

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, February 23, 2018

The State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, February 23, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner's Conference Room for a special meeting. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Joe Black, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Mireya Reith; Courtney Cochran, 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner.

Absent: Dr. Fitz Hill, Charisse Dean, and Commissioner Johnny Key.

Action Agenda

1- Consideration for Emergency Promulgation: ADE Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification

General Counsel Lori Freno said the ADE Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification were being put out for emergency promulgation so that school districts and educators have time to plan for the 2018-2019 school year. She said there would not be an Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee meeting of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) in March. She said the ALC Executive Subcommittee would hear the emergency rules on March 5, 2018. She said the permanent rules would go out for a second public comment period.

Ms. Freno said the State Board does not need to approve rules for a second release for public comment.

Dr. Barth said the State Board would like to see an outcomes report in the future. Ms. Zook said she would like to see data on the test results these teachers receive versus other teachers concerning achievement and growth. Ms. Newton said she would like to see how many teachers take advantage of teaching in high-poverty schools.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve ADE Rules Governing Eligibility and Financial Incentives for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidacy and Certification for emergency promulgation. The motion carried unanimously.

2- Consideration for Emergency Promulgation: ADE Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Performance Reports and the School Recognition Program

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said these rules are commonly referred to as the A-F Rules. She said these rules set forth the formula for how A-F grades are determined. She says the rules address the school recognition program. She said it is important to promulgate these rules as emergency rules.

Dr. Denise Airola said “highly-mobile” within the context of these rules is defined in the draft business rules.

Ms. Salas-Ford said it is permissible in statute that the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind be exempted from these rules. Ms. Salas-Ford said they are not included because of the specific population of students served at these schools who would not benefit from having a letter grade.

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said teacher attendance is not included in the A-F Rules metrics because it is not aligned with the ESSA school index which does not include teacher attendance as part of the criteria.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve ADE Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Performance Reports and the School Recognition Program for emergency promulgation. The motion carried unanimously.

3- Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Performance Reports and the School Recognition Program

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve release of ADE Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Performance Reports and the School Recognition Program for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

4- Consideration of Appointment of Nominating Committee for State Board Chair and Vice-Chair

Dr. Barth said Ms. Newton and Dr. Hill are ineligible for chair positions due to insufficient time on the State Board. He said Ms. Reith and Mr. Black were also ineligible because they were rolling off the State Board at the end of the 2017-2018 term. He said Ms. Chambers would chair the nominating committee. Dr. Barth asked Ms. Reith and Mr. Williamson to serve on the committee, and both agreed to serve.

Dr. Barth said a nominating committee meeting would take place in advance of the May State Board meeting.

Dr. Barth said there are five members of the Board who would be eligible for chair and vice-chair positions. Eligible members include Ms. Dean, Ms. Zook, Ms. Chambers, Mr. Williamson, and Dr. Barth. He said Ms. Hollis would contact eligible members to gauge interest in the chair and vice-chair positions. He said a voice vote would take place in June 2018.

Adjournment

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

