

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, October 11, 2018

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, October 11, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Susan Chambers; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Dr. Fitz Hill

Consent Agenda

State Board members asked clarifying questions on Consent Agenda items three and 19. Item 12 was pulled from the agenda.

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

Items included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – September 13, 2018 and September 14, 2018
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Consideration of Report on Licensure Exceptions to School Districts
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-024 Cristy Cathey
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-066 Schelly Graves
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-096 Donald Hofmann
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-112 Erin Dillon
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-117 William Russell
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-118 Kyle Russell
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines - Licensure Action No. LA 18-022 - Jennifer Macmillan
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines - Licensure Action No. LA 18-023 - Joann Delap
- *(Pulled from Agenda)* Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines - Licensure Action No. LA 18-024 - Michael Fletcher

- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Mena School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Clinton School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Pottsville School District Act 1240 Annual Report
- Poyen School District Act 1240 Annual Report
- Smackover Norphlet School District Act 1240 Annual Report
- Helena West Helena School District Act 1240 Requested Data

Action Agenda A

A-1 Resolution - Arkansas School Bus Safety Week October 22 through 26, 2018

Senior Transportation Manager Mr. Jerry Owens asked the board to approve the Arkansas School Bus Safety Week resolution. He stressed the importance of school bus safety and referenced a one-day survey of school bus drivers who reported 857 instances of motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus. Owens also recognized Mr. Tom Farmer, transportation director at the Bryant School District.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

A-2 Resolution - Arkansas Safe Schools Week October 21 through October 27, 2018

Director of the University of Arkansas System's Criminal Justice Institute Dr. Cheryl May asked the board to approve the Arkansas Safe Schools Week resolution. She discussed statewide efforts to promote school safety, including resources and training that will be available for school resource officers and others.

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

A-3 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License - Licensure Action Case No. 18-025 - Courtney L. Sanders

Staff Attorney Ms. Simoné Blagg said Mr. Courtney L. Sanders is a licensed educator in Georgia who was convicted of a disqualifying offense. On August 15, 2018, the Department notified Mr. Sanders that he is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 and entitled to a hearing. Mr. Sanders requested a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board on September 11, 2018.

Mr. Sanders attended and provided information.

The Department recommended that the State Board not grant Mr. Sanders' request for a waiver.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to grant the waiver. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Dean, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore, Ms. Newton, Mr. Williamson and Ms. Zook voted in favor of

the motion. Ms. Chambers and Dr. Barth voted in opposition. The final vote was 6-2. The motion passed.

A-4 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License – Licensure Action Case No. 18-018 – Shane Jones

Staff Attorney Ms. Simoné Blagg said Mr. Shane Jones is a licensed educator who pled guilty to a disqualifying offense. On July 31, 2018, the Department notified Mr. Jones that he is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 and entitled to a hearing.

Mr. Jones did not request a waiver of the disqualification from the State Board.

The Department recommended that the State Board revoke Mr. Jones's license.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to revoke Mr. Jones's license. The motion passed unanimously.

***(Pulled from Agenda)* A-5 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License – Licensure Action Case No. 18-017 – Joshua Cameron**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

A-6 State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Recommendation – Rebekah Bennett

Managing Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said Ms. Bennett holds a teaching license issued by the State Board. The Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators provides that an educator may object to the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee's written findings and recommendations. The educator's objection triggered a full review by the State Board.

Ms. Bennett's attorney spoke on her behalf.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to hear additional information from Ms. Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bennett provided information about the incident that occurred.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to accept the following finding of fact: Ms. Bennett is a licensed educator in Arkansas and while escorting a student down the hall, she did shove the student against the wall. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Chambers, Ms. Dean, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore, and Ms. Newton voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Williamson and Ms. Zook voted in opposition. The final vote was 5-2. The motion passed.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, that Ms. Bennett did not violate Standard 1 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. There was a roll call vote. Mr. Williamson and Ms. Zook voted in favor. Ms. Chambers, Ms. Dean, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore, and Ms. Newton voted in opposition. The final vote was 2-5. The motion failed.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, that Ms. Bennett did violate Standard 1 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Chambers, Ms. Dean, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore, and Ms. Newton voted in favor. Mr. Williamson and Ms. Zook voted in opposition. The final vote was 5-2. The motion passed.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, that Ms. Bennett receive a written reprimand, provide a written reflection, attend the Behavior is Communication and Classroom Management: Managing Challenging Behavior trainings, and receive a \$50 fine. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Chambers, Ms. Dean, Ms. McFetridge, Dr. Moore, Ms. Newton, Mr. Williamson, and Ms. Zook voted in favor. The final vote was 7-0. The motion passed.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Charter School Amendment Requests: Standards for Accreditation

Director of Public Charter Schools Dr. Alexandra Boyd said that on July 1, 2018, new Standards for Accreditation became effective, necessitating a transition in waivers from the previous Standards for Accreditation. On September 19, 2018, ADE staff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting approval of the transition of these waivers on behalf of several charter schools. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the requests. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

B-2 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution

Attorney Supervisor Ms. Jennifer Dedman said changes to these rules are necessary to incorporate a complaint process for participation of private school children and to provide updated language, including references to ESSA.

The Department requested that the State Board approve these proposed rules for public comment release.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to release the rules for public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

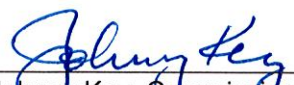
Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m..

Minutes recorded by Kimberly Friedman



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner