

Minutes
State Board of Education
Thursday, January 14, 2021

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, January 14, 2021, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Chair Ms. Charisse Cooksey called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Ms. Cooksey led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Charisse Cooksey, Chair; Ms. Ouida Newton, Vice Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Mr. Steve Sutton; Ms. Susan Chambers; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: None

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Presenter: Charisse Cooksey

Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

1. Minutes
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. 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
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 21-013-Matthew Shehorn
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 21-027- Ryan Smith
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 21-029-Michael Harrell
7. Consideration of the Voluntary Consent to Surrender License for Case # 21-036-Joseph Moseley
8. 2020 Child Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) Recommendations

Action Agenda A

A-1 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, 2021

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms, and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. Dr. Nita Bohannon, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, has been nominated by the Arkansas Professors of Educational Leadership (ARPEA) to the position vacated by Dr. Ellen Treadway to represent their members. The term of this member is to begin immediately upon appointment and end on June 30, 2021.

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

A-2 State Board Review of PLSB 20-121 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation – Tiffany Gant

Presenter: Amy Douglas

Description: Ms. Gant was employed as a teacher under an ACT 1240 waiver. Ms. Gant has appealed her ethics hearing recommendation and requested a State Board review pursuant to 16.02 of the Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. Ms. Gant is represented by attorney Mr. James Valley.

Mr. Valley requested a continuance until next month for Ms. Gant's hearing. State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the continuance. The motion passed unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of District Conversion Charter License for Cave City High School Career and Collegiate Preparatory School

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for Cave City High School Career and Collegiate Preparatory School for a period of five years. The school serves students in grades 9-12 with an enrollment cap of 1,200. The charter was initially awarded in November 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of District Conversion Charter License for Fayetteville Virtual Academy

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for Fayetteville Virtual Academy for a period of five years. The school serves students in grades K-12 with an enrollment cap of 5,000. The charter was initially awarded in November 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of District Conversion Charter License for Cross County High School: A New Tech School

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for Cross County High School for a period of five years. The school serves students in grades 7-12 with an enrollment cap of 500. The charter was initially awarded in January 2011.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-6 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of District Conversion Charter License for Don Tyson School of Innovation (Springdale School District)

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for the Don Tyson School of Innovation for a period of five years. The school serves students in grades K-12 with an enrollment cap of 8,000. The charter was initially awarded in November 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of District Conversion Charter License for Hot Springs World Class High School

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for Hot Springs World Class High School for a period of five years. The school serves students in grades 10-12 with an enrollment cap of 1,200. The charter was initially awarded in November 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of Open-Enrollment Charter License for Future School of Fort Smith

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel approved to renew the open-enrollment charter license for Future School of Fort Smith for a period of five years with a review in two years. The school serves students in grades 10-12 with an enrollment cap of 450. The charter was initially awarded in October 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-9 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of Open-Enrollment Charter License for Imboden Area Charter School

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the open-enrollment charter license for the Imboden Area Charter School for a period of five years with a review in two years. The school serves students in grades K-8 with an enrollment cap of 150. The charter was initially awarded in March 2002.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-10 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision - Renewal of Open-Enrollment Charter License for Arkansas Connections Academy

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In December the Charter Authorizing Panel voted to renew the district conversion charter license for Arkansas Connections Academy for a period of five years. The charter is 100% virtual and serves students in grades K-12 with an enrollment cap of 3,000. The charter was initially awarded in November 2015.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-11 Consideration of Act 1240 Waiver Extension Request - Camden Fairview School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Camden Fairview School District is requesting an extension of a 1240 waiver for teacher licensure granted in 2017.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to grant the waiver extension. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Agenda B

B-1 Consideration of the Adoption of the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing High School Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Standards and Course for High School

Presenter: Anthony Owen; State Director of Computer Science

Description: The Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative standards for high school courses are designed to provide understandings of concepts in computer science that

are necessary for students to function in an ever-changing technological world. Through these standards, students will explore, apply, and move toward mastery in skills and concepts related to Computational Thinking and Problem Solving; Data, Information, and Security; Algorithms and Programs; Computers and Communications; and Professionalism and Impacts of Computing. These standards help students learn to accomplish tasks and solve problems independently and collaboratively. These standards give students the tools and skills needed to be successful in college and careers including computer science, computing, and other fields.

State developed pathways within the Arkansas Computer Science and Computing Initiative all begin with common year-one standards which allow for consistency across the state and all schools. These common standards address the basic knowledge and skills needed for any student entering a technology-based field.

Standards and courses under consideration for adoption include:

- High School Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

This course pathway is in addition to the eight pathways adopted during the December 2020 meeting.

The course standards have been grouped into one-credit (typically yearly) standards to afford the classroom educator additional flexibility in their curriculum choices; however, the course codes remain based on one-half credit (typically semester). Each state-developed pathway will have three credits (six pathway specific course codes) worth of Computer Science Flex Credit (465XXX) course codes.

Implementation of the Arkansas Computer Science Standards for High School Computer Science and Computing Courses begins during the 2021-2022 school year.

ADE is specifically requesting that the SBE adopt all portions of the documents except the teacher clarification notes. The teacher clarification notes follow the standard[s] to which they apply and are indicated by the word "NOTE."

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the standards and courses. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Owen asked State Board members to rescind the motion made at the December 2020 meeting to allow for technical changes to be made to standards and courses. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to approve the request to rescind. The motion passed unanimously.

B-2 Consideration of Streamlined Application Process for Digital Learning Waivers for 2021-2022 School Year

Description: The re-opening of schools for the 2020-21 school year amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic brought about challenges that schools have never before faced. This monumental

task required first-time solutions, unimaginable in years past. A comprehensive digital learning program model was a novelty for most schools, rather than the standard for all. In the few short months since school started in August, a variety of models for providing digital learning programs have evolved, and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has recognized the complexities and insistent needs to providing digital learning options in schools. Thinking forward about the context by which schools will offer digital programming and the challenges around infrastructure, connectivity, and instructional platforms, DESE has established a standard application and approval process for district digital learning programs for the 2021-2022 school year.

A Guidebook for Digital Learning has been developed to build common knowledge and language; provide high-quality training opportunities; and provide guidance and resources to support districts with implementing digital learning programs.

The Guidebook for digital learning will support providing digital learning OPTIONS with strategic programming and clear identification of the necessary criteria for success. Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, districts may apply for approval to offer a digital learning program under their current LEA. Districts that are ready to offer a digital learning program should apply to operate a remote (virtual) or hybrid (blended) program option. Waivers applicable to the digital learning program option will be identified in the application document. Waivers have been tailored to different options and are based on selected options for Interactions, Delivery, and Platforms.

The DESE requests that the State Board approve the streamlined application and waiver approval process for Digital Learning options as part of a district's current LEA for the 2021-2022 school year.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve DESE moving forward with this process. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

There were no new business items.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Cooksey adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid

X Charisse Dean
Ms. Charisse Dean
Chair

X Johnny Key
Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary