

Arkansas Department of Education  
Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)  
Friday, June 3, 2016  
8:00 a.m.

**A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the ADE Auditorium at #4 Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR, on June 3, 2016. Members of the Board present were Ms. Kathy Howell, Chair; voting members: Dr. Zaidy MohdZain ; Dr. Susanne Bailey, Dr. Brad Baine, Ms. Brenda Brown, Dr. Mary Gunter, Dr. Judy Harrison, Ms. Lillian Hemphill, Dr. Greg Murry, and Mr. Todd Sellers. Non-voting member: Ivy Pfeffer and Tonya Williams. Members absent: Brenda Brown, Dr. Shelly Albritton; Ms. Lisa Baker, Ms. Cindy Romeo. Guests: New members Dr. Vicki Groves-Scott and Dr. Donny Lee were present as guests. Also present was Representative David Kizzia. ADE staff members in attendance were Jennifer Liwo, Eric James, and Jamila Ford.**

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Kathy Howell, Chair
- 2. Approval of Minutes** – Dr. Zaidy MohdZain, Acting Chair

Motion made by Dr. Greg Murry; seconded by Lillian Hemphill to approve the minutes as submitted. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**3. Action**

- a. Decision regarding work on Strategic Plan for Elevating Educator Professionalism –

The Board voted to ask Dr. Kerri White from the South Central Comprehensive Center (SC3) to return and review the initial goals in the PLSB’s strategic plan to elevate educator profession. The Board wants Dr. White to assist them with action steps to achieve the goals. Assistant Commissioner Ivy Pfeffer will contact Dr. White and update the Board via email on possible dates for Dr. White’s return. The motion was made by Lillian Hemphill and seconded by Judy Harrison and passed unanimously.

- b. Nominations for ethics subcommittee and evidentiary hearing panel-

Chair Kathy Howell described the committee work and Jennifer Liwo reminded the members of the current vacancies. At this time, all of the ethics subcommittee members have been reappointed to the PLSB Board and present ethics subcommittee members wish to stay on the committee. There was no information that the absent members were not inclined to continue.

Todd Sellars nominated Greg Murry to serve on the evidentiary hearing panel and Dr. Gunter seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the nomination. The Board also agreed for the Council of Deans to discuss a nomination for the final hearing member and to submit the nominee after the Dean’s June 17 meeting. Tonya Williams discussed the possibility for alternates to be selected to ensure that a quorum was present at each meeting. Jennifer Liwo

will review the law regarding the committee makeup and present it at the next meeting for the Board to consider the make up of alternate members. The evidentiary hearing panel will meet in July and August.

c. Approval of dates for new member training

Jennifer Liwo will send out a Doodle Poll to all new board members and new committee members to schedule a training.

#### **4. Discussion and Reports**

a. PLSB Unit Update

Assistant Commissioner Ivy Pfeffer updated the board on the change in the PLSB office with Cheryl Reinhart taking over as Director of Educator Licensure/Educator Preparation. Eric James has been named the new Chief Investigator and will work with Jennifer Liwo in overseeing the daily office work. Both will report to the Assistant Commissioner. Concerns were expressed about having an attorney available for panel members questions during reasonable belief and evidentiary hearings. The Board members were informed that, if necessary, an ADE attorney could be made available to assist Jennifer Liwo on these occasions.

b. Budget Update-

Ivy Pfeffer introduced Jamila Ford, the Division's new Accounting Coordinator. Ivy Pfeffer provided a review of the budget, which shows a substantial decrease in expenditures from the previous two fiscal years. The Board discussed the pending rules, which will change the licensure fee structure and should provide adequate revenue in the future to cover operating costs. The Board will review revenues during the FY 17 and determine how funds may be spent to help educators and meet goals for elevating the workforce.

c. Update on PLSB Cases from 2015-16 School Year

Jennifer Liwo provided a summary of the 2015-16 school year PLSB cases and actions. The Board asked for additional information in future reports and the Chair will collect members' responses regarding specific additional data types. Jennifer Liwo discussed a change in the reporting timeline and asked for the members' feedback. All were in agreement that changing the reporting from July 1-June 30 would be easier for tracking.

d/e. Legislative Proposals-

The PLSB legislative committee had not yet met at the time of the meeting. The ADE provided board members with some initial ideas for legislation, which could possibly include additions to the current list of disqualifying offenses, changes to the PLSB ethics complaint process, a provision for the emergency temporary suspension of a license, a provision for the application of the Code of Ethics to educators under a waiver from licensure and classified employees, and a provision making it a misdemeanor offense to reveal information pertaining to an ethics complaint.

After discussion by the Board Members, some of the initial ideas were rejected. Jennifer Liwo volunteered to conduct further research on emergency temporary suspension of licenses and present the results to the Board at a later time. Jennifer Liwo and Ivy Pfeffer stated that they would compile a modified list of the items for the Board Members to review in detail and have draft legislation, at the September meeting, for the Board's input/consideration.

f. ESSA Update

Ivy Pfeffer provided a brief overview of ESSA

g. ProEthica and APPEL

Ivy Pfeffer updated the Board on the inclusion of ProEthica in the APPEL program's curriculum. The Board will receive updates on the progress and candidate response to the online training.

h. Update Regarding the Rules Governing the Standards for Professional Ethical Conduct –

Ivy Pfeffer updated the Board on the timeline for public comment to end (June 15) and also for the public hearing date (June 7) At the time of the meeting, only one public comment had been entered.

i. Educator Preparation Provider Report (EPPR) -

Board members previewed the 2016 EPPR data and discussed the information provided. Dr. Brad Baine suggested an addition/clarification on the report to indicate which programs were CAEP accredited.

**5. Other Business**

a. The outgoing members who were present, Brad Baine and Judy Harrison were recognized by Chair Kathy Howell with certificates.

The next meeting will be held September 2, 2016, 8:00 a.m. in the ADE auditorium, 4 Capitol Mall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

