

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)
Friday, March 6, 2020
PLSB Full Board Minutes

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Conference Room at #4 Capitol Mall, Room 105-C, Little Rock, Arkansas on **March 6, 2020**. Voting members of the Board present were 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, Dudley Webb, III, and Dr. Sheena Williamson. Non-voting members present were Karli Saracini and Joan Luneau. ADE staff members present were Amy Douglas, Eric James, Sarah Banker, Cheri Rolett, Shannon Rostad-Hall, Brittany Felix, Ashton Middleton, Jaclyn Williams, and Maria Lockhart.

Guests: Carol Fleming with AEA, Hosea Born Hope School District, Tracey Ann Nelson, Lincoln Daniels (PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Panel Member), and Sunny Styles-Foster (PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Panel Member).

Members who were not present were Dr. Greg Murry, Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, and Cindy Nations

1. Call to Order – Dr. Donny Lee, Vice-Chair

Dr. Lee called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the December 6, 2019, PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Ms. Brown.

Motion passed; none opposed.

3. Action Items

- **Assessment for Geometry Approval – Joan Luneau**

Geometry (7-12) is a new endorsement area added to a standard educator license by testing out. This is in the proposed rules. Mr. Webb asked if there would be training available for this. Ms. Luneau said that training and classes would be available. This course needs to be available for teachers in the fall of 2020. Ms. Luneau would like to add this Geometry Practice 5163 with a cut score of 139 to add this endorsement once it is approved. Dr. Lee asked for a motion to accept this endorsement as stated by Ms. Luneau. Dr. Martin made a motion to accept this endorsement as stated; seconded by Mr. Webb.

Contingency plan for the internships/student teachers when the schools close for different reasons; online training, etc.

The definition of completer; completed all coursework and recommended for a license. Different entities have different qualifications to be qualified as a completer.

Ms. Brown asked how long an educator can be on a waiver. Ms. Luneau stated that every five years the district reapplies for the waivers.

- **Ethics Subcommittee Nomination – Dr. Donny Lee**

Ms. Lillian Hemphill resigned from her school district position at Watson Chapel. This leaves a vacancy on the PLSB Full Board and the Ethics Subcommittee. Ms. Hemphill was a member of AEA.

Ms. Howell made a motion to nominate Hosea Born as the new Ethics Subcommittee member pending his approval from the State Board; seconded by Ms. Brown. Motion passed; Non-opposed.

Mr. James spoke to the new members about PLSB and what they do and explained the allegation process.

4. Discussion and Reports

- **Ethics Data Report (Eric James/Sarah Banker) – Continued discussion from the December full board meeting with updates**

Mr. James conveyed to the full board, that as of March 6, 2020, 127 authorizations have been received with 54 being approved since January 1, 2020. Approximately seventy percent of cases are authorized.

Sexual content and/or sexual dialogue is the most targeted allegation. Last year 30 teachers were investigated, which was around twenty-seven percent. This year, ten teachers have been investigated to date. In 2019, thirty teachers were investigated for sexual content and/or sexual dialogue.

The average age of a teacher investigated is 42 years of age for any area of misconduct. This year the age group is around 36 to 37 years of age.

Ms. Banker presented the data report, which was the same as it was in December 2019, with updates. Out of forty cases the sanctions are as follows:

- Sanctions Upheld – 9 Cases
- Sanctions Lowered – 21 Cases
- Sanctions Dismissed – 8 Cases
- Sanctions Upheld/Fine Eliminated – 2 cases

After an evidentiary hearing has taken place and the sanction has been given, the State Board of Education has the authority to change the sanction if they so choose.

In the past, the Ethics Subcommittee was able to have a workshop session with the State Board of Education to discuss each level of the process. Ms. Saracini, Assistant Commissioner for the Arkansas Department of Education, offered her assistance in getting the State Board to commit to a date to meet with the PLSB Full Board.

Ms. Howell made a motion to request a work session with the State Board of Education; seconded by Mr. Webb. Due to the vacant position on the State Board, the work session will need to be scheduled after the position is appointed. The decision was made that PLSB would write a formal letter to Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, asking for the request to have a work session. Mr. Webb offered to draft the letter, which will be emailed to Dr. Murry for further review before emailing it to the board members.

Motion passed; none opposed.

- **Ethics Subcommittee/Evidentiary Hearing Panel Members – Recalibration Discussion**

- ❖ Future meetings

- Schedule the new member training the week of May 11, 2020.

- **AEA Nomination – Mrs. Carol Fleming, AEA President**

Ms. Fleming is recommending Hosea Born, 7th Grade Math teacher from the Hope School District, to the PLSB Full Board pending SBOE approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

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