. Spring Site Visits**

**i) Update regarding Pre-School initiatives – Ms. Tonya Williams**

Ms. Williams reported that Pre-School Initiatives will be receiving \$3M from the Governor which is in the budget to support the existing program to provide innovative items like buses, health consultants, etc. The Press released information that FORWARD Arkansas has chosen Pre-K and is asking for \$20M in this legislative session. The funds will be for the existing program. It's been several years since the funds have been increased.

Ms. Williams discussed the Bill Gates Foundation. She is currently working on a survey with a national group on Ed prep for early childhood and has been distributed to the State of Arkansas.

Ms. Williams discussed an application to expand services for parents and toddlers for funding; Arkansas submitted for the full amount of \$8M. The focus will be on foster children to expand services. Ms. Williams shared The Administrators letter that went out and highlighted Fort Smith School District and their Pre-K program.

Their first priority is the teacher and then the assistant for those funds and being distributed.

The board took a break for 10 minutes: 9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Howell spoke on ethical statistics being up with Eric James and the Board. Mr. James presented data on this as follows:

The breakdown data to date for July, 2016 to February, 2017:

**Standard 1 (Sexual content, contact, etc.)**

As of March 3, 2017, the PLSB investigative staff has investigated 11 cases concerning Sexual dialogue/ Sexual contact with a student.

**Standard 2**

93 Allegations were received  
43 authorized for investigation  
50 were not authorized for investigation

**Standard 3**

34 allegations received  
16 were authorized for investigation  
18 were not authorized for investigation

**Standard 4**

16 Allegations were received  
6 were authorized for investigation  
10 were not authorized for investigation

**Standard 5**

5 allegations were received  
3 were authorized for investigation  
2 were not authorized for investigation

**Standard 5** - Has consistently been our least investigated standard

**Standard 6**

6 allegations were received  
6 were authorized

**Standard 7 (Confidentiality)**

14 allegations were received  
8 were authorized for investigation  
6 were not authorized for investigation

**Standard 8 (Alcohol, drugs, medication, Items prohibited by law, tobacco)**

6 allegations were received  
5 were authorized for investigation  
1 was not authorized for investigation

In the future data on universities will be gathered based on:

- a) Educators who graduated from their respective universities less than 5 years ago
- b) Educators who graduated from their respective universities more than 5 but less than 10 years ago

Ms. Hemphill asked if data could be collected per standard per school to better serve the school and educate the teachers on what areas need more work. Mr. James felt this would be possible in the future. There are 36,777 teachers currently teaching in the State of Arkansas.

Mr. James shared with the Board that there were 118 cases in 2015 through 2016 authorized for investigation.

Ms. Romeo discussed the cases that are authorized by the Ethics Subcommittee and how they go to an Evidentiary Hearing if reasonable belief is rejected by the educator; the Evidentiary Hearing is then scheduled based on if the case has reasonable belief.

**e) Update on ESSA plan-Educator Equity – Dr. Ivy Pfeffer**

Dr. Pfeffer discussed the following items on the Accountability Act:

**Summary on Accountability Act:**

- Listening tour Feedback
- Goals
- Arkansas Educational Support & Accountability Act  
Student success plans, five levels of support to Districts, District support plans
- Legislative Findings

- Responsibility of the Dept. of Education
- Authority of State Board of Education
- Analysis of Statewide Student Assessment Data
- Student Performance Levels
- Student-focused Learning System (2018-2019)
- Educator Excellence
- Levels of School District Support
  - Level 5 – Intensive
  - Level 4 – Directed
  - Level 3 – Coordinated
  - Level 2 – Collaborative
  - Level 1 – General
  
- Determining Levels of District Support
- School-level Improvement Plans; School District Support Plans
- School District Classification for Level 5
- State Board of Education Authority – Level 5
- School District under Authority
- School District under Authority of Commissioner
- Comprehensive Information Systems

Meeting adjourned at 11: 10 a.m. The next PLSB Full Board meeting will be June 3, 2017.