

**Arkansas Department of Education
Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)
Friday, May 14, 2010**

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the auditorium of the Arkansas Department of Education, on May 14, 2010. Members of the Board present were Dr. John Jones, Brenda Brown, Dr. Mitch Holifield, Kathy Howell, Dale Query, Don McGohan, Mona Moore, Marion Sibert, Dr. Tony Finley, Dr. Jerry Guess, Ron Tolson and Beverly Williams. Peggy Doss, Sheila Jacobs and Michelle Hayward were unable to attend. Guests in attendance were Donna Morey-AEA, Jeanne Jones-ADHE, and Mike Mertens-AEA. ADE staff members in attendance were Judy Mason and Tameka Parker.

There were ten (10) voting members present, representing a quorum and two non-voting members were present.

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Dr. Holifield.
 - a) Ms. Williams addressed the board regarding new colleagues to the Professional Licensure Standards Boards and gave Ms. Mason the opportunity to introduce them, they include: Michael Smith-Investigator, Tara Amuimuia- Investigator, Eric James- Investigator, Debby Farris-Investigator (not present) and an attorney that will be starting around July 1, 2010. We now have a full staff with 1-Chief Investigator, 2 Assistants, 4- Investigators and 1-Attorney
 - b) Mona Moore will be leaving the board; she will be an assistant principal in her school district.
 - c) Jerry Guess was elected as President of the Superintendents' Group.

2. **Approval of the Minutes –Friday, March 12, 2010** – Dr. Guess made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting date, seconded by Dr. Finley, motion passed unanimously 10/0.

3. **Fund Balance Reports**– March: \$ 639,840.40, April: \$659,175.04

4. **Educators being available for board meetings:** Mr. McGohan made a motion to send a letter to the superintendants, building principals, department of higher education and school boards of our affected districts to let them know how important it is for board members to be allowed to participate in board meetings, seconded by Dr. Finley, motion passed unanimously 10/0. Dr. Holifield will draft the letter and bring it to the next board meeting for review.

5. **Ethics Code Recommendation** – Mr. McGohan gave a brief summary of changes that the sub-committee would like to see made to the Code of Ethics, based on the allegations that have been received.
 - a) **Standard 1:** An educator maintains a professional relationship with others during the course of professional practice. This includes relationships with students (both inside and outside the classroom), other educators, parents/guardians, and other persons with whom the educator may have a relationship that affects his/her professional practice.

- b) **Standard 6:** An educator shall follow the required testing procedure for the administration of standardized test and keep in confidence secure standardized testing material as well as information about students obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a professional purpose or is allowed or required by law.

Mr. McGohan made a motion to send proposed changes to Standards 1 and 6 to ADE attorney to review and he report back to the board before going out for public comment, seconded by Dr. Finley; motion passed unanimously 10/0.

6. Update on Initial Teacher Licensure Rules, Building-Level/Curriculum Program Administrator Rules – Still out for public comment.

- a) Dr. Holifield's recommendation to the board is that they (PLSB) ask the State Board of Education to hold this (Rules) and not send to the SBOE in June and that they at the next meeting have a visit about this again with Jeremy Lasiter present, seconded by Ms. Moore, passed unanimously 10/0.
- b) Dr. Finley made a motion to send written comments on behalf of the board to Mr. Tolson, seconded by Ms. Howell; motion passed unanimously 10/0.

7. Proposals for Vocational Permits and Licensure Areas for Japanese and Latin –

Mr. Tolson gave a brief summary of the benefits of having Japanese and Latin Licensure areas. Ms. Marion made a motion to approve Vocational Permits for Japanese and Latin, seconded by Ms. Howell, motion passed unanimously 10/0.

8. Social Networking Proposal – The board discussed Social-Networking Technology with Students, after a brief discussion Dr. Guess made a motion that the school districts should provide notification through the students' handbooks that a variety of social networking technology may be used in an appropriate way with the students' schools/districts, seconded by Dr. Finley; motion passed unanimously 10/0.

9. Request to allow ADE Employment for Building-Level Licensure - CW

Gardenhire – Mr. Gardenhire submitted a proposal to the board for consideration. He would like to obtain his Standard Building Level Principalship License, but was denied because the rules say he has to be in that job for the induction. Ms. Williams presented the board with a brief explanation and Mr. Gardenhire's letter to the board. Mr. McGohan made a motion to deny the request, seconded by Dr. Finley; motion passed unanimously 10/0.

Ms. Howell made a motion that Dr. Holifield would draft a letter to Mr. Gardenhire explaining the reasoning for the denial, seconded by Ms. Moore; motion passed unanimously 10/0.

10. AEA, ARKASPA, and Dean's Nomination for PLSB – Point of Information

- a) AEA-3 replacements needed: Marion Sibert, Mona Moore and Kathy Howell
- b) ARKASPA-Don McGohan (need official letter of reappointment)
- c) ARACTE-Peggy Doss will be replaced by Tom Smith (need official letter of nomination)
- d) ARACTE-John Jones (needs official letter of new appointment)

- e) Dr. Guess made a nomination that Mitch Holifield be chairmen for the Professional Licensure Standards Board next year, seconded by Ms. Howell, motion passed unanimously 10/0.

11. Ms. Williams' Point of Interests with regard to the Sub-committee:

- a) All 5 sub-committee members be required to have a teaching license as a preventive measure.
- b) Dr. Guess or Mr. Query be placed on the sub-committee as the superintendants' representative.
- c) Mr. McGohan or Ms. Jacobs be removed from the sub-committee to allow for the superintendants' representative. The group of administrators should decide who will represent them on the sub-committee.
- d) The rules do not currently state that the sub-committee members have to have a teaching license.

12. Recommendation for the Creation of a Separate Document/Form for Those Whose Licenses Are Not "Teaching Licenses" – Mr. McGohan shared the information with his members in ARKASPA and they felt as though there should be one (1) license for educators and one (1) for everything else. Place on next months agenda for feedback.

13. Other

- a) **Multi-State Consortium** –Ms. Williams gave handouts to committee members. "The Multi-State Consortium: Revisioning the Professional Educator Continuum." She gave a brief summary of its purpose as an introduction, because the committee will hear more about it.
- b) **Arkansas Definition- Point of Information**
 - i. **Effective Teacher – USDOE's Evidence of 1 year of student growth**
 - ii. **Highly Effective Teacher – USDOE's Evidence of 1.5 years of student growth**
- c) **Waiver Request for Brenda James:** Ms. James teaching license has been expired for over a year and she has asked for a waiver. She was informed that since she tested for her license in the past that she had two options: (1) complete 6 hours of course work or (2) take a Praxis assessment in one of her current areas of licensure. She does not want to complete either of the options available to her. There is no mechanism for a waiver and the rules have never allowed college teaching to count as two years of teaching. We can not use teaching coursework to meet the experience requirements. Ms. Howell made a motion to deny waiver request for Ms. James, seconded by Ms. Moore, motion passed unanimously 10/0.

Mr. McGohan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Holifield; motion passed unanimously 10/0.