

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
Thursday, April 9, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, April 9, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

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

Present via phone: Dr. Jay Barth

Absent: none

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the consent agenda with the Greene County Tech 2<sup>nd</sup> lien bond in the amount of \$1,560,000.00 removed from Consent Item 5: Review of Loan and Bonds Applications. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook requested that a follow-up report be provided at a later date regarding the High Quality Preschool program funding.

Ms. Zook requested regarding Consent Item 10: Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-137 – Andrew Terrell Curry that Mr. Curry understand that any future incident would be considered as an action item.

Ms. Saviers noted information on Consent Item #7: Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309 that Little Rock School District had 13 waivers and Lee County School District had 8 waivers.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - March 12, 2015
- Minutes - March 13, 2015
- Minutes - March 25, 2015
- Consideration of Funding Recommendations for the High Quality Preschool Program
- Review of Loan and Bonds Applications, less the Greene County Tech 2<sup>nd</sup> lien bond in the amount of \$1,560,000.00

- 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
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-133 – Amber Michelle Populis
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-021 – Jason Alexander George
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-137 – Andrew Terrell Curry
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-138 – Betty Jean Edwards
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #T14-003B – Paula Fitzhugh
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-017B – JuneMarie Shuff Thompson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-027 – Michael Darren Dean
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-032 – Stephen Tyler Hart
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-041 – Rebecca Denise Alexander

### **Action Agenda**

#### **Consideration of State Board Resolution Recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child**

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said he served as Arkansas' Compact Commissioner for the Arkansas State Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. He said Ms. Brittany Kincaid, ADE Policy Development Coordinator, was instrumental in carrying out the duties of the Arkansas State Council. He said the Arkansas State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children requested that the Board approve a resolution that recognizes April 2015 as the Month of the Military Child. Mr. Lasiter introduced military members and families from the Little Rock Air Force Base.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the State Board Resolution Recognizing April as the Month of the Military Child. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration of the Little Rock School District Progress Update**

Commissioner Key said Dr. Dexter Suggs submitted a written report.

Commissioner Key provided background information that drives his position and efforts toward the Little Rock School District. He said in the *Alma v. Dupree* case, the court found that “ultimately, the responsibility for maintaining a general, suitable and efficient school system falls upon the state.” He said the court concluded, “whether the State acts directly or imposes the role upon the local government, the end product must be what the constitution commends, and when a district falls short of the constitutional requirements” the obligation is the State’s to rectify. He said the Lake View case applied the same standard to the adequacy of funding, facilities, as well as delivery of education. He quoted the ruling, “We conclude that the clear language of Article 14 poses upon the state an absolute duty to educate our children.” Commissioner Key said this background supports the proceedings of the Board, in direct fulfillment of its constitutional duty to the students of the Little Rock School District. He said the LRSD needs a comprehensive review. The Department has been and will continue to work directly with Dr. Suggs and staff. Former Commissioner Wood selected Baker Kurrus to review the financial status of the district. Commissioner Key has assigned Deborah Coffman to be the liaison between Dr. Suggs and the Department. He said more information would be provided at the May State Board meeting.

Dr. Suggs said the holistic approach to the district would be ongoing and will be implemented in phases. He said he is working on a communication plan for internal (employees) and external (stakeholders). He said that information is being provided to staff about the current changes. Dr. Suggs said there was work being done to plan for after school and summer school services. Dr. Suggs said they held a town hall meeting with approximately 25 people attending; therefore, they needed to rethink the town hall concept to get improved communication connections. He said a Spanish translator was always available at town hall meetings. Dr. Suggs confirmed that no Latino applied for or was selected for the Civic Advisory Committee. He said he is working on a meaningful and intentional plan for enhancement to Baseline Elementary to better serve the diverse needs of children. Dr. Suggs said he is working on a three-phase project. He said he was currently working on phase one (items listed in report) through midyear and then would begin on phase two. Dr. Suggs said work would focus on adult learning that is ongoing and meaningful as directed by student data and teacher need. He said moving to the 7-period day would provide more teacher-student interaction time because students will be in class each day.

Mr. Baker Kurrus, chair of the LRSD Finance Committee, said he is a volunteer and has assembled an excellent group of volunteers. He said in four years, the district would stop receiving additional desegregation funding. He said the district has an opportunity to make a plan now for the reduction in funding and become nimble, lean, and energized. He said his committee is not making academic decisions; however, everything in school has a financial impact on the organization. He said he is taking a very hard look at the organization as a whole

and is aware that too many people are doing too many things with limited accountability. He said the district needed clear lines of authority, expectation, and accountability. He said this work is not a plan; it is a process about how work should occur in the organization. The Professional Negotiations Agreement will be reviewed in October 2015. He said the district must be more streamlined with instruction and support. He said the district needed to consolidate administration to be more collaborative and efficient. Mr. Kurrus said a leaner administration (flatter organization) would help to provide better service to schools. He said it would save money but it also helps the organization. He said the district was a programmatic district not a systematic district. He said the committee does not have a completion timeline yet, but he would continue to communicate progress with the Board. Mr. Kurrus said before the district can go to the community for a millage increase, the district would need to show they are currently spending every dime efficiently. He said maintenance would need to be increased in the budget for next school year.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the Little Rock School District Progress report. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration for AR Better Chance One-Time Funding**

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said in anticipation of funding remaining at the end of the year for ABC due to some sites relinquishing slots, a request was being made to allow for the funding of quality enhancements. (i.e. the continuance of the Ameri Corp, offset the additional costs for the infant/toddler care services and /or funds to assist with the current ABC programs). She said this was an addendum to existing contracts. A list of contracts were also provided that would need one time funding to cover the costs of specific services needed by the ABC programs

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the AR Better Chance one-time funding. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration of One-Time Funding for ABC Programs Affected by Natural Disasters**

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said there were three ABC Programs that were impacted by three separate natural disasters resulting in damages to the programs' learning environments. The programs are as follows: Vilonia Public Schools - ABC services that were damaged during the tornado in April 2014 resulted in a loss of playground materials; Batesville Public Schools received flood damage in their 11 ABC preschool classrooms during April 2014; and Blytheville Public Schools received flood damage in their ABC preschool classrooms during March

2014. She said Blytheville would be removed from the list because insurance has paid for all needs.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the one-time funding for ABC Programs affected by natural disasters. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of the Involuntary Administrative Consolidation of the Hughes School District into One (1) or More School Districts**

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1601 et seq., the State Board of Education shall administratively consolidate the Hughes School District with or into one (1) or more school districts by May 1, 2015 to be effective July 1, 2015. He said the Hughes School District's average daily membership fell below three hundred fifty (350) students for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. He said the Hughes School District submitted a voluntary petition for annexation with the Forrest City School District, but the Forrest City School District withdrew from participation in the voluntary petition prior to the State Board of Education's March 2015 meeting.

Ms. Sheryl Owens, Hughes Superintendent, requested a one-year waiver to keep the Hughes School District in operation. She said small districts could be effective. She said the district has made consistent progress. She said the district was placed on fiscal distress and has made progress on the fiscal distress plan. She said the district has reduced the audit findings. She said the climate and culture has changed and teachers and students look forward to coming to school.

Mr. Jeff Spaletta, K-12 Principal at Hughes School District, said he inherited many issues including low expectations, poor attendance, a disorderly and unsafe school environment, and fluctuating academic performance. He set a clear vision, developed a plan and set goals, improved accountability, transformed instruction and expectations. He said the school had met the majority of interim measurable objectives, graduation had increased, and parent involvement had increased. He said the school received awards for improved student achievement.

Mr. Adrick Smith, student at Hughes High School, asked the Board to keep the school open.

Ms. Kendra Glasper, student at Hughes High School, said she is very involved in the school and asked the Board to keep the school open.

Mr. Norman Hill, financial consultant for the Hughes School District, said he began work for the district in August 2013. He has worked to correct the audit findings and improve the district fund balance. He said the district does have set-

aside funds for pending litigation.

Ms. Dorothy Singleton, community organizer with the Rural Community Alliance, said the district is an example of what parent and community involvement can be. She said the students, teachers, parents and civic organizations are involved. She asked the Board to allow the Hughes School District to continue.

Mr. James Valley, attorney representing the Hughes School District, asked the Board to delay a decision to consider the request for the waiver.

Representative Randy Alexander said a comprehensive report on school consolidation applied to the Hughes School District. He said consolidation might not be the best solution for this district.

Mr. Lasiter said the Board was required to order a consolidation by May 1 to be enacted by July 1. He said Hughes does not meet the requirements of Act 377 to request a waiver. He said the third quarter average daily membership for the Hughes School District was 344 for 2013-2014 and 348 for 2014-2015. He said the district has been classified in fiscal distress for two years.

Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services Dr. Eric Saunders confirmed the district was classified in fiscal distress. He said the district had not met objectives 9,10,11, and 12 of the fiscal distress plan.

Mr. Valley said Hughes School District was the only district under consideration for consolidation during the time the emergency clause was added to Act 377 and therefore Act 377 should apply to the Hughes School District. He said fiscal distress status is defined in law but fiscal distress is not. He said the district has no appeal for removing from fiscal distress. He asked the Board to consider all of these items and request a waiver.

Mr. Hester Jackson, community patron, asked the Board to grant a waiver for the Hughes School District. He said the district has made improvements. He said the district should remain open because closing the school would cause a negative impact for the students and community.

Mr. Lasiter said the Department notified all of the superintendents from the geographically contiguous districts.

Commissioner Key recommended that Hughes be consolidated with the Forrest City School District or the West Memphis School District.

Dr. Tiffany Hardrick, Superintendent of the Forrest City School District, said the Forrest City School District withdrew their original petition for consolidation. She said through additional exploration and agreement the Forrest City School District would welcome the students from the Hughes School District.

Ms. Owens said a long-term solution for the Hughes School District was stability and to be removed from fiscal distress. She said more students would enroll if the district offered football. She said the district would need to eliminate school choice.

Commissioner Key said West Memphis School District is an option for involuntary consolidation.

Representative Charlotte Douglas said her intent for the Act 377 emergency clause was intended to include Hughes School District.

Ms. Owens said she believed the district had met the fiscal improvement plan. She said she originally approached Forrest City because the district was in the same county and was supported from survey data. She said Forrest City would keep a K-8 elementary open at Hughes and consolidate the high school with Forrest City.

Dr. Hardrick said the Forrest City School District has work to do but is making progress. She said she was eager to present data to the Special Committee for Academic Distress.

Ms. Owens said she has great respect for the new leadership in the Forrest City School District. She said transportation time would be excessive for the Hughes School District students. She said the students utilizing school choice are going to the West Memphis School District or the Marion School District.

Mr. Valley said the Board should delay a decision to study the materials presented.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the waiver request for Hughes based on transportation issues. Dr. Barth, Ms. Zook, Ms. Saviers, Ms. Newton and Mr. Black voted no. The final vote was 3-5. The motion failed.

Mr. Rickey Nix, Superintendent of Earle School District, said the Earle School District does participate in school choice.

Mr. Hill said dividing the district along county lines would cause great financial difference due to property assessments.

Mr. Lasiter explained items that must be included in an order for consolidation.

Mr. John Collins, West Memphis School District Superintendent, said the West Memphis School District would respectfully comply with the recommendations of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education and would offer the best education for the students from the Hughes School District.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the involuntary administrative consolidation of the Hughes School District with the West Memphis School District, with the West Memphis School Board serving as interim board until the new district is zoned and a board can be elected. Ms. Mahony voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

### **Classification of District in Fiscal Distress**

Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services Dr. Eric Saunders said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-20-1905, the Yellville-Summit School District received notice by certified mail as being identified by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for Fiscal Distress status. He said the Department recommended that Yellville-Summit School District be classified as being in Fiscal Distress as of April 9, 2015.

Mr. David Wyatt, Interim Superintendent of Yellville-Summit School District, said he acknowledged the finding from the Department and has hired Mr. Norman Hill to assist.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to classify the Yellville-Summit School District in fiscal distress. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of Third Quarter Report for Helena-West Helena School District**

Ms. Janice Streeter, Director of Learning Services for the Office of Intensive Support, presented the third quarter report and said Fetterman and Associates has been hired as an external provider in the Helena-West Helena High School.

Mr. John Hoy, Superintendent of the Helena-West Helena School District, said the district has systems problems that are taking time to correct. He said he is focused on the financial systems. He said he is working with a great team to focus on the academic systems. He said the district would offer summer school. He said one vacant position has been filled on the Helena-West Helena Community Advisory Board. He said he is still seeking to fill two vacant positions. He said the district has developed a mission, vision, and goals and he believed the needed changes would be made in a timely manner.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the third quarter report for the Helena-West Helena School District. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Review of Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public**



## **Charter School Renewal: Arkansas Virtual Academy**

Office of Educational Options Director Ms. Cindy Hogue said the charter is approved to serve students in grades K-12 with a maximum enrollment of 2000. She said representatives of the Arkansas Virtual Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel on February 18, 2015 to request a 5-year renewal for the charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the panel approved the renewal application for Arkansas Virtual Academy for a period of 5 years. She said on March 12, 2015 the State Board of Education voted to review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Dr. Scott Sides, Head of School at the Arkansas Virtual Academy, said he was considering multiple pathways for providing vocal and instrumental ensemble. He said there have been struggles for adults and students to adjust to virtual learning. He said the charter school has learned many lessons from these struggles and has made accommodations to be more successful and to assist parents and students in success. He said a tutoring opportunity was available to students.

Ms. Allison Branch, Manager of Special Programs at the Arkansas Virtual Academy, said the school contracts with outside vendors for face-to-face therapies and special services.

Dr. Sides said the truancy coordinator ensures students are participating appropriately. He said the marketing and communication has been robust to attract more diverse students.

Ms. Mitzi Bingaman, Assistant Academic Administrator Grades 7-10, said the school uses the TESS model for teacher evaluation. She said the virtual platform allowed for differentiation.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to affirm the Charter Authorizing Panel's recommendation for a 5-year renewal for the Arkansas Virtual Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Consideration of Arkansas Governor's School 2016-2018 Proposals**

Director of Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein said the request for proposals to host Arkansas Governor's School for 2016-2018 were sent in November 2014 to all four-year colleges and universities in the state asking for their proposals to host AGS. She said the deadline for proposals was February 15, 2015, and the only proposal submitted was from Hendrix College. She said the proposal has been reviewed and requested the Board confirm that Hendrix College would be the host for Arkansas Governor's School for 2016-2018.

Dr. Barth did not participate in this item because he is an employee of Hendrix College.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to approve Hendrix College as the host of the Arkansas Governor's School for 2016-2018. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of Recommendation of New Praxis Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®) Licensure Test**

Public School Program Advisor Mr. Michael Rowland said international teachers seeking to obtain an Arkansas educator license would be required to successfully take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®). He said the TOEFL® is a widely accepted English-language proficiency test from Educational Testing Service. Mr. Rowland recommended adopting the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®) with a cut score of 76 on a 120-point scale effective immediately.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®) Licensure Test with a cut score of 76 on a 120-point scale. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Recommendation of the New Praxis Assessment of Signed Communication-American Sign Language (0632)**

Public School Program Advisor Mr. Michael Rowland said to address a new Arkansas educator licensure area in Foreign Language American Sign Language, the Department recommended the Assessment of Signed Communication: American Sign Language (ASL) test that assesses sign proficiency in American Sign Language. He said the assessment was designed for candidates who plan to seek certification to teach sign language to students as a language other than English. He said ADE personnel reviewed national test data and recommended a cut score of 2.5/5.0. He recommended adopting the Praxis™ Assessment of Signed Communication – American Sign Language (0632) with a cut score of 2.5 on a 5.0 scale effective immediately.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the Praxis Assessment of Signed Communication-American Sign Language (0632) with a cut score of 2.5 on a 5.0 scale. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Revision of the Arkansas Department of Education Standards for Educational Interpreters and**

## **Transliterators**

Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, attorney for the Special Education Unit, said the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) recommended revision of these standards to reflect changes in licensure requirements for interpreters of the hearing impaired. She said Arkansas Code Annotated § 20-14-801 et seq. (Act 1314 of 2013), created new licensure requirements for individuals interpreting for individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or oral deaf, individuals with disabilities who use special techniques in order to communicate, and individuals whose primary language is sign language. The Arkansas Department of Health promulgated rules to govern implementation of the new licensure requirements. These rules do not establish minimum qualification for interpreters in the K-12 school setting and defer to the ADE Standards. Public agencies employing educational interpreters for the deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or oral deaf, must comply with the legal standards established by the ADE. She said the ADE-SEU formed a committee of stakeholders to revise the previous standards for educational interpreters and transliterators in Arkansas and determine the timelines for complying with the standards that better align with the new licensure requirements.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the proposed revision of the Arkansas Department of Education Standards for Educational Interpreters and Transliterators for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts**

Department Deputy General Counsel Mrs. Lori Freno said the Department proposed the following revisions to the current rules: revise regulatory authority in § 1.02 and date in 1.03; add § 9.04 regarding combining or embedding of curriculum; revise dates in §§ 11.01, 11.03, and 11.04.1 to make them consistent with current law; add § 11.04.3 to make it consistent with current law regarding enrollment of child who attended first grade in another state or country; revise § 9.03 to add a new § 9.03.4.4 to add one unit of Essentials of Computer Programming and revise subsequent numbering accordingly; revise § 14.02 to allow substitution of certain computer courses for Mathematics or Science courses (both Smart Core and Core); revise § 15.04 to mirror/incorporate ADE Rules Governing Professional Development; revise dates in §§ 23.03, 23.04.1, 23.04.3 to make them consistent with current law; revise §§ 26.01 and 26.02 to correct terminology, and to correct dates in § 26.02 to make them consistent with current law; add § 26.03 to establish hearing procedure for Standards appeals; revise numbering in current §§ 26.03 and 26.04, and correct terminology in current § 26.04; revise § 27.0 to permit waiver of a Standard of Accreditation for longer than one year for the purpose of combining or embedding curriculum, and to correct terminology. She said the proposed rules have gone through a public

comment period and no changes were made based upon the comments received.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said 38 units must be taught. She said some courses must be offered but are not required to be taught.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the computer science course would be a replacement course for a math course or a science course. She said this option provided students more choice. Dr. Jones said communication would be provided to counselors about information related to requirements from out-of-state colleges and universities. She said minor wording changes could be made to 9.03.4.4 by listing the "other options as approved by the Department," and that clarifying language or an asterisk could be used to denote that Computer Science is not being considered a natural science, but that one unit of Computer Science can substitute for a unit of natural science.

Representative Bill Gossage said school counselors were aware of the multiple entrance expectations for out-of-state colleges and universities.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts with the minor changes, pending Governor's Office approval and Legislative Council review. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements in Arkansas Public Schools**

Department Staff Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay said the Arkansas Department of Health recently updated its Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Immunization Requirements. She said revisions to ADE's rules governing immunizations are necessary to align ADH and ADE's immunization requirements. She said the State Board released these rules for public comment on February 12, 2015. A public hearing was held on March 2, 2015, and the public comment period expired on March 17, 2015. She said written comments were received during the public comment period and typographical revisions were made to the rules.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the ADE Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements in Arkansas Public Schools pending approval by the Governor's Office and Legislative Council review. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration for Emergency Adoption: Arkansas Department of Education**

## **Emergency Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015**

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said Act 560 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to the Public School Choice Act of 2013. He said Act 560 of 2015 contained an emergency clause and went into effect on March 20, 2015. Under the new law, school choice applications are due May 1. He said emergency rules are immediately necessary to implement the provisions of Act 560 of 2015.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Emergency Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Consideration for Public Comment: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015**

Department General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter said Act 560 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to the Public School Choice Act of 2013. He said Act 560 of 2015 contained an emergency clause and went into effect on March 20, 2015. Under the new law, school choice applications are due May 1.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015 for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education