

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, March 10, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: Toyce Newton, Chair; Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; Vicki Saviers; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Dr. Jay Barth; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: none.

**Reports**

**Report-1 Recognition of Master Principal Designation - Arkansas Leadership Academy**

Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal Leader Dr. Diana Peer said Mayflower Principal Ms. Candie Watts has successfully completed the rigorous designation process demonstrating effective principal and school practices leading to an upward trajectory in student achievement.

Commissioner Key and Dr. Peer presented Ms. Watts the Master Principal award.

Ms. Watts said she started as a teacher in PCSSD. She said she has been principal for six years at Mayflower Elementary.

Commissioner Key said the partnership with the Arkansas Leadership Academy was very important. He said the work of the Academy was essential to the growth of principals.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - February 11, 2016
- Minutes - February 12, 2016
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers

- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-002-Katherine Nicole Eskridge
- Consideration for Public Comment: Repeal of Arkansas Department Education Rules Governing Distance Learning
- Consideration for Public Comment: Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013
- Consideration for Public Comment: ADE and ASBN Rules Governing the Administration of Insulin and Glucagon
- Consideration of the 2014-2015 Annual Statistical Report
- Consideration of the Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts Annual Report

## **Action Agenda**

### **A-1 Consideration of the Little Rock School District Report of Progress**

Little Rock School District Civic Advisory Committee Co-Chair Dr. Dionne Jackson said the community forums were very successful. She said the community requested more transparent communication from the district with the community. She said community members signed commitment forms and would be reconvening in the spring. She said community members wanted to know more about the academic improvements in the district.

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said approximately 600 students are receiving dyslexia services. He said through school turnaround the leadership model has been transformed. He said the district has changed the relationship with teachers to build respect and trust. Mr. Kurrus provided a list of the changes in the district.

Little Rock School District Associate Superintendent for Accountability Mr. Dennis Glasgow said the data presented in the report was pre-and post-assessment of teacher made tests.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to hear public comments. The motion carried unanimously. No public comment was heard at this time.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to accept the Little Rock School District Report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-2 Consider Removal of Pulaski County Special School District from Fiscal Distress Classification and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the local school board**

Fiscal Services Director Ms. Cindy Smith said the Pulaski County Special School District was classified in fiscal distress on May 16, 2011. She said the Department conducted on-site technical evaluations and assistance, off-site assistance, and analysis of the financial status of the Pulaski County Special School District. She said the Department was reporting that the Pulaski County Special School District has currently corrected all criteria for being removed from Fiscal Distress. She said the Department recommended that the Pulaski County Special School District be removed from fiscal distress and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the local school board.

Commissioner Key said the State Board provided a public meeting in the Pulaski County Special School District to hear from patrons. He said he has confidence in the work of Superintendent Dr. Jerry Guess to continue the work in the district.

Pulaski County Special School District Superintendent Dr. Jerry Guess said the district has improved financially. He said the district did achieve unitary status in some areas but five areas remain on the list. He said the district still faced challenges in the coming year.

The Board commended Dr. Guess for his service to the district.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to remove the Pulaski County Special School District from fiscal distress classification and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the local school board. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-3 Consider Removal of Helena-West Helena School District from Fiscal Distress Classification and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the local school board**

Fiscal Services Director Ms. Cindy Smith said the Helena-West Helena School District was classified in fiscal distress on September 13, 2010. She said the Department has conducted on-site technical evaluations and assistance, off-site assistance, and analysis of the financial status of the Helena-West Helena School District. She said the Department was reporting that the Helena-West Helena School District has currently corrected all criteria for being removed from Fiscal Distress. She said the Department recommended that the Helena-West Helena District be removed from fiscal distress and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the school board.

Commissioner Key said the district has strong community support. He said this was the second time that the district has been returned to local control and he urged the community to continue to support the district.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to hear public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Helena-West Helena Community Advisory Board Member Mr. Andrew Bagley said the Helena-West Helena community was ready to run the district. He said the community advisory board members planned to run for school board positions.

Senator Keith Ingram said the community was ready for local control. He also asked the Board to approve the waivers that the district was requesting.

The Board commended Mr. Hoy for his service to the district.

Helena-West Helena School District Superintendent Mr. John Hoy said many people were working within the district and at the Department to help the district.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to remove the Helena-West Helena School District from fiscal distress classification and state control (reconstitution) effective upon the election and training of the local school board and that a report be provided from the Special Committee on Academic Distress Committee at the June State Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Helena/West Helena School District**

Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allowed a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools that draw students from the school district.

Helena-West Helena School District Superintendent Mr. John Hoy said the district intent was to implement academies and it would be in the best interest of the district to request all waivers at one time for a period of five years with an annual report to the Board.

Helena-West Helena Community Advisory Board Member Mr. Andrew Bagley said the board approved the request for the waivers. He said the waivers were essential to compete with the local charter schools. He said the waivers would level the playing field. He said the waivers would allow the district to transform.

Representative Reginald Murdock said that approving the waivers would provide opportunities to the district. He said his intent with the legislation was to provide opportunities to the districts.

Mr. Hoy said the district would emulate successful programs to try to create a program that works in the district. He said teachers expressed concerns. He said the administration did not think all of the waivers would be utilized. He said KIPP Delta has been approved for the full list of waivers.

Senator Keith Ingram asked the Board to approve all of the waivers that the district was requesting.

1. Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for school year dates. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for superintendent licensure. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for school boards. Dr. Barth, Ms. Reith and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 5-3. The motion carried.

4. Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for grading scale. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for teacher licensure. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

6. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for alternative learning environments. Dr. Barth and Ms. Reith voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

7. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for local task force on closing the achievement gap. Dr. Barth and Ms. Reith voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

8. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for duty-free lunch. Dr. Barth and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

9. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for daily planning. Dr. Barth and Ms. Reith voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

10. Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for personnel policies/salary schedules. Mr. Black, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Dean, Ms. Zook, and Ms. Chambers voted no. The final vote was 3-5. The motion failed.

11. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for personnel policies/salary schedules. Dr. Barth, Ms. Reith, and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 5-3. The motion carried.

12. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for superintendent mentoring. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to deny the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for student services. Mr. Black, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Dean, Ms. Zook, and Ms. Chambers voted no. The final vote was 3-5. The motion failed.

14. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for student services. Dr. Barth, Ms. Reith, and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 5-3. The motion carried.

15. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to deny the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for gifted and talented. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for library media services. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to deny the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for teacher fair dismissal/public school employee fair dismissal. The motion carried unanimously.

18. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for curriculum. Dr. Barth and Ms. Reith voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

19. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for teacher/administrator contracts. The motion carried unanimously.

20. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for class-size and teaching load. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

21. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Helena/West Helena School District for five years with an annual report to the Board for Advanced Placement (AP). Dr. Barth, Ms. Reith, and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 5-3. The motion carried.

#### **A-5 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Pangburn School District**

Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allowed a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools that draw students from the school district.

Pangburn High School Principal Mr. David Rolland said the school was looking for a redesign to reflect the needs of students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He said the plan included five components: flexible schedules, emphasis on work related soft skills, career certification, project based learning and community service learning. He said the community service learning would focus on literacy.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to grant the requested waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Pangburn School District for five years. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Reith requested a work session to discuss Act 1240 waivers be scheduled for May 2016.

**Public Comment** Representative John Walker read a prepared statement regarding the academic distress status for alternative learning environments.

Commissioner Key said the Department staff worked hard every day to assist schools. He said the academic distress label was two years old.

#### **A-6 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Renewal Application: Cross County High School, A New Tech School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 17, 2016, representatives of the Cross County High School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request, granting the charter a 5-year renewal. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Cross County School District Chief Financial Officer Dr. Matt McClure said the district has implemented interventions and the graduation rate has increased. He said teacher turnover has had an impact on student test scores. He said 74% of graduating seniors enrolled in post-secondary education.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Renewal Application for the Cross County High School, A New Tech School. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-7 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Priority Status: Blytheville High School - A New Tech School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 18, 2016, representatives of the Blytheville High School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to address the charter's priority status. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel decided to take no action on the charter. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Priority Status for the Blytheville High School - A New Tech School. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-8 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status AND Renewal Application: Covenant Keepers College Preparatory School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 17, 2016, representatives of the Covenant Keepers College Preparatory School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter and to address the charter's priority status. She said by a six-to-two vote, the Panel approved the request, granting the charter a 3-year renewal. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status and Renewal Application for the Covenant Keepers College Preparatory School. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-9 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request: eStem Public Charter School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 19, 2016, representatives of the eStem Public Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. She said by a six-to-one vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Saviers recused herself from A-9.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to hear public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment** Mr. Bill Kopsky said he was the PTA President at Rockefeller Elementary. He said he didn't know about the charter panel hearings. He asked the Board to review the Panel's action.

**Public Comment** Senator Joyce Elliott requested a hearing so the public may attend. She said the Board should hear from the public before they make a policy decision. She said the Board should hear all of the ramifications to the Little Rock School District before making a final decision on the charter amendment.

**Public Comment** Representative Clarke Tucker said the Charter Authorizing Panel did their job. He said it was the State Board's job to see if the amendment was viable for Little Rock.

**Public Comment** Ms. Patty Bates-Abraham representing the Public Education Foundation of Little Rock requested a hearing.

**Public Comment** Senator Jane English spoke on behalf of the e-Stem and LISA Academy Charter Schools. She said parents deserved a choice. She asked the Board to support the charters.

**Public Comment** Senator Alan Clark spoke on behalf of the charter schools. He said parents and students should have choice. He said all schools should strive to get better. He asked the Board to not review the action.

eStem Charter School Chief Executive Officer Mr. John Bacon said any delay would slow the progress in construction.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request for the eStem Public Charter School. Dr. Barth, Mr. Black, Ms. Reith, Ms. Dean, and Ms. Chambers voted no. The final vote was 2-5. The motion failed.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request for the eStem Public Charter School. Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 6-1. The motion carried.

**A-10 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment  
Request: Future School of Fort Smith**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 19, 2016, representatives of the Future School of Fort Smith appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request for the Future School of Fort Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-11 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Renewal  
Application: Imboden Area Charter School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 17, 2016, representatives of the Imboden Area Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request, granting the charter a 5-year renewal with an annual report of enrollment, legal fund balance, minus categorical funding, and minus federal funding. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Renewal Application for the Imboden Area Charter School. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-12 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment  
Request: KIPP Delta Public Schools, Blytheville**

Ms. Zook recused herself from A-12.

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 19, 2016, representatives of the KIPP Delta Public Schools in Blytheville appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request for the KIPP Delta Public Schools, Blytheville. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-13 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request: LISA Academy**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 19, 2016, representatives of the LISA Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. She said by a seven-to-one vote, the Panel approved the request, contingent upon availability of the proposed location. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

**Public Comment** Ms. Ruth Bell, representing the League of Women Voters, requested the Board review the action.

**Public Comment** Mr. Bill Kopsky requested the Board review the action.

**Public Comment** Senator Joyce Elliott requested the Board review the action.

Ms. Saviers read a prepared statement. She said she was disheartened and frustrated by the conversation of traditional schools versus charter schools. She said she has worked hard to understand what is best for all students. She said when she considered Little Rock Public Schools she considered all students. She said all should work together otherwise students and parents are the losers. She said LRSD will and can do what needs to be done for students but it would require a large community effort. She said in her research she found that Indianapolis has done a great job of working through a network of schools under the district umbrella to create an effective education system. She said this was an opportunity to create winners and winners. She challenged LRSD to consider waivers for the underperforming schools.

LISA Academy West Middle School Principal Ms. Luanne Baroni said timing was critical for securing the location identified in the amendment.

**Public Comment** Ms. Patty Bates-Abraham, representing the Public Education Foundation of Little Rock, requested a hearing.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Amendment Request: LISA Academy. Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

**A-14 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status: Little**

### **Rock Preparatory Academy (5-8 campus)**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 18, 2016, representatives of the Little Rock Preparatory Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to address the charter's priority status. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel decided to take no action on the charter. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status for the Little Rock Preparatory Academy (5-8 campus). The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-15 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Priority Status and Amendment Request: Osceola STEM Academy**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 18, 2016, representatives of the Osceola STEM Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to address the charter's priority status and request an amendment. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel decided to take no action on the charter and approve the amendment request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Priority Status and Amendment Request for the Osceola STEM Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-16 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Academic Performance Hearing and Amendment Request: Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 19, 2016, representatives of the Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to address the charter's academic performance and request an amendment. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel decided to take no action on the charter and deny the amendment request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Academic Performance Hearing and Amendment Request for the Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-17 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status and Renewal Application: SIA Tech Little Rock Charter School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 18, 2016, representatives of the SIA Tech Little Rock Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter and to address the charter's priority status. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request, granting the charter a 3-year renewal with an annual internal review and an annual appearance before the Panel. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status and Renewal Application for the SIA Tech Little Rock Charter School. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

#### **A-18 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status and Renewal Application: Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 17, 2016, representatives of the Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter and to address the charter's priority status. She said by a unanimous, the Panel approved the request, granting the charter a 3-year renewal with an annual internal review and an annual appearance before the Panel. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Priority Status and Renewal Application for the Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

#### **A-19 through A-22 discussion**

Commissioner Key said related to A-19 through A-21 that Act 1272 allowed for rules. He said those rules were in progress. Commissioner Key said the rule-making process was prioritized. He said the legal staff was working diligently on the rules. He said based on the past practice of this Board, it was his recommendation that the Board take no action to label these ALE schools in academic distress.

Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said success looked differently in alternative learning environments. She said there was student accountability and services provided to students. She requested that the rule making process be allowed to continue and that the past practice be applied at this time for these schools. Ms. Barnes said the request extended to all ALE schools with LEA numbers at this time.

Beebe School District Superintendent Dr. Belinda Shook said the ALE in Beebe was also a district conversion charter.

Fort Smith School District Superintendent Dr. Benny Gooden said the Board previously tabled action on the ALE schools regarding the classification of academic distress. He said he has spoken to the Board two times previously. He said the Fort Smith Belle Pointe ALE was making progress. He said the school has an excellent GED pass rate. He said Fort Smith Belle Pointe ALE was the only ALE in the New Tech Network.

North Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Kelly Rogers said the students in the ALE have several issues but they are making great progress.

North Little Rock School District Assistant Superintendent Ms. Beth Stewart said many students have issues with the juvenile justice system. She said students need the small classes. She said students usually transitioned to the regular classroom within two years.

North Little Rock Academy Principal Mr. Charles Jones said the ALE has greatly improved over time. He said many types of services are provided for students. He said the school was open late to accommodate the needs of students.

**A-19 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Badger Academy**

**A-20 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Belle Point Alternative Center**

**A-21 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for North Little Rock Academy**

**A-22 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Summit School**

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to table A-19, A-20, A-21, and A-22. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-23 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Marvell-Elaine High School**

Item A-23 was pulled from the agenda.

**A-24 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Mineral Springs High School**

Item A-24 was pulled from the agenda.

**A-25 Consideration of Schools Recommended for Removal from Academic Distress**

Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said School Performance Director Mr. Louis Ferren and staff are responsible for all communication, corrections, and reports. She recognized their exceptional teamwork.

Ms. Barnes said this item certifies that the schools contained in the attachment are no longer at or below the 49.5% percent proficiency level that caused them to be classified as being in academic distress. She said Section 3.02 et seq. of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program states that the academic distress classification is assigned to any public school or public school district in which 49.5 percent or less of its students achieve proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated criterion referenced assessments administered in that district for the most recent three (3) year period.

Ms. Barnes recommended that Oak Park Elementary in the Pine Bluff School District, a school that has been closed, and Baseline Elementary in the Little Rock School District be removed from academic distress.

Mr. Ferren said Baseline Elementary scored well on the PARCC exam and the concordant score was beyond the 49.5%.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to remove Oak Park Elementary in the Pine Bluff School District and Baseline Elementary from the Little Rock School District from academic distress. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-26 Consideration of Schools Identified as Meeting the Criteria to be Designated as Being in Academic Distress**

Item A-26 was pulled from the agenda.

#### **A-27 Consideration of Districts Identified as Meeting the Criteria to be Designated as Being in Academic Distress**

Item A-27 was pulled from the agenda.

#### **A-28 edTPA Cut Score Recommendation**

Education Preparation Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said in March 2014, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) began a process to evaluate Teacher Performance Assessments (TPAs). She said edTPA was chosen for a two-year pilot program based on its availability for immediate implementation. She said the pilot concludes May 2016. She said one outcome from the pilot supports that edTPA would provide valuable candidate performance data for educator preparation programs in Arkansas. She said

the Department proposed to have edTPA available as an option for programs that want to adopt it. She said therefore, the Arkansas Department of Education would ask the Board for consideration of approval for a teacher candidate to substitute a nationally scored edTPA in lieu of the state-approved pedagogical assessment (Principles of Learning and Teaching or the World Language Pedagogy), if the edTPA score meets the minimum passing standards.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve a nationally scored edTPA in lieu of the state-approved pedagogical assessment. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-29 Consideration of Recommendation to Adopt Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) for New Licensure Endorsement in Special Education Resource**

Education Preparation Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said to accommodate educator licensure requirements, the ADE recommended adopting the Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) for a new endorsement in special education resource. She said the Educational Testing Service (ETS) provided the following information for the Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354). This test is currently required with a cut score of 151 for licensure in Special Education: Instructional Specialist (K-12). The two-hour assessment contains 120 multiple-choice questions (including 10 pretest questions) and covers Development and Characteristics of Learners (19-20 questions); Planning and the Learning Environment (27-28 questions); Instruction (27-28 questions); Assessment (20-22 questions); and Foundations and Professional Responsibility (23-24) questions). She said ETS provided a Technical Report from a February 2010 multistate standard-setting study with a recommended passing score to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354), the recommended passing score is 151. For the Special Education: Resource endorsement, ADE recommended adopting the Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) with a cut score of 151 effective March 10, 2016.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adopt Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) for New Licensure Endorsement in Special Education Resource with a cut score of 151 effective immediately. Ms. Zook and Ms. Saviers voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

#### **A-30 Consideration of Recommendation to Adopt Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Early Childhood (5621) for First Time License in Early Childhood/Special Education Integrated (Birth-K)**

Education Preparation Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said to accommodate educator licensure requirements, the ADE recommended adopting the Principles of Learning and

Teaching: Early Childhood (5621) as the pedagogy test for a first time license in Early Childhood SPED Integrated (B-K). She said the content tests already adopted for the Early Childhood/SPED Integrated (B-K) endorsement are the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023) and the Education of Young Children (5024). Licensure test requirements for a first-time license in Early Childhood/SPED Integrated (B-K) would be: Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (5023), Education of Young Children (5024), and Principles of Learning and Teaching: Early Childhood (5621). The Principles of Learning and Teaching: Early Childhood (5621) is currently the required pedagogy test for the Early Childhood (P-4) license with a cut score of 157. The two-hour assessment is divided into two parts. Part A contains 70 multiple-choice questions covering Students as Learners (approximately 21 questions), Instructional Process (approximately 21 questions), Assessment (approximately 14 questions), and Professional Development, Leadership & Community (approximately 14 questions). Part B contains four constructed response questions covering the same four content areas as Part A. She said the Educational Testing Service (ETS) provided a Technical Report (attached) from a March 2011 multistate standard setting study. ETS provided a recommended passing score of 157. For the first-time license in Early Childhood/SPED Integrated (B-K), the ADE recommended adopting the Principles of Learning and Teaching: Early Childhood (5621) with a cut score of 157 effective September 1, 2016.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to adopt Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT): Early Childhood (5621) for First Time License in Early Childhood/Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) with a cut score of 157 effective September 1, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-31 Declaration of Critical Academic Shortage Areas of Licensure for 2016-2017**

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said Program Coordinator Dr. Frank Servedio has done the lion's share of this work. She said declaration of critical academic shortage areas was important to the Equitable Access to Excellent Educators. She said pursuant to Ark. Code. Ann. §6-15-403 and §6-81-609 it is required that the State Board of Education declare licensure areas as the Critical Academic Shortage Areas. She said the Critical Shortage areas as approved by the US Department of Education for 2016-2017 are as follows: Agriculture Science & Technology, Art, Computer Science, French, Library Media, Mathematics, Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics), Spanish, Special Education, and Family & Consumer Science.

Program Coordinator Dr. Frank Servedio said he was examining the data by school and would be able to produce regional maps in the future.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Critical Academic Shortage Areas of Licensure for 2016-2017: Agriculture Science & Technology, Art, Computer Science, French, Library Media, Mathematics, Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics), Spanish, Special Education, and Family & Consumer Science. The motion carried

unanimously.

### **A-32 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval**

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said the Department proposed revisions to these policies to update language concerning accreditation requirements, clarify audit procedures, and align the policies with the Rules Governing Educator Licensure. She said the State Board released these policies for public comment on January 15, 2016. A public hearing was held on February 2, 2016. The public comment period expired on February 16, 2016. She requested the State Board give final approval to the policies pending Legislative Council review and approval.

A comment about whether educator preparation programs include preparation on areas of concern, such as closing the achievement gap, student skills, discipline of minority students, and critical thinking skills was referred to Education Preparation Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau for response. Ms. Luneau said preparation programs must meet Arkansas competencies and standards, which do cover those areas.

In response to a question about accountability for educator preparation programs, Ms. Reinhart said the accreditation process for preparation programs was very stringent. She said the Department was also employing a monitoring process.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the ADE Policies Governing Educator Preparation Program Approval. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-33 Consideration for Final Approval: Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said Acts 846 and 1200 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to charter schools including the establishment of adult education charter schools. She said the State Board approved these rules for public comment on January 14, 2016. A public comment hearing was held on February 2, 2016. The public comment period ended on February 16, 2016. She said public comments were received, but no substantive changes were made. She requested that the State Board give final approve for these rules.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-34 Consideration for Final Approval: Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Monitoring of Arkansas Comprehensive**

## **School Improvement Plans (ACSIP)**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Act 841 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to ACSIP Monitoring. He said on January 14, 2016, the State Board approved these rules for public comment. A public comment hearing was held on February 2, 2016. He said public comments were received, but no substantive changes were made. He requested that the State Board give final approval to these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Monitoring of Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (ACSIP). The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-35 Consideration for Final Approval: Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Access to Public School Information on Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (ACSIP)**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Act 841 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to ACSIP Public Access. He said on January 14, 2016, the State Board approved these rules for public comment. A public comment hearing was held on February 2, 2016. He said public comments were received, but no substantive changes were made. He requested that the State Board give final approval to these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Access to Public School Information on Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (ACSIP). The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-36 Consideration of Resolution for the Month of the Military Child**

Commissioner Key requested the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing and saluting military children by recognizing the month of April 2016, as the Month of the Military Child.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to adopt a resolution for the month of the Military Child. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-37 Consideration of Resolution for School Library Month**

Library Media Specialist Ms. Cassandra Barnett said the Department requested the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing April 2016 as School Library Month.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adopt the Resolution for School

Library Month. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment** Parent Ms. Stephanie Harpole said her child was in need of dyslexia services. She said her son was placed in an intervention, Recipe for Reading.

## **Reports**

### **Report-1 Chair's Report**

2015 Arkansas Teacher of Year Ms. Ouida Newton said her monthly blog was focused on the ACT Aspire. The blog is available on the ADE website at <http://arkansased.edublogs.org>.

Ms. Ouida Newton attended the state Dyslexia Conference and reported that teachers were very excited about their learning. She also attended the Be Pro, Be Proud kick off event in Little Rock. The Be Pro, Be Proud program is a partnership between business leaders and state agencies to educate the public about opportunities offered by tech jobs.

Ms. Ouida Newton shared the latest video in the Profiles in Teacher Leadership series featuring Ms. Meghan Ables, 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. The video is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

Ms. Reith applied for a NASBE stipend. She said the proposal included using a consultant to inform ForwARd stakeholder meetings planned for Summer 2016.

Ms. Zook said she visited the Northeast Education Service Cooperative and the superintendents in that co-op. She also spoke with the Leadership Group about K-12 education.

Dr. Barth attended a NASBE convening in Atlanta regarding ESSA. He said the USDOE message was be patient because the rule making process still must be employed.

Dr. Barth said a regional NASBE meeting would be held in Little Rock on June 24-25, 2016.

### **Report-2 Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Key presented the next video in the Innovation in Arkansas Education series. The video focused on the Springdale School District. The video is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services>.

Commissioner Key said the Department collaborated with ACE and ADHE to apply for the New Skills for Youth Initiative grant.

### **Report-3 Current Assessment Status Report**

Student Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen said the final PARCC data was presented. She said females scored higher than males in both math and ELA. She said the Hispanic student scored higher than African American students in math and ELA.

Ms. Allen said currently the testing coordinators are using four portals for ACT Aspire, ACT, Multi State Alternative Assessment (MSAA), and ELPA21.

She said the feedback on the new ELPA21 assessment has been very positive.

### **Report-4 Learning Services Report**

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said the Dyslexia Conference was a huge success. She said Ms. Vicki King and Mr. Kevin Beaumont worked very hard to put the conference together.

Ms. Smith said the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade ACT Aspire assessments provide a prediction for future ACT scores.

### **Report-5 Report from the Special Committee on Academic Distress**

Special Committee on Academic Distress Chair Ms. Vicki Saviers said the Special Committee on Academic Distress met Friday, February 12, 2016, to hear a progress report from the Pine Bluff School District. She said the district was searching for a new superintendent.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*

  
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Toyce Newton, Chair

  
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Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education