

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, June 11, 2015, in the Pulaski County Special School District Administration Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

Present: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Alice Mahony; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Dr. Jay Barth; Mireya Reith; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: none

Board Member Kim Davis announced that he would be stepping down from the State Board because he has accepted a position with the Walton Family Foundation.

Ms. Mahony and Mr. Ledbetter completed their 7- year terms on the State Board, and they were honored at a reception prior to the State Board Meeting.

Commissioner Key recognized Dr. Mark Gotcher. He said Dr. Gotcher would be the new Deputy Commissioner, replacing Dr. Mike Hernandez. Commissioner Key recognized Dr. Eric Saunders and Mr. Greg Rogers. He said Dr. Saunders would be replacing Dr. Cody Decker as the Assistant Commissioner for Research and Technology. Commissioner Key said Mr. Rogers would be the Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - May 5, 2015
- Minutes - May 14, 2015
- Minutes - May 15, 2015
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Final Report Fiscal Year 2014-15 - Summary of Activities for the Standards Assurance Unit

- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-173 – Judith Ann Conway
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-001 – Melissa René Grice
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-048 – Mary Jill Davis
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-066 – Robin Keith Robinson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-070 – Tammy Kay Warren
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-073 – Casey Lanne Spradlin

Action Agenda

Request to Add an Action Item

Commissioner Key said on June 8th, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that he would accept the Governor's Council on Common Core Review recommendation to terminate the contract with Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and, instead, enter into a new contract with ACT and ACT Aspire. The Department requested that the Board add an action item to consider this recommendation.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to add the action item, "Consideration of Termination of Contract with PARCC and Authority to Negotiate with ACT". The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Termination of Contract with PARCC and Authority to Negotiate with ACT

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the Department requested that the State Board authorize the Department to terminate the contract with Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), and to begin negotiations with ACT to negotiate an assessment for ACT Aspire and ACT to begin the 2015-2016 school year.

Department Deputy General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the Department would follow procurement procedures.

Director of Client Relations for ACT Mr. Joe Cruse said each student would select colleges/universities to send ACT reports. He said de-identified data would be used for research purposes only.

Vice President of Business Development for ACT Aspire Mr. Andy Frost said the ACT Aspire data is protected and the Department would own the data. He said de-identified data would be used for research purposes only.

Commissioner Key said numerous conversations and public meetings regarding assessment have taken place over the last few years. He said legislation supported the use of ACT and ACT Aspire.

Public Comment: Ms. Dana Breitweiser recommended the Board consider several questions that she posed. She requested the Board continue with the PARCC assessment for 2015-2016.

Public Comment: Mr. Eddie Ryan Roberts said he is concerned about the instability due to the impact of a change in assessment. He said he was concerned about the transparency of the process.

Public Comment: Ms. Annie Bryant said she is in support of using ACT so that all students are prepared for college.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to not provide authority to the Department to negotiate with ACT. Ms. Mahony voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to continue the contract with PARCC. Ms. Mahony voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of 2015-16 Arkansas Better Chance Renewal Grant Applications

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education requested approval for the renewal of the Arkansas Better Chance grants for the 2015-2016 year. She said there are two errors on the spreadsheets. The correct amounts for ABC Children's Academy and Developmental Center, INC. should be \$1,506,600 and the CB King Memorial School, INC should be \$97,200. Ms. McKinney also requested the State Board approve 2014-2015 Enhancement Grants.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the 2015-16 Arkansas Better Chance Renewal Grant Applications as corrected totaling \$106,948,864.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the 2014-2015

Enhancement Grants totaling \$2,971,590.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Report from the Special Committee on Academic Distress

Ms. Saviers said on May 15, 2015, the Special Committee on Academic Distress met with the Forrest City School District. She said the superintendent and the School Board are working as a team. She said the subcommittee would continue to monitor the progress of the schools.

Ms. Zook said each school was working to improve.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to accept the report from the Special Committee on Academic Distress. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Report from the Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study

Dr. Barth said on January 28, 2015, the State Board of Education established a State Board committee charged with studying the appropriate school district lines within Pulaski County, taking into account communities of interest, student demographics, facilities, and property tax base with a report due back to the State Board no later than the June 2015 regularly scheduled meeting. He thanked Mr. Ledbetter, Ms. Zook, and Mr. Davis for serving on this subcommittee. Dr. Barth highlighted the following statement from the submitted report: *[t]he State will oppose the creation of any other school districts from PCSSD's territory until it is declared fully unitary and is released from court supervision.*

Mr. Ledbetter submitted the following statement:

Supplemental Statement on the Pulaski County Boundary Committee Report

Regarding the statement in our report about "healthiest schools" and "communities of interest," it is often suggested that an attribute of successful schools (but not necessarily successful school districts) is having attendance zones that reflect communities of interest. Certainly this seems to foster community involvement in individual schools. However, the suggestion that creating a school district that encompasses the entire geographic area of Pulaski County south of the Arkansas River (except for a portion of Shannon Hills) will result in "communities of interest in synchronicity with school district boundaries" strikes me as being questionable. There are many diverse communities south of the river (e.g. Chenal Valley vs. Wrightsville).

Furthermore, dividing the county into four districts north of the river and a single district south of river (resulting in a net gain of one new district) is not compatible with the concept of having 1) more efficiencies in shared services (transportation, food services, building services, technology, etc.); 2) equality in funding (property values will vary widely between wealthy areas like downtown, western suburbs, and shopping malls vs. areas that are depressed -- resulting in winners vs. losers); and 3) diversity among students and faculty. On this point, I am concerned that this proposal has the potential to concentrate kids, particularly those in the district south of the river, into pockets of poverty and further exacerbate segregation along racial lines.

We have learned from our experience with the detachment of the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District that creating new districts from the Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) is very complex. Issues relating to division of assets, debt and personnel have been very challenging. The statute that deals with detachment may need to be revised in light of this experience.

Finally, we are just a year or two removed from the desegregation litigation, and the PCSSD is still under federal court supervision. There may be value in giving our existing schools and the kids in those schools an opportunity to succeed outside of the interference that litigation has represented. The SBE should consider giving these schools some breathing room and carefully consider any changes that run the risk of returning these schools to the historic patterns that got them into court some 35 years ago.

These are my concerns after reflecting on the proposal that we are presenting to the Board today. While I concur in the report and recommendation of the Pulaski County Boundary Committee, I am offering these additional concerns and observations for the record to be considered for any future actions.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the report with the supplemental statement from the Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to dissolve the Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Little Rock School District Report

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said community support is earned. He said Mr. Dionne Jackson and Mr. Greg Adams have been selected as co-chairs of the Little Rock School District Civic Advisory Committee. He said the district is making budget cuts. He said it is important to have the

right people making the right decisions, therefore, improving the organization functionality. He said he is empowering the educators to make decisions that put the students first.

He said the McClellan Student Council met last Saturday and he talked with the students about improving their school. He also met with the students at J. A. Fair. He said these schools need more community involvement and support.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to accept the report from the Little Rock School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Classification of District in Fiscal Distress - Guy-Perkins School District

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to remove this item from the table. The motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services Dr. Eric Saunders said the Department continued to recommend that Guy-Perkins School District be classified as being in Fiscal Distress as of June 11, 2015. Dr. Saunders explained the process of analysis that led to the recommendation.

Guy-Perkins School District Superintendent Mr. Brian Cossey said the district might have deficient spending at the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to classify Guy-Perkins School District in fiscal distress. Ms. Mahony and Ms. Zook voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8 were submitted to the State Board for adoption. She said on April 10, 2014, the State Board unanimously voted to endorse the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as a basis for the development of new K-12 science standards. The endorsement authorized the Arkansas Department of Education to develop the NGSS into standards that fit Arkansas's curriculum mandates. She said the Curriculum and Instruction Unit worked with 45 representatives from K-8, Career Education, and Higher Education over the past year to create the new Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8. She said the Arkansas K-8 Science Standards Committee dove deep into the NGSS performance expectations for Grades K-8 to map the NGSS middle school standards into Grades 6-8. The committee also added to the K-8 standards Arkansas specific

clarification statements and assessment boundaries, created grade-specific learning progressions by topic and disciplinary core idea, and wrote overviews of the content for each grade for teachers. She said the majority of the 134 Arkansas respondents read the standards that were of interest to them and agreed that those standards were appropriate as written. Several members of the K-8 committee met on June 4, 2015 to review the comments, questions, and concerns posted by Arkansas teachers and made recommendations for the best course of action to take in response to the field. The goal of the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards is to prepare students to know and apply science concepts to real-world situations when they graduate from high school and beyond. The Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 would be implemented in 2016 and for Grades 5-8 in 2017. The Arkansas 9-12 Science Standards Committee will begin writing new high school science courses this summer with a plan to present those to the SBE for consideration to adopt in spring of 2016.

Dr. Bath moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to adopt the Arkansas K-12 Science Standards for Grades K-4 and 5-8. The motion carried unanimously.

Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Plan

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness, and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said the Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Plan was submitted June 1, 2015. She said the plan had three focus areas.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Equitable Access to Excellent Educators Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are expiring June 30, 2015

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness, and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer requested approval of nominated members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to replace members whose terms are expiring June 30, 2015. She said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms. She said five (5) members of the Professional Licensure Standards Board would complete their three-year terms on June 30, 2015. Ms. Pfeffer presented the following nominations to fill these positions:

Dr. Shelly Albritton, Associate Professor at the University of Central Arkansas, has been nominated for re-appointment by the Arkansas Professors of Educational Administration (ARPEA) to represent Educational Leadership.

Dr. Greg Murry, Superintendent of Conway School District has been

nominated by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) to represent Public School Superintendents.

Mr. Todd Sellers, Principal at Bethel Middle School in the Bryant School District has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) to represent Middle Level Building Administrators.

Ms. Brenda Brown, Pre-K teacher at Helena-West Helena Elementary School in the Helena-West Helena School District has been re-nominated by the Arkansas Education Association (AEA) to represent Public School Classroom Teachers – Grades P-4.

Dr. Mary B. Gunter, Director for the Center for Leadership and Learning at Arkansas Tech University, has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (AASCD) to represent Curriculum Programs.

Ms. Pfeffer said the terms of these members would begin on July 1, 2015 and end on June 30, 2018.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the nominated members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to replace members whose terms are expiring June 30, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations – PLSB Case No. 13-047; Beverly Garner-Harris

The Board agreed to postpone this item until the July State Board Meeting.

ESEA Flexibility Renewal

Mr. Reg Leichty, Project and Grants Manager for EducationCounsel LLC, joined the Board meeting via phone. He provided a progress report on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations – PLSB Case No. T13-015B; Simone S. Vaughn

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Jennifer Liwo said Ms. Simone S. Vaughn was in violation of Standard 3: An educator honestly fulfills reporting obligations associated with professional practices. Ms. Liwo said following an evidentiary hearing on January 9, 2015, the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board suspend Ms. Vaughn's license for two (2) years and assess a \$100.00 fine.

Attorney Mr. John L. Burnett said the educator did not commit fraud, but instead

she was incompetent in her work on the portfolios. He also said that the educator received no feedback from the school district indicating that the work was not meeting standards.

Ms. Liwo said no evidence was presented to substantiate Ms. Vaughn's claim of incompetence. She said the educator had 19 years of experience, with 8 years of experience with portfolios.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the findings and recommendations for suspension of Ms. Simone S. Vaughn's license for two (2) years and a fine of \$100.00. The motion was withdrawn.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to revise the recommendation to probation for one year with a \$75.00 fine. The motion was withdrawn.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to amend the recommendation to two (2) years of probation, a \$75 fine, and two (2) years of assessment professional development including portfolio assessment with a report to ADE. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Liwo said the identified professional development would be submitted at the next Board meeting as a consent item.

Consideration of Barton-Lexa School District – Appeal of Probationary Status not teaching required 38 Units for the 2014-15 school year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said Barton-Lexa High School was in violation of Standards Rules 9.03.4.2 (Physics – 1 unit). The district had no students enrolled in Physics during the 2014-15 school year. He said he district requested Accredited probationary status not be upheld and a status of Accredited Cited be applied to Barton-Lexa HS.

Barton-Lexa High School Principal Mr. Chris Goodin said the error was his responsibility.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to apply the status of Accredited Cited for the Barton-Lexa School District. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of Earle School District - Appeal of Probationary Status-Teacher Not Certified for the 2014-15 School Year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said the district employed a Teach for America teacher who was unable to secure necessary licensure to

be qualified to teach the courses to which the teacher was assigned. He said the district requested Accredited Probationary status not be upheld and a status of Accredited be applied to Earle Elementary School.

Earle School District Superintendent Mr. Rickey Nicks said the district hired a Teach for America teacher who did not meet licensure requirements.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to apply the status of Accredited to the Earle Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of England School District - Appeal of Probationary Status-Not Teaching Required 38 units for the 2014-15 School Year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said England School District requested a waiver from Standards Rule 9.03.4.1 (Drama - 1/2 unit) and 9.03.4.2 (Physics - 1 unit). He said the district did not provide a Drama (1/2 unit) course in their 2014-15 schedule. He said the district had two (2) students enrolled in Physics until the end of the first semester when they dropped the course. He said the district requested Accredited Probationary status not be upheld and a status of Accredited Cited be applied to England High School.

England High School Principal Mr. Eddie Nally said the district enrolled two students in the Physics course but the students failed the first semester and, therefore, did not take the second semester of Physics. He said the school tried to find an outside provider for the drama course because no staff member is certified for drama.

England High School Counselor Ms. Mary Ben Newton said the school contacted Virtual Arkansas but the course was not available. She said she tried to find another school to share a digital course.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to deny the appeal for the England School District and assign Accredited Probationary status to England High School. Mr. Davis voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of Mountain Pine School District - Appeal of Probationary Status-Not Teaching Required 38 units for the 2014-15 School Year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said Mountain Pine High School was in violation of Standards Rules 9.03.4.2 (Physics - 1 Unit). He said the district had two (2) students enrolled in Physics but the students dropped the course during the first two weeks of the fall semester. No other students enrolled. He said the district requested Accredited Probationary status not be upheld and status of Accredited be applied to Mountain Pine High School.

Mountain Pine School District Superintendent Mr. Robert Gray said students are selecting to take concurrent courses.

Mountain Pine High School Principal Mr. Mike Keys said two students enrolled in Physics but the students dropped the course. He said no other student would enroll in Physics. He said the students enrolled in other rigorous courses. He said the course was available all year with a teacher prepared to teach the course.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to apply the status of Accredited to the Mountain Pine High School. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of West Side School District (Cleburne Co.)- Appeal of Probationary Status-Not Teaching required 38 units for the 2014-15 School Year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said West Side High School was in violation of Standards Rule 9.03.4.1 (Journalism - 1 unit). He said the district enrolled one student in Journalism during the fall semester but the student dropped the class. He said the district requested Accredited Probationary status not be upheld and a status of Accredited Cited be applied to West Side High School.

West Side School District Superintendent Mr. Andy Chism said a student enrolled but dropped the course. He said no additional students enrolled in the course.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to apply the status of Accredited Cited to West Side School District (Cleburne Co.). Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of White County Central School District - Appeal of Probationary Status-Not Teaching required 38 units for the 2014-15 School Year

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said White County Central High School was in violation of Standards Rules 9.03.4.1 (Journalism - 1 unit). He said the district had no students enrolled in Journalism during the 2014-15 school year. He said the district requested Accredited Probationary status not be upheld and a status of Accredited be applied to White County Central High School.

White County Central School District Superintendent Ms. Sheila Whitlow said no students enrolled in the course.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to apply Accredited Cited to the White County Central High School. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Consideration of Final Accreditation Report Fiscal Year 2014-15 – Summary of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said this report is being submitted for compliance with A.C.A. § 6-15-102 (g) (1) and (2). He said the corrections based on the actions above would be made to the report and a final report would be submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the Final Accreditation Report Fiscal Year 2014-15 – Summary of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts with the changes approved above. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Awarding Waiver Days for Inclement Weather 2014-2015

Commissioner Key said the Ashdown School District requested a waiver of four instructional days due to inclement weather because of flooding in the area.

Ashdown Jr. High School Principal Mr. James Jones said travel to and from the school was limited due to flooding. He said teachers were making two to two and one-half hour trips each way on a two-lane road to navigate the closed roads. The superintendent decided these issues were dangerous for students and educators.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve awarding four (4) waiver days for inclement weather 2014-2015 for the Ashdown School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Hearing for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School: Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School

Charter School Director Ms. Mary Perry said on April 15, 2015, the Charter Authorizing Panel met and made the decision to take no action after reviewing the processes and procedures that Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School was employing to improve its academic standing. She said on May 14, 2015, the State Board voted to review the decision made by the Charter

Authorizing Panel.

Covenant Keepers Head of School Dr. Valerie Tatum said 67% of the students came from underperforming schools.

Educator Ms. Jenna Jones said students are meeting their growth goals in math and literacy on the NWEA. She said the student body is comprised of 23% English Learners. Parent polls indicate an 82% satisfaction rate.

Executive Director of OEP Ms. Sarah McKenzie said each year more students are meeting the annual MAP growth.

Educator Ms. Laurette Whipps said the school was using research based instructional programs. She said the school uses a 90-minute block for math and literacy.

Journalist Mr. Rafael Nuñez said he did a cover story on Covenant Keepers because of how the educators worked with the Hispanic students.

Community Leader Ms. Soreya Simon said the parents are pleased with the support provided to their children at Covenant Keepers.

Parent Ms. Guadalupe Napoles said her children are achieving at Covenant Keepers.

Former student Mr. Jonathan Perez said he appreciated the support he received at Covenant Keepers. He said the school helped him to be an over-achiever.

Former student Ms. Paola Rodriguez said she overcame her academic obstacles because of Covenant Keepers.

Grandparent and Community Leader Ms. Carolyn Heitman said she is very active in the community. She said she is an advocate of Covenant Keepers.

School Improvement Director Dr. Richard Wilde said a conversation about growth is very important. He said the Covenant Keepers staff has shown growth in their data-driven decision making.

Dr. Tatum said the book, *Good to Great* by Jim Collins, helped to turn the school around.

Ms. Perry said the charter would be considered for renewal in Spring 2016.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to affirm the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel regarding the Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School. The motion carried unanimously.

Substitute Motion: Ms. Mahony moved to place the Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School on probation. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Consideration of ESEA Flexibility Waiver IMO Reports for Priority Schools 3rd Quarter of 2014-15 School Year

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said 34 schools continue to be identified in ESEA Flexibility Waiver status as Priority. Of the 34 schools in Priority status, 22 schools are also identified as in Academic Distress through the State Accountability System. He said the ESEA Flexibility Waiver identified that schools in Priority status, in collaboration with district leadership, would develop Improvement Plans targeting the four turnaround principles of: 1) Teacher and Leadership Practices; 2) Student Progress and Achievement; 3) Student Safety and Discipline; and 4) Parent and Community Engagement. He said within the improvement plans, school leadership was to identify interim measurable objectives in order to monitor quarterly progress.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the ESEA Flexibility Waiver IMO Reports for Priority Schools 3rd Quarter of 2014-15 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Emergency Adoption: 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application

Department Staff Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay said the State Board approved the 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application for emergency adoption on May 14, 2015. She said included in the application was a due date for the applications of July 28, 2015. The application due date will not be September 9, 2015.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application for emergency adoption. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Emergency Adoption: Repeal of 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application

Department Staff Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay said the State Board approved the 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application for emergency adoption on May 14, 2015. She said included in the application was a due date for the applications of July 28, 2015. The application due date will not be September 9,

2015.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to approve the repeal the 2015 District Conversion Charter School Application for emergency adoption. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015

Department Staff Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay said Act 560 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to the Public School Choice Act of 2013. She said the State Board released these rules for public comment on April 9, 2015. A public hearing was held on April 28, 2015. She said the public comment period expired on May 18, 2015. She said written comments were received during the public comment period and typographical revisions were made to the rules.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the ADE Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers for State Board of Education for 2015-2016

In accordance with the Board Operating Guidelines, Chairman Ledbetter selected a nominating committee. Members included Ms. Saviers, Mr. Black, and Dr. Barth. The Nominating Committee reported their recommended slate of officers on May 14, 2015. Nominations included: Chair: Toyce Newton; Vice-Chair: Mireya Reith.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to close the nominations and approve the submitted Officers for State Board of Education for 2015-2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Annie Bryant said the Dollarway School District has systemic problems that are limiting the opportunities for students.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair

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Johnny Key, Commissioner of Ed.