

**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Thursday, June 11, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, June 11, 2020, via Zoom video conferencing. Chair Ms. Diane Zook called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Zook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Ms. Diane Zook, Chair; Ms. Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Ms. Ouida Newton; Mr. Brett Williamson; Ms. Susan Chambers; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Ms. Stacey McAdoo, 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: None

**Recognition**

Ms. Zook welcomed Adrienne Woods as the newest member of the State Board.

Ms. Zook said Dr. Moore was recently recognized as one of *Arkansas Business*' "40 Under 40" for the state of Arkansas.

Ms. Zook also mentioned that there were 12 students, grades K-3, who will be reading stories they wrote on PBS Kids.

Mr. Key recognized both Ms. Zook and Ms. McAdoo for their time on the State Board. He also played a recognition video for each of them. These videos included remarks from other State Board members, Division of Elementary and Secondary team members, and the 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

**Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Minutes
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
4. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann § 6-17-309
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 19-182 Thomas Thrash
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 20-074 Steven Rieser
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 20-115 Hannah Emerson

8. Bentonville School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
9. Bryant School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
10. Carlisle School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
11. Clarksville School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report

### **Action Agenda A**

#### **A-1 State Board Hearing of Revocation of License LA 20-03-Blake Barrow**

Managing Attorney Ms. Amy Douglas introduced the item and reviewed procedures.

Educator Mr. Blake Barrow provided background information for his case and discussed the letters of support he asked DESE Legal to email to the State Board members.

Ms. Douglas said the educator's license was revoked in Missouri due to falsified Texas teaching credentials submitted by the educator to obtain a license in Missouri. She reviewed Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Ms. Douglas said the Department is recommending that Mr. Barrow's license be revoked. She reviewed the possible actions the State Board.

State Board members expressed their concerns and asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to table the item while Legal researched the current status of Mr. Barrow's licenses. The item will be discussed during the July State Board meeting.

#### **A-2 Request for Transfer of Succeed Scholarship**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the Harter family requests approval to transfer their scholarship from Christ Little Rock to Mount St. Mary Academy.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge to approve the transfer. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-3 Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Special Projects Administrator Mr. Frank Servedio said the following areas were determined to be shortage areas in Arkansas for the 2020-2021 school year based on previously published supply and demand calculations.

- Art (Grades K-12)
- Business (Grades 4-12)
- Biology (Grades 7-12)
- Chemistry (Grades 7-12)
- French (Grades K-12)
- Mathematics (Grades 7-12)
- Physics (Grades 7-12)
- Special Education (Grades K-12)

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-4 Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) Test Change**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini said since September 2014, the licensure tests for Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) have been the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) and the Praxis® Education of Young Children (5024). She said that the Department recommends the following to be effective July 1, 2020: require one licensure test instead of two, remove the Praxis® Education of Young Children (5024), but continue the Praxis® Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) test with current cut score of 160.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-5 Approval for Middle School Science Licensure Test**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini said Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its middle school science licensure test. The Praxis® Middle School Science (5440) is currently the test for Middle School Science (4-8) licensure. The updated test is the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442). For the Middle School Science (4-8) licensure assessment, the Division recommends adopting the Praxis® Middle School Science (5442) with a cut score of 147 replacing the Middle School Science (5440), effective September 1, 2020.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-6 Approval for Praxis® Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) as a Content Area Performance Assessment**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini said in May 2020, Educator Licensure rules were revised to include an option for first-time licensure candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area if they score within -2 Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) based on the national standard or an approved score by the State Board on the content area assessment. The option includes the need for a DESE approved micro-credential or content area performance assessment. To provide an option for applicable candidates to show proficiency in teaching in a content area, she said the Division recommends adopting the Praxis® Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT) with a cut score of 38 as a content area performance assessment.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-7 Approval for Geometry Endorsement Licensure Test**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini said Geometry (7-12) is an endorsement area added to a standard educator license by testing out. For the licensure test to add Geometry (7-12), she said the Department recommends adopting the Praxis® Geometry (5163) with a cut score of 139.

Clarifying questions were asked by State Board members.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-8 Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2020**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini said the following board members have been nominated for a new term. The new term will begin July 1, 2020 and end on June 30, 2023.

- Lynne Gronseth and Dudley Webb III, nominated by the Arkansas State Teachers Association to represent the association and public school classroom teachers.
- Hosea Born nominated by the Arkansas Education Association.
- John David Keeling, nominated by the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Administrators to represent the association and middle level building administrators.
- Dr. Andrea Martin, nominated by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators to represent the association and district level administrators.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-9 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions**

#### **a. Request for Open-Enrollment Charter School Amendment: Haas Hall Academy**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said on May 19, 2020, representatives of Haas Hall Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the Panel's decision has been submitted.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-10 Consideration of District Waiver Request: Heber Springs School District**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said representatives of the Heber Springs School District are appearing before the Board with a petition of waivers. She reviewed the district's waiver request and provided clarification on the request.

Heber Springs School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Stauffacher provided background information about the school district and the reasoning for the waiver requests. High School Principal Mr. Marc Griffin provided additional information regarding a seat time waiver which was granted last year.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and expressed their concerns regarding the request.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to not approve the class size and teaching load waiver request. There was a roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the library media specialist role waiver request for a period of five years. There was some discussion. Ms. Chambers amended her motion to reflect a period of three years instead of five, and Dr. Hill seconded the amended motion. The final vote was 7-1. Ms. Newton voted no. The motion passed.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the teacher licensure waiver request for a period of three years. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-11 Consideration for Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said a public comment hearing was held on April 13, 2020, and the public comment period ended on April 20, 2020. No comments were received.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the rules. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-12 Consideration for Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said a public comment hearing was held on April 13, 2020, and the public comment period ended on April 20, 2020. Although comments were received, none resulted in a substantive change to these rules.

Ms. Zook asked a clarifying question.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve the rules. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-13 Consideration for Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing College and Career Readiness Planning Programs**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said a public comment hearing was held on April 13, 2020 and the public comment period ended on April 20, 2020. Although comments were received, none resulted in a substantive change to these rules.

Ms. Zook asked a clarifying question.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the rules. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-14 Consideration of Request for Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said these Rules were amended to incorporate changes required by Acts 557, 640, 709, and 1029 of 2019. A public comment hearing was held on February 12, 2020. Public comments were received during the public comment period and non-substantive revisions were made. The State Board gave final approval to these rules on April 9, 2020. Additional revisions were made to the Rules, which necessitates a new approval from the Board.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the rules. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-15 Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY21 - Agency Grant Awards**

Education Manager Ms. Susan Underwood reviewed the program information recommended for the Arkansas Better Chance Program Renewal Grants for the 2020-2021 school year in the total amount of \$104,125,626.

Dr. Moore asked a clarifying question.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-16 Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY21: Professional Service Grants**

Education Manager Ms. Susan Underwood said reviewed the information for the Arkansas Better Chance Professional Service Grants for the 2020-2021 school year in the total amount of \$6,714,342.45.

Dr. Moore asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Underwood, returned later in the meeting with an updated spreadsheet which noted the correct amount and other information.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to rescind the previous vote on this action item. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to accept the revision. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-17 Discussion of the Proposed Act 1240 Waiver Process for Districts to Implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford reviewed the proposed Act 1240 waiver process, which would enable the flexibility LEAs need in order to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, to plan for re-entry to onsite instruction, and to have flexibility to implement blended learning systems. She also reviewed a handout supplied to the State Board which provided a list of the waivers and a summary of the process.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

There was no motion required. This item was for informational purposes only.

#### **A-18 Consideration of Legislative Report: Dollarway School District**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez discussed the difference of these reports with past quarterly reports and how the COVID-19 affected what types of support were provided to the school districts. He provided an overview of the Dollarway Schools District's legislative report. Superintendent Ms. Barbara Warren was available for questions.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to accept Dollarway School District's legislative report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-19 Consideration of Legislative Report: Pine Bluff School District**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Pine Bluff School District's legislative report. Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Owoh was available for questions.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to accept Pine Bluff School District's legislative report. The motion passed unanimously.

**a. Consideration of District Waiver Request - Pine Bluff and Dollarway School Districts**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Pine Bluff and Dollarway School District are requesting a waiver of the requirement for a full-time superintendent for one year. Ms. Barbara Warren will serve as superintendent for both districts.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the waiver request. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-20 Consideration of Legislative Report: Earle School District**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Earle School District's legislative report. Superintendent Ms. Tish Knowles was available for questions.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to accept Earle School District's legislative report. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-21 Consideration of Legislative Report: Lee County School District**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Lee County School District's legislative report. Superintendent Ms. Willie Murdock was available for questions.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to accept Lee County School District's legislative report. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-22 Consideration of the Final 2019-2020 Accreditation Status for the Lee County School District**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said Lee County School District was found to be in violation of Standard 1-C.1 for failure to administer the ELPA21 to identified English Learners. It also found the Anna Strong Learning Academy to be in violation of Standard 2-J.2 due to the identification of twelve students as English Learners who were not participating in an approved English support program. She said the Division recommends that this Board designate the District as being in a status, Accredited—Corrective Action and Anna Strong Learning Academy as being in a status, Accredited – Cited.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to accept the recommendation accreditation status for Lee County School District. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-23 Consideration of the 2019-2020 Final Standards for Accreditation Status Report for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Division requests that the State Board approve the 2019-2020 Final Standards for Accreditation Status Report for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts as posted.

Mr. Key provided remarks about the Standards for Accreditation Tool.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-24 Consideration of Legislative Report: Little Rock School District**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Little Rock School District's legislative report, as well as the district's draft exit criteria. Superintendent Mr. Mike Poore was available for questions.

State Board members asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to accept Little Rock School District's legislative report. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **Review of Proposed Changes to SBE Operating Procedures**

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said she received several suggestions from Division team members and State Board members regarding the State Board operating procedures. She said that a draft of the updated operating procedures will be included on the July State Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Williamson and Dr. Hill left the meeting following this item.

## **Reports**

### **State Board Member Reports/Comments**

Ms. Zook noted that she emailed the Special Education report to Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle for distribution.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Key read and provided additional remarks about a joint message from the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education regarding the 2020-2021 school year regarding guidance for following COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. The full message can be read at <http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/arkansas-ready-for-learning>.

Mr. Key recognized Dr. Mike Hernandez for his service as state superintendent and noted that Dr. Hernandez is leaving the Division to work with the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators.



Mr. Key announced that Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith has been approved to become the director of the Office of Coordinated Support Services beginning July 1, 2020.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer also recognized Dr. Hernandez and Ms. Smith for their work, as well as Ms. Zook. She also discussed Arkansas Ready for Learning.

Mr. Key said that he has received notifications that the Division has issued its first five Certified Teaching Assistant certificates.

### **2019 Teacher of the Year Report**

Ms. McAdoo reflected on her journey as 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. She talked about the importance of listening to teachers and including them during the decision making process. She suggested that all teachers need a time to reflect and visit with other schools. She discussed her proudest moments and challenges from her ATOY year. She played a video slideshow of her ATOY year accompanied by a song written by her husband, Leron McAdoo.

### **2019-2020 Comprehensive Licensure Waiver Report**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Karli Saracini and Program Manager Ms. Melissa Jacks provided an overview of the data for the different types of licensure waivers for the 2019-2020 school year. She said there were 1125 Additional Licensure Plans, 672 Long-Term Substitutes, 390 Emergency Teaching Permits, 671 Act 1240 Licensure Waivers, and 116 Effective Teacher Licensure Exceptions.

State Board members asking clarifying questions.

### **Advisory Council for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith said there is a link to the report on the State Board agenda.

### **School of Innovation Report**

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith said there is a link to the report on the State Board agenda.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Zook mentioned that she received one public comment via email. There was no other public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan*

X *Charisse Dean*

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Ms. Charisse Dean  
Chair

X *Johnny Key*

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Mr. Johnny Key  
Commissioner