

**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, March 11, 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 Dean called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

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

Absent: Mr. Steve Sutton

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Presentations**

**IV. AAEA Superintendent of the Year**

Presenter: AAEA

Recipient: Mike Poore, Little Rock School District

**V. G.U.I.D.E. for Life State Board Resolution**

Presenter: Lisa Tyler / Susan Jobe

Description: March 26 is being celebrated as the second annual International Social-Emotional Learning Day, and in honor of this day, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requesting that the Arkansas State Board of Education proclaim the third week of March as G.U.I.D.E. for Life Week.

DESE is encouraging schools to celebrate the G.U.I.D.E. for Life with daily activities, and to help schools support the personal competency standards in the G.U.I.D.E. for Life, DESE has developed a number of sample activities and resources that will be posted on the G.U.I.D.E. for Life webpage.

**V.1. International Social-Emotional Learning Day**

Presenter: Lisa Tyler/Susan Jobe

Description: The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has identified five guiding principles that support educators, business leaders, communities, and students in their efforts to help all Arkansans develop these critical skills. The principles represent skills needed to thrive at home, school, on the job, and in the community: Growth (manage yourself),

Understanding (know yourself), Interaction (build relationships), Decisions (make responsible choices), Empathy (be aware of others) - [G.U.I.D.E.] for Life.

In honor of the second annual International Social-Emotional Learning Day, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is encouraging schools to celebrate the G.U.I.D.E. for Life during the week of March 15-19.

Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Moore, moved to adopt the resolution to encourage schools to celebrate G.U.I.D.E. for Life. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Recognition of the 2020 Blue Ribbon Schools**

Presenter: Bobby Lester

Description: The U.S. Secretary of Education recognized 367 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2020. The identification is based on student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates. Two Arkansas schools were recognized as Exemplary High Performing Schools and two were recognized as Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools.

#### **VII. Recognition of the 2020 National ESEA Distinguished Schools**

Presenter: Bobby Lester

Description: The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators has been selecting examples of superior, federally funded school programs for national recognition through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Programs since 1996. In 2020, one Arkansas school was recognized for their success in exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years. A second school was recognized for their success in closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years.

#### **VIII. Recognition of the Terrel H. Bell Award Winner**

Presenter: Bobby Lester

Description: The Terrel H. Bell Award recognizes outstanding school leaders and the vital role they play in guiding students and schools to excellence, frequently under challenging circumstances. Principals are nominated by their school communities during the final stages of the National Blue Ribbon Schools application process. The U.S. Department of Education, together with the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the Association for Middle Level Education, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, bestow the Bell Award on a handful of principals each year. In 2020, ten principals across the nation were recognized.

### **Consent Agenda**

Presenter: Charisse Dean

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, 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 # 20-039 Rhonda Hall
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 20-119 Kelly Geoffrion
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 21-038 Michael Graham

### **Action Agenda A**

#### **A-1 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 one-month continuance due to a conflict with another court appearance. Board members noted that the review has been postponed several times. Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to continue the review until next month. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-2 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision – Amendment Request for LISA Academy**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In February the Charter Authorizing Panel approved an amendment request for LISA Academy to add a new campus, waivers for the new campus and to increase the enrollment cap. LISA's charter was originally approved in 2004 and serves students in grades K-12. The enrollment cap for 2020-2021 is 3,432.

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

#### **A-3 Consideration of Approval to Allow ADE Developed Computer Science and Computing Year 1 Courses to be taught to 8th Graders by any Arkansas Public School District**

Description: The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Computer Science requests that the State Board of Education provide approval for any Arkansas Public School District to provide instruction and high school credit to 8th graders for the following Arkansas Computer Science and Computing courses:

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning - Year 1 (465410)
- Computer Engineering - Year 1 (465470)
- Cyber Security - Year 1 (465270)
- Data Science - Year 1 (465710)
- Game Development and Design - Year 1 (465670)

- Mobile Application Development - Year 1 (465370)
- Networking - Year 1 (465170)
- Programming - Year 1 (465070)
- Robotics - Year 1 (465570)

The approved grades in which each of these courses may be taught for high school credit will be grades 8-12 instead of grades 9-12. Licensure requirements will remain the same, regardless of the grades in which the courses are offered.

This approval shall remain in effect until June 30, 2025, which is when the current standards are set to expire.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the computing year-one courses to be taught to eighth graders. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report**

Presenter: Joel Lookadoo

Mr. Lookadoo and fellow members of the Teach Plus Advisory Board presented their recommendations on improving teacher diversity in Arkansas.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Key introduced Dr. Kiffany Pride and Karli Saracini to discuss the work they have been doing with the Instructional Materials and Professional Development Network.

### **New Business**

There were no new business items.

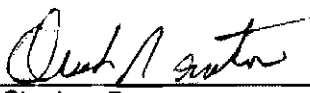
### **Public Comments**

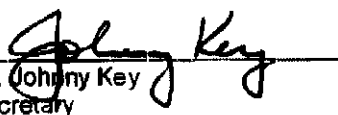
There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Dean adjourned the meeting.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid*

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Ms. Charisse Dean  
Chair

x   
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Mr. Johnny Key  
Secretary