

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, July 12, 2018**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, July 12, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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

Absent: Brett Williamson and Dr. Fitz Hill

Changes to the Agenda

Dr. Barth said the Department requested the addition of Action Agenda A-6 Consideration of Proposed Rules Repeals.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to add Action Agenda A-6 Consideration of Proposed Rules Repeals. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to add an additional public comment period at the end of Action Agenda A. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Responding to Consent Agenda 7- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 17-045 – Chad McPherson, Staff Attorney Ms. Simoné Blagg said a license suspension was necessary to ensure Mr. McPherson paid a fine prior to license renewal.

In response to questions about Consent Agenda Item 8, Commissioner Key said Dollarway School District's salary structure was an issue for teacher retention in the district. He said he approved a \$1,500 increase to the base salary for the 2018-2019 school year. He said there was still a long-term substitute issue, but making the salary structure competitive would help.

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said she would request that districts submit information on the structure of student internship and work experiences.

Bryant School District Superintendent Dr. Karen Walters said the teachers solicited updates from internship and work supervisors of students taking advantage of these opportunities. She said students had to complete assignments throughout the year

related to their internship or work experience. She said all students with work and internship placements were required to participate in an end-of-year academic event.

Commissioner Key said the Department of Career Education was working on new definitions for work-based learning opportunities.

Director of the Charter School Unit Dr. Alexandra Boyd said the Helena West-Helena School District was the only district required to submit an Act 1240 waiver report. She said if a school volunteered to share information on the success of an Act 1240 waiver as part of the proceedings with the State Board during the waiver request, the State Board could require a report as part of the waiver stipulations.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – June 14, 2018, and June 15, 2018
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- 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
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-068 Malinda Butler
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-074 Robert Brown
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-078 Robert Cunningham
- Consideration of Suspension of Teaching License for Nonpayment of Fines – PLSB Case No. 17-045 – Chad McPherson
- Consideration of the Comprehensive 2017-2018 Report on Waivers
- Southeast Cooperative Act 1240 2-year Progress Report
- Bryant School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Cutter Morning Star Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Glen Rose School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Greenwood School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- Hamburg School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report

Action Agenda A

A-1 Consideration of Second Round for Arkansas Better Chance 2018-2019 Renewal Grants

Arkansas Department of Human Services Education and Instruction Manager for Arkansas Better Chance Ms. Susan Underwood said one program was omitted from the

June 2018 list of programs brought before the State Board. She said all programs submitted their documentation for review and approval. She said these ABC programs were not campus-based.

Ms. Underwood said most of the programs partner with local districts.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve Arkansas Better Chance 2018-2019 Renewal Grants for a grant total of \$3,941,460.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Consideration of Appeal from Denial of School Choice Application—Stanford Family

The Department requested that this item be pulled from the agenda.

A-3 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Licensure Action Case No. 18-009 – Mark Hobson

Staff Attorney Ms. Simoné Blagg said the Department notified Mr. Hobson that he was disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. She said Mr. Hobson did not respond to the notice of disqualification. She said Mr. Hobson was not present for the State Board meeting.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to deny waiver of disqualification and revoke teaching license of Mr. Mark Hobson. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 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, 2018

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said Dr. Sheena Williamson, Assistant Superintendent of Searcy School District, was nominated by the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) to represent their membership on the Professional Licensure Standards Board.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve nomination of Dr. Sheena Williamson for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to replace members whose terms are vacant or expiring June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Required 38 High School Courses

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said the timeline to submit the required 38 high school course list to the State Board would be December or January of each year moving forward.

Commissioner Key said "ADE approved" courses were not part of the required 38 high school courses, but were approved by the Department to fulfill subject area graduation requirements.

Ms. Coffman said districts following the previous list would still be in compliance in the 2018-2019 school year.

Director of Standards and Systems Support Mr. Roy Causbie said there was a wider range of options for fulfilling the fine arts requirement.

Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education Dr. Charisse Childers said schools were required to offer three (3) programs of study out of the nine (9) listed. She said technology, design, and applications was now a core course. Dr. Childers said technology, design, and applications, and computer business applications would serve as the core of all business and marketing programs of study.

Ms. Coffman said teachers across the state were recommending coursework as part of the academic standards revision process led by the Division of Learning Services.

Commissioner Key said schools had more flexibility with course options to identify the courses that would meet the needs of students as reflected in student success plans.

Ms. Coffman said student success plans must be updated annually. She said those plans could be updated more frequently if desired.

Commissioner Key said students benefit from taking high-rigor coursework despite testing success as in the case of AP exams for high school students.

Dr. Barth asked State Board members to share data requests with the Department to be reported back along with the next State Board course approval action item at the end of 2018. Dr. Barth asked that student matriculation into courses no longer part of the required 38 courses be shared with the State Board.

Dr. Moore asked for data concerning how many licensed teachers taught optional courses that were listed as part of the Department's approved courses. She asked for information on which courses were offered but not taken by students. She said she would like information on how many districts were offering the required 38 courses virtually versus in-person.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve Required 38 High School Courses. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Rick Napier said he was a resident of Deer Mt. Judea. Mr. Napier provided a handout. He said his license was revoked in 1999 due to financial issues. He said he had to give up his coaching career with schools.

Mr. Napier said he was asked to be a coach for Deer Mt. Judea School District as a volunteer. Mr. Napier asked that the State Board consider reinstating his license so that he could teach in the district.

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said under current state code, a revoked licensed could not be reinstated.

Commissioner Key said the only course of action would be through legislation.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: Proposed ADE Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said changes to the rule were necessary to incorporate the amended provisions. She said the Department respectfully requested that the State Board approve these proposed rules for public comment release.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to release Proposed ADE Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015 for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-2 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records of 2015

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said additional changes were made to the rule to remove outdated requirements. She said the Department respectfully requested that the State Board approve these proposed rules for public comment release.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve release of ADE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records of 2015 for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-3 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure

Deputy General Attorney Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the proposed amendments to the Educator Licensure rules implemented the Educator Career Continuum and made technical corrections to certain other provisions. She said the Department respectfully requested that the State Board approve these proposed rules for public comment release.

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said the Department went through a stakeholder engagement process to create these rules.

Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables said the Teacher Leader Advisory Group (TLAG), represented by teachers across the state, were engaged in the rules-making process. She said teachers wanted an opportunity to advance their career while remaining in the classroom. Ms. Ables said TLAG wanted the rules to allow for the elevation of the profession, continued growth, self-advocacy. She said TLAG wanted the rules to be easily understandable and equitable.

Ms. Ables said teachers were excited about these rules. She said support from building-level leaders and superintendents was the main concern for many teacher leaders.

Ms. Reinhart said an assessment component would be part of the licensure process. She said districts could structure the pay schedule according to preference.

Ms. Reinhart said this micro-credential was provided by Teaching Matters. She said Teaching Matters would conduct research on student achievement and growth that stemmed from learning under teachers with this micro-credential.

Ms. House said she attended the ECS National Policy Meeting panel discussion on teacher leadership. Ms. House said the conversation on teacher leadership was based in advancement through administrative roles. She said she is excited that Arkansas is working to address this issue.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve release of ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-4 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing Instructional Materials

Attorney Supervisor Ms. Jennifer Dedman said this rule was amended by striking Section 6.01 and its subsections in accordance with Act 929 of 2017. Ms. Dedman said Act 929 of 2017 altered Ark. Code Ann. §6-21-406 by striking section 4.03 that included language involving the State Board.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said the Standards and Support Unit would monitor issues related to instructional materials.

Staff Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor said if a Professional Licensure Standards Board case on the consent agenda is pulled by the State Board for change, the item is moved to the following month action agenda in the interest of due process for the educator.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve release of ADE Rules Governing Instructional Materials for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

B-5 For Final Consideration: Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said The State Board released these proposed rules for public comment on September 14, 2017. She said a public comment hearing was held on September 27, 2017. Ms. Salas-Ford said because substantive changes were made to the proposed rules as a result of public comments, the rules were released for a second public comment period on May 10, 2018. She said there were no substantive changes made to the rules following the second public comment period. Ms. Salas-Ford said the Department respectfully requested that the State Board give final approval to these proposed rules.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators for final approval. The motion carried unanimously.

B-6 Consideration of Proposed Rules Repeals

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said at the June 14, 2018, State Board meeting, the State Board approved the list of ADE Proposed Rules Repeals (agenda item B.13.) pursuant to Act 781 of 2017. Ms. Salas-Ford said upon further review, the Department wanted to add an additional rule to the list of proposed repeals: ADE Rules Governing State Reported Dropout and Graduation Rates. Upon approval, this rule will be added to the report of proposed repeals for consideration by the interim committee. She said the Department staff respectfully requested that the State Board approve the addition of this rule to the list.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve Consideration of Proposed Rules Repeals for final approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Dr. Barth said this was a new section per the new Standards and Operating Procedures.

Ms. Dean said she was invited to be a judge of the Noble Impact Community Awards. She said the event was an awesome event. She said the winning group represented the Arkansas delta region. She said the group focused on engaging with families outside of the school building context.

Ms. Zook said she wanted to highlight Champions for Health. She said Morrilton Middle School and the Arkansas Heart Hospital have partnered. She said the partnership is informative for students. She said the goal is to decrease incidences of childhood obesity.

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The business meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Reports

Report 1- 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Ms. House said she was excited for the opportunity to be in her position.

Ms. House said she asked teachers across the state to share photos of their classrooms. She said she had an outpouring of feedback from teachers sharing their stories with their students. She said she created a book and brought copies to share during her official trip to Washington D.C. as 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. Ms. House shared a copy of this book with the State Board members.

Ms. House shared a positive example of teaching and learning led by Mr. David Ward at the Elementary Alternative Classroom in the Cedar Ridge School District.

Report 2- Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said he had a meeting with Commissioner Key regarding work for the 2018-2019 year. He said they both recognized the need to better connect with economic development in the state.

Dr. Barth said the State Board would hold off on questions regarding the impact of charter schools in the Little Rock area and more broadly across the state. He said IFF would release a report on charter schools in the coming weeks. He said the State Board would have the opportunity to look into this prior to action by the State Board.

Dr. Barth said the Task Force on Student Discipline would have a State Board report in August 2018.

Dr. Barth said the State Board would also consider mental health issues and the published report by the Governor's School Safety Commission.

Commissioner Key said southwest Arkansas should be considered as the target region of a State Board official visit during the 2018-2019 year.

Report 3- Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said the ACT Aspire preliminary results were released. He said the corrections period was open for districts.

He said the Assessment Unit would have a report or work session in August 2018. He said changes were pending.

Commissioner Key introduced Park View Elementary School Principal Ms. Pam Dean of the Stuttgart School District. He said he was impressed by the work the school was doing under Ms. Dean's leadership.

Ms. Dean introduced Literacy Director Ms. Denise Houghton and Math and Science Coach Ms. Kelly Clawitter.

She said the team went to a Solution Tree conference and returned inspired. She said the school motto was "all means all." She said the team was serious about making sure that all students achieved.

Ms. Dean said she examined discipline data for the 23 students with the greatest incidence of behavior problems. She said analyzing demographics for these students was informative.

Ms. Dean said she was participating in the culturally-responsive leader micro-credential.

Ms. Clawitter said Ms. Ables helped the school schedule a meeting with parents. She said the conversation focused on giving parents a voice, increasing two-way communication, and learning how the school could improve.

Ms. Dean said the school was moving forward, but there was still work to do to improve the school's culture.

Ms. Dean said the school improvement plan was a daunting process. She said the process made the school step outside of the box.

Ms. Dean said there was one (1) full-time counselor and another counselor who floated between other schools for close to 700 students.

Report 4- State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Task Force on Family Engagement and Learning and Deeper Learning Grant Chair Ms. Dean said the last meeting was on June 21, 2018. She said the task force discussed the subcommittee Zoom meetings. She said the task force discussed the possibility of adding a tab to the Department app. She said the task force discussed funding.

Ms. Dean said the Deeper Learning Grant paperwork under former State Board member Ms. Mireya Reith was closed out under Ms. Reith and transferred to Ms. Dean.

Ms. Dean thanked Commissioner Key for ensuring that there was a full-time position created to ensure that families and communities were engaged in education across the state. Ms. Dean extended an invitation to all State Board members to consider how they could contribute to the task force's work.

Director of Family and Community Engagement Ms. Kim Wright said the Department would like to unify schools and communities. She said the Department sees the importance of two-way communication.

Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables said there would be 10 regional events to engage stakeholders in the standards creation process.

Ms. Dean said the task force was creating a tool kit for communities. She said the first meeting would be September 18, 2018, in McGehee, Arkansas.

Ms. Wright said the tool kit would be aligned to the standards. She said the tool kit would be comprehensive. She said the tool kit would be amended as necessary.

Dr. Barth said the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation allotted funds for Ms. Geania Dickey's continued work with the task force.

Dr. Barth said the Implementation Working Group for ForwARd Arkansas met on June 12, 2018, during the State Board meeting time. He said he would add to his report on ForwARd in August.

Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Newton said schools were examining student data. She said they were considering what was working and what needed to be improved.

Commissioner Key said the Department anticipates updates from Battelle for Kids and their work with focus groups.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said the new rules for Standards for Accreditation went into effect July 1, 2018. She said the tool kit for these standards would be ready for the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Chambers applauded the Department for its organization and behavior self-analysis. She said Deputy General Council Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford would represent the Department at a two-day seminar organized by Walmart in September for its management team and community leaders. She said additional training opportunities were on the horizon.

Dr. Barth encouraged new State Board members to sign up for NASBE emails. He said new State Board members could attend the NASBE New Member Institute in June 2019 as the 2018 orientation had passed. Dr. Barth said the annual meeting would take place in late October 2018 in Denver, Colorado.

Liaison to NASBE Ms. Newton said she had a Government Affairs Committee meeting in the past week. She the discussion was on legislation coming through the pipeline. She said members thought there would be an emphasis on the value of concurrent enrollment.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford and Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt were good Department resources for special education knowledge.

Commissioner Key said the Department had identified a new Director of Special Education. He said the official announcement was forthcoming.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair