

**Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)**  
**Tuesday, December 4, 2020**  
**PLSB Full Board Minutes**

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held via Zoom on **December 4, 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions**. Voting members of the Board present were Dr. Greg Murry, Chair, Dr. Donny Lee, Vice-Chair, Kathy Howell, Luanne Baroni, Doretta Griffin, Lynne Gronseth, John D. Keeling, Dr. Andrea Martin, Dr. Ellen Treadway, Hosea Born, Dr. Sheena Williamson, Dudley Webb, III, Brenda Brown, Vicki Groves-Scott, and Cindy Nations. Non-voting member present was Karli Saracini. ADE staff members present were Amy Douglas, Sarah Banker, Cheri Rolett, Brittany Felix, Maria Lockhart, Jaclyn Williams, Shannon Rostad-Hall, Vikki Jennings, Joi Crawford, Joan Luneau, Dr. Frank Servedio, Courtney Salas-Ford, Andy Sullivan, Autumn Turner, and Sharlee Crowson.

Non-voting member not present: Tonya Williams

**1. Call to Order – Dr. Greg Murry, Chair**

Dr. Murry called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Dudley Webb to approve the September 8, 2020, PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Doretta Griffin. Motion passed; none opposed.

**3. Action Items:**

- **Ethics Hearing Subcommittee members: two vacancies** – Amy Douglas
  - a) Hearings are typically held on the 3rd and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.
  - b) There are two administrative vacancies to be filled on the Ethics Hearing Committee.

Dudley Webb asked that Allison Prewitt, Director of IMPACT be considered Joe Fisher volunteered to be on the hearing committee; Dr. Sheena Williamson and Dr. Victoria Grove-Scott volunteered to be substitutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Doretta Griffin to approve Allison Prewitt, Joe Fisher, Dr. Sheena Williamson, and Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, as members of the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee; seconded by Mary Jane Bradley. Motion passed; none opposed.

- c) Two hearings scheduled for January 20, 2021 via Zoom

- **Suggested Board Meeting Dates 2021:**  
March 5, June 4, September 10, December 3

A motion was made by Dr. Donnie Lee to accept the dates as stated for 2021; seconded by Dudley Webb.  
Motion passed; none opposed.

- **EPPQR Committee Reorganization:** Karli Saracini, Asst. Commissioner EE&L  
Amy Douglas, Chair

**Need Representation from equal parts of the full PLSB:**

1 Classroom Teacher  
1 Administrator  
1 Dean  
1 from any other group that is represented

To comply with the law, the EPPQR Committee needs one more classroom teacher and two administrators as members. Currently, there are three deans, one classroom teacher and one in the other group category. Joan Luneau and Frank Servedio will continue to participate and advise the committee.

Ms. Saracini announced Frank Servedios' retirement in June 2021 after his 20 year tenure at the Arkansas Department of Education.

Kathy Howell and Doretta Griffin, volunteered to serve as classroom teachers, and Joe Fisher volunteered to serve as an administrator.

Dudley Webb made a motion to accept Kathy Howell, Doretta Griffin and Joe Fisher as the new members for the EPPQR Committee; seconded by Doretta Griffin.  
Motion passed. None opposed.

The EPPQR Committee members are:

Dr. Donnie Lee, Dean  
Vicki Groves-Scott, Dean  
Mary Jane Bradley, Dean  
Dr. Ellen Treadway, Administrator  
Dudley Webb, Classroom Teacher  
Kathy Howell, Classroom Teacher  
Doretta Griffin, Classroom Teacher  
Jesse Walker, Other

- **Reading Specialist (K-12) Assessment** – Joan Luneau

Recommendation is to add the reading endorsement for the Praxis 5302, with a cut score of 160 for September of 2021. A motion was made by Ms. Kathy Howell to accept the Praxis 5302 reading endorsement, with a cut score of 160 for September 2021; seconded by Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott.  
Motion passed. None opposed.

- **First-time Five-Year Standard Educator’s License (including by reciprocity)**  
Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief Legal Counsel

On behalf of Governor Hutchinson, Ms. Ford is asking the PLSB Full Board that they waive the \$75 application fee for first time 5-year standard license applicants and those applying by reciprocity, from now until April 1, 2021. A motion was made by Kathy Howell to accept the waiver of the \$75 application fee for first time 5-year standard license and those by reciprocity; seconded by Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott.  
Motion passed. None opposed.

Ms. Ford added that this will have a \$40,000 effect on the budget.

- **Updated Guidelines** – Amy Douglas

Recommendations and Guidelines Regarding the Educational Applications of Social-Networking Technology Issued by the Arkansas Professional Licensure Standards Board Revised November 2020.

A motion was made by Doretta Griffin to accept the revised version of the Recommendations and Guidelines Regarding the Educational Applications of Social-Networking Technology; seconded by Dudley Webb.  
Motion passed. None opposed.

#### 4. Discussion and Reports:

- **Day-One Ready Teacher** – Edie Stewart

Ms. Stewart talked about defining what a day-one ready teacher should look like. She also discussed the appropriate trainings needed for day-one ready teachers. Focus groups are available for discussion and insight on what the expectations are for our day-one teachers. The purpose is to gather information from the stakeholders, the community, Higher Ed, etc., to have a more diverse experience in the classroom.

- **Legislative Updates** – Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief Legal Counsel

Proposals:

- 1) Background Checks –
  - a) A Non-violent or non-sexual offense that is ten years or older would not disqualify an applicant from reinstating their license to return to the classroom or to be hired by a school district.

- 2) Added a provision that a district may, but is not required, to pay for the employees child maltreatment central registry check in addition to the district's current authorization to pay for a criminal records check. This would allow districts the flexibility to do this for their employees if they choose to do so making sure that it is a noted allowable expenditure of funds.
  - 3) Added a provision that a district must conduct criminal background checks and child maltreatment checks once every five years, which would be in conjunction with the licensed employees background check requirement. This provision would also make it allowable, but not required for the district to pay for the criminal background check and child maltreatment registry check for non-licensed employees. Currently, the language states that it is required. This provision would make it permissible and would make it the local districts decision and/or flexibility, as to whether they choose to do this or not.
  - 4) Added a provision to clarify that each PLSB member would serve a one four year term. Currently, the law states a member can serve three years. Currently, members can serve more than one term.
  - 5) Added a provision to shorten the timeframe that an Educator has to respond to an evidentiary hearing to 14 calendar days. Currently, it is 30 days from receipt of notice of the initial determination. This would help the PLSB Staff to effectively meet the 180 day timeline.
- **Ethics Investigation Update** – Amy Douglas

**Breakdown of pending cases:**

**Fiscal Year 2018 -2019** – 2 cases pending due to criminal charges that have not gone to trial. These will most likely be licensure actions.

**Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020** – 9 cases pending

Two cases scheduled for evidentiary hearing in January 2021, one case for State Board Review in January 2021, one case is on the December State Board agenda for surrender based on criminal charges, and five cases with Stipulated Agreements with DHS pending criminal charges.

Based on the cases prior to the 2020-2021 fiscal year, there are only eleven pending cases.

**Fiscal Year November 2020-2021 case status:**

- 17 Authorized
- 1 Stipulated Agreement with criminal charges pending
- 1 Surrender accepted by the State Board
- 6 under investigation

6 completed cases

Based on the numbers, the average time it takes to get a case from authorization status to initial recommendation status is 70 days. This puts PLSB in a good position to maintain the 180 day timeline it takes to complete a case.

Ms. Douglas introduced Vikki Jennings. She is the new Educational Investigator in the PLSB division.

Hosea Born asked if the State Board had made a decision on when they would be able to go through the training provided by PLSB. Ms. Douglas commented that due to the pandemic, a decision had not been made as to when the training would take place.

- **New allegation form packet** – Amy Douglas

A new allegation packet was designed to get more information on the front end from the complainant in order to help the investigators and the Ethics Subcommittee determine if the allegation should be authorized. The Board was asked to review this new allegation packet. Dr. Murry asked if this needed Board approval. Ms. Douglas said it did not need approval.

Dr. Williamson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dr. Martin. Motion passed. None opposed.

The next PLSB Full Board meeting will be on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.