

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)
Friday, September 1, 2017
8:00 a.m.

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the Professional Licensure Standards Board Conference Room at #4 Capitol Mall, Room, 105-C, Little Rock, Arkansas on June 5, 2017. Members of the Board present were Ms. Kathy Howell, Chair; voting members: Dr. Shelly Albritton, Ms. Lynne Gronseth, Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, Dr. Mary Gunter, Ms. Lillian Hemphill, Mr. John D. Keeling, Dr. Donny Lee, Dr. Andrea Martin, Dr. Zaidy MohdZain, Dr. Greg Murry, Ms. Cindy Romeo, Mr. Scott Shirey, and Mr. Dudley Webb, III; ADE staff members in attendance were Eric James, Paula Thurmond, Cheri Rolett, Daryl Taylor, Stephanie Johnson, Sarah Banker, Shannon Rostad-Hall, Shari Misener, Matthew Newcomb, Joan Luneau, Dr. Frank Servedio, Dr. Jeremy Owoh, and Cheryl Reinhart.

1. Call to order - meeting was called to order by Kathy Howell, Chair at 8:04 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – Kathy Howell, Chair

Motion made by Dr. Zaidy MohdZain to approve the June 5, 2017, minutes as submitted; seconded by Dr. Donny Lee. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

3. Introduction of all PLSB board members and PLSB new board members

1.) New PLSB Board members

- a) Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent, Greenland School District
- b) Ms. Lynne Gronseth, Springdale School District
- c) John D. Keeling, Middle School Principal, Dardanelle School District
- d) Scott Shirey, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools
- e) Dudley Webb, III, Teacher, Hot Springs School District

4. Action agenda

a) Election of Ethics Subcommittees – Kathy Howell

Ms. Howell brought up for discussion that we add an unlicensed person to the subcommittee to be there only when there is an unlicensed educator being investigated.

Dr. Lee made a motion to add an unlicensed educator to serve on the subcommittee; seconded by Dr. MohdZain. Ms. Howell asked for a volunteer. Mr. Shirey volunteered to sit on the subcommittee. Motion passed.

Discussion on evidentiary hearing and how that panel operates.

All evidentiary hearing members agreed to continue to serve another year. Ms. Howell asked the board to consider to adding one member for unlicensed educators. Dr. Lee moved to add one person to the Evidentiary Hearing Committee to serve only when needed; seconded by Dr. Scott. Motion passed.

5. Discussion and Reports

a) PLSB Subcommittees - Eric James

(i) Budget Subcommittee – Eric James

Mr. James discussed the PLSB budget on Ms. Baker's behalf in her absence. Mr. James discussed the PLSB budget and how its employees are paid from PLSB funds. Mr. James discussed that the PLSB Budget subcommittee take into consideration for future operation adding one to two new investigators which would create a need to purchase an additional PLSB vehicle.

Mr. James also wanted the PLSB and the Budget Subcommittee to consider that in 2008-2013 Licensure fees were \$100.00. In 2013 the licensure fees were lowered to \$75.00, which would have to be considered in looking at the PLSB future operation costs.

Mr. James also related to the Board that the PLSB office does not pay rent for the current building we are housed.

Mr. James continued that the PLSB fines received for ethics violations will be raised in November 2017 which would help in future operating cost.

Mr. James also pointed out that all salaries increased this year due to legislation, which should be considered as the budget subcommittee

reviews future operating cost. Mr. James advised that raises will increase this year by 1% -4% based on merit and continue on a yearly basis.

Mr. James added that there are approximately 700 new educators teaching on some type of waiver which will now increase the possibility of more allegations due to legislation, Act 1240.

Ms. Hemphill shared her concern to the board as to the reasoning of unlicensed teachers not paying the \$75 licensure fee versus licensed teachers, but getting the same benefits as licensed teachers.

Ms. Howell said that PLSB may not have jurisdiction in this area, but that legislation would have to approve this matter.

Ms. Howell asked Mr. James for a copy of the budget information he had shared with the budget subcommittee to get a better look at expenditures.

(ii) Ethics Subcommittee

- Statistical Ethical Data Report – Eric James
 - 2016 was our highest year for authorizations
 - Discussion of parents becoming more aware of PLSB and what we do
 - 2016 Statistical Data Breakdown
 - 85% of teacher allegations were authorized
 - 2016 was a great year for presentations due to our investigators being able to go and give presentations
 - Mr. James commented that the Code of Ethics at Arkansas Tech is embedded in their Ed. Prep Program.
 - The New Ethics Training Video has received very positive feedback and has had over 3000 views.
 - Mr. James showed the new Code of Ethics video to the PLSB board
 - Future videos will have student participation, point of view, and how it impacts them

(iii) Evidentiary Hearing Subcommittee – Brenda Brown – Absent

b) Legislation Update - Dr. Jeremy Owoh

Topics of discussion:

- Transforming Arkansas
- Leadership, support, and services
- Educator Licensure – Greater flexibility in licensing
- Discussion on licensure fees
- Act 746 – Background Checks
- Finger printing – applicants must use the ADE finger printing cards
- Act 416 – Educator Effectiveness
- Act 1063 – Reading awareness
- Act 937 – This law will benefit all districts and teachers in high poverty areas and they will receive a bonus for teaching in a high poverty area.
- Act 564 – Ethics for PLSB, adding members representing the appropriate organizations.
- Act 295 – Development of teachers and not an evaluation
- Micro credentials

c) Career continuum – Dr. Jeremy Owoh

Topics of discussion:

- Multiple licensure levels
- First 3 years – Tier 1
- After 3 years – Tier 2 requirements will need to be met
- Tier 3 and 4 for continued leadership

d) Preschool Initiatives Update – Tonya Williams – Not present

The board took a break at 9:15 a.m. and will resume at 9:25 a.m.

e) Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) – Joan Luneau

(i) Reports and Review per Act 564 of 2017

- Waiting on Higher Education Act to be approve
- Discussion on program quality will involve the PLSB

Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott commented that she felt a taskforce committee should be established to discuss and review EPP reports. The Board discussed a timeline for putting this committee together. Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott made a motion to establish a taskforce subcommittee dealing with EPP reports to work with Ms. Joan Luneau; seconded by Dr. Zaidy MohdZain. Motion passed. The following members volunteered to be a part of the taskforce committee: Dr. Lee, Dr. MohdZain, Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, Mr. Dudley Webb, Dr. Shelly Albritton, and Dr. Mary Gunter.

(ii) Protocol for the Review and Approval of Programs of Study

- Institutions of Higher Ed
- Alternative Educator Preparation Programs
 - Approved by ADE , CAEP accredited
 - Added a Letter of Intent (LOI)
 - Letter of Notification no longer exists
 - Dates have not changed
 - Field experience of 420 hours has been removed

(iii) Update on Stand-alone Reading Test

- The website for the Stand Alone Reading test went live this week.

(iii) CAEP Accreditation Visit Schedule

- Ms. Luneau will have the updates on the fall visits at the December 1, 2017, board meeting.

f) Update on Rules – Cheryl Reinhart

Ms. Reinhart discussed with the Board the order and timeline of the rules:

- ❖ They are first drafted
- ❖ Approved by the Governor
- ❖ Submitted to the State Board agenda
- ❖ Open for public comment
- ❖ Resubmitted to the State Board
- ❖ Approved by the Legislative Council

Ms. Reinhart commented that there is still some discussion on the Leadership program and having to meet “face to face” with a candidate.

Members have asked that “face to face” be defined. There was much discussion on this from the board members. Dr. Murry was very adamant about this topic and felt that every student in an administrator licensure program should have the opportunity to meet with the program faculty “in person” during the program. Further discussion on this topic was laid on the table for Ms. Reinhart to take back for discussion.

Ms. Reinhart said that background check rules have added Rap Back to determine if an educator has been arrested in another state.

g) ESSA Draft – Cheryl Reinhart
<https://www.arkansasessa.org/>

6. Other Business

a) Election of a Chair and Co-chair

Ms. Hemphill nominated Ms. Kathy Howell for Chair; seconded by _____ . Motion passed.

*Recorder was not on during the meeting. The second motion was not heard or recorded.

Dr. Zaidy MohdZain nominated Dr. Donnie Lee for Co-Chair. Nominations were closed by Mr. Dudley Webb. All in favor of Dr. Donnie Lee as Co-Chair of PLSB Ethics Subcommittee. Motion passed.

The PLSB Full Board meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting will be Friday, December 1, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

*Note: The recorder was not turned on during the board meeting. These minutes were comprised from notes taken during the meeting.