

In The Matter Of:
*BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

June 22, 2017

*Sharon Hill Court Reporting
4021 Robinwood Cr.
Bryant, AR 72022
(501) 680-0888*

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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 22, 2017
9:30 A.M.

FINAL ACCREDITATION REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2016-17:
SUMMARY OF ACCREDITATION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Mr. Johnny Key	Commissioner/Non-Voting
Dr. Jay Barth	Chairman
Ms. Mireya Reith	Board Member
Ms. Diane Zook	Board Member
Ms. Susan Chambers	Board Member
Mr. R. Brett Williamson	Board Member
Ms. Ouida Newton	Board Member

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

Ms. Lori Freno	ADE General Counsel
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LOCATION: ADE Auditorium
#4 Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Good morning, everyone. I'm going to call us to order for what is going to be a very brief meeting, I think we all expect, and it relates to action that was taken at the last board meeting.

I'm going to just quickly walk through and be sure that we have everybody recorded who is online; so I'm going to do a quick roll-call just to verify.

Did Mr. Black join?

[BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE]

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I heard Ms. Chambers. You still there, Susan?

MS. CHAMBERS: Yes, I am. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Ms. Dean?

[BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE]

CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Dr. Hill?

[BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE]

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I heard Ms. Newton?

MS. NEWTON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I heard Mr. Williamson?

MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I heard Ms. Zook?

MS. ZOOK: Here.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: And I heard Ms. Reith?

1 MS. REITH: Present.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And I heard Commissioner Key?

3 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. So I'm
5 going to get us started with turning things over to
6 Mr. Morris, who's going to present our first action
7 item which relates to the Final Accreditation Report
8 for Fiscal Year 2016-17.

9 MR. MORRIS: Good morning. I will present to
10 you the updates to the Final Accreditation Report,
11 and it will be very brief unless there are questions.
12 The statement that I have regarding the updates:

13 On Monday, June 12, 2017, I was notified that
14 incorrect information had been provided to the State
15 Board regarding Action Item B-11 Final Accreditation
16 Report for the Fiscal Year 2016-17, a Summary of the
17 Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School
18 Districts.

19 After careful review of the information on the
20 following items I have been -- all of them have been
21 addressed.

22 Lakeside (Garland County) has successfully
23 resolved issues prior to the submission of the report
24 and should have been removed from the report. We
25 appreciate the Lakeside administration for bringing

1 this to our attention.

2 Bauxite, Berryville, Heber Springs, and Rector
3 resolved their issues prior to the June 8th State
4 Board meeting. We should have announced those --
5 these updates at this time so that the updates could
6 be included in the final report.

7 After we started the review, as a result of the
8 need to revisit the report, additional time permitted
9 Dumas to submit paperwork that has been removed -- or
10 had removed them from probationary status.

11 In addition, as the team reviewed the
12 documentation they also identified Stuttgart, Watson
13 Chapel, and Exalt Academy as having resolved their
14 issues and recommend that they be removed from
15 probationary status.

16 Then, on June 8, 2017, the State Board approved
17 waivers for three districts. Those districts were
18 Bryant, Woodlawn, and Greenwood. These districts
19 were removed from probationary status.

20 We have or will notify each district affected.
21 I would like to thank the Accreditation team and
22 Melissa Jacks from Licensure for going back through
23 the report and making the appropriate updates. It is
24 important that the updates be approved and made
25 public as soon as possible. Thank you for your

1 consideration of this action item.

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you, Mr. Morris.

3 And so just for clarification, then I'll turn it
4 over and see if the Commissioner has any comments,
5 what is on your agenda is the final correct report
6 and that leaves 13 schools with probationary status;
7 correct?

8 MR. MORRIS: That's correct.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great.

10 Commissioner, do you have any comments you'd
11 like to add?

12 COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. First, I just want to
13 express my thanks to Mr. Morris and the team in
14 working through this issue. You know, the integrity
15 of that team is amazing and when they learned of the
16 mistake, learned of the incorrect information that
17 was presented to the State Board, they were very
18 diligent in bringing in other folks from other units
19 to try to make sure we had the right information. So
20 I just want to say how pleased I am with their work.

21 You know, the other part of that is we made a
22 mistake. As soon as we learned about it we took
23 steps to correct it, and we're going to work to
24 improve our systems so that this type of thing
25 doesn't happen again.

1 And I want to make an apology to the districts
2 and the educators and the administrators out there
3 for any negative perception that that may have caused
4 regarding their schools. We certainly do not want to
5 do anything that would portray our districts in a
6 negative light. And, you know, we are glad we're
7 able to make this correction today; so we'd certainly
8 ask approval by the Board.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great.

10 Before we talk through the procedures that we
11 are going to need to undertake, I'm going to see if
12 there are any questions of any board members about
13 any items here?

14 MS. ZOOK: Yes. This is Diane Zook.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Zook.

16 MS. ZOOK: I guess of particular concern on
17 those that remain probationary, Pine Bluff and
18 Dollarway, with regard to class size -- and we know
19 these districts are struggling with students who are
20 not being taught and staying on level as far as their
21 reading. So what kind of intervention is done for a
22 district on probationary status that's -- you know --
23 and Pine Bluff just had some schools come off of
24 academic distress. But Pine Bluff has K-3 -- the
25 class size is too large, their high school special

1 ed.; Dollarway has in their kindergarten. So what
2 kind of interventions are automatically done -- or if
3 not automatically, do we need to do something as a
4 board to prompt some sort of intervention with regard
5 to these probationary for class size?

6 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Well, now I'm going to just
7 broaden your question just a little bit. Any of the
8 13 schools, kind of what are -- what happens next
9 with those; is that right, Ms. Zook?

10 MS. ZOOK: Yes. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great.

12 MS. COFFMAN: Ms. Zook, this is Deborah Coffman.
13 The Standards Committee will be -- the Standards Unit
14 will be working very closely with our School
15 Improvement Unit. Those schools are already ones
16 that those schools are working with. So School
17 Improvement Unit will be following up with each of
18 those and the Accreditation team will be in
19 assistance.

20 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

21 And with regard to the Little Rock School
22 District, those schools that are in second year of
23 citation, if you stay in cited for two years in an
24 area is the next step probation? And is there any
25 assistance given or sense of urgency given about

1 attending to this so they don't go on probation?

2 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Morris.

3 MR. MORRIS: Yes. Generally, when we have
4 schools who are on second year citation we try to
5 touch base with them to make sure they are aware that
6 if they remain third year then that could lead to
7 probationary status. And so there will be someone
8 contacting those districts and/or schools to make
9 sure that they don't lose sight of that.

10 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

11 And, Mr. Morris, are there any questions or
12 anything we should be noting that we at this point
13 have not asked about?

14 MR. MORRIS: I think the process that we've been
15 working on here to clean up the report will insure
16 that we touch base with all of the schools and deal
17 with all of the issues so that we have a cleaner
18 report next year and so that schools who have the
19 potential to be probationary next year will not be on
20 that list.

21 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Thank you very much. That's
22 all I have, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any other questions?

24 All right. So because the Board took action a
25 week ago we are going to need to rescind that action

1 if the Board wishes to pass this corrected report
2 today. And a motion to rescind is debatable, could
3 be amended, and does require a two-thirds vote
4 because there was not noted -- there was -- well,
5 that's correct, Lori; right?

6 MS. FRENO: (Nodding head up and down.)

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Because we had -- we did not
8 have notice of the rescission vote, just the action
9 -- just the agenda item, we do require a two-thirds
10 vote of the membership to proceed today. So I would
11 invite a motion to rescind our vote a week ago on
12 this action item.

13 MS. ZOOK: May I ask a question? Since -- is it
14 two-thirds of those present or two-thirds of the
15 total board?

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Two-thirds of those present,
17 according to Ms. Freno.

18 MS. ZOOK: Okay. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Uh-huh.

20 All right. I would invite a motion from anyone.

21 MS. CHAMBERS: Jay, this is Susan. I move to
22 rescind.

23 MS. NEWTON: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: And who provided the second?

25 MS. NEWTON: Ouida Newton.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thank you.

2 So the motion was made by Ms. Chambers; the
3 second was made by Ms. Newton.

4 Any discussion or debate?

5 Then all those in favor -- I will do a quick
6 roll-call just because we have some difficulty here.

7 Ms. Chambers.

8 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Newton.

10 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Williamson.

12 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Zook.

14 MS. ZOOK: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Reith.

16 [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

17 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Reith, have you joined --
18 are you gone?

19 MS. REITH: Yes. I believe my signal might've
20 dropped. But my vote is yes.

21 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Great.

22 Did anyone else join the call that I did not --
23 whose name I did not call?

24 [MOMENT OF SILENCE]

25 CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Therefore, a

1 unanimous vote on the vote to rescind.

2 So we now have this item before us and I would
3 invite a motion on this item to approve the corrected
4 report.

5 MS. NEWTON: This is Ouida Newton. I move to
6 approve the corrected report.

7 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is there a second?

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Is that Mr. Williamson?

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Motion made by Ms.
12 Newton, seconded by Mr. Williamson.

13 I will do a quick roll-call again.

14 Ms. Chambers.

15 MS. CHAMBERS: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Newton.

17 MS. NEWTON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Williamson.

19 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Zook.

21 MS. ZOOK: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Reith.

23 MS. REITH: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. Unanimous
25 vote there.

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There is no other action on the agenda today,
and so I would invite a motion to depart our meeting.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I move to adjourn
the meeting.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thanks, Brett. Is there a
second?

MS. CHAMBERS: Second. This is Susan.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thanks.

And all those in favor say aye.

(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign?

All right. We will see y'all in a few weeks.
Thank you very much.

(The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss.
 COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter before whom the foregoing testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription of proceedings before the Arkansas State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 22, 2017, that the said testimony was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all evidence heard and proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: June 22, 2017.

SHARON K. HILL, CCR
 Certified Court Reporter
 Certificate No. 670

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