

**Minutes
State Board of Education Special Meeting
Monday, December 1, 2014**

The State Board of Education met Monday, December 1, 2014, via conference call and in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Tony Wood, Commissioner

Present via conference call: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Dr. Jay Barth; Alice Mahony;

Absent: Mireya Reith; Joe Black

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration for Repeal of Emergency Rule: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Report Cards (Emergency Rule—Adopted 10-13-14)

Department Deputy General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said Act 696 of 2013 (codified in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-2105 and 6-15-2106) required that each public school receive a letter grade score of "A" through "F" effective with the 2014-2015 school year, and empowered the State Board of Education to approve through rules a method for assigning letter grades. She said on October 19, 2014, the Board approved for emergency adoption rules that mirrored the proposed permanent rules for assigning letter grades.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to repeal the emergency rules for the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Report Cards (Emergency Rule—Adopted 10-13-14). The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Consideration for Release for Second Public Comment Period: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Report Cards

Department Deputy General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said Act 696 of 2013 (codified in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-2105 and 6-15-2106) required that each public school receive a letter grade score of "A" through "F" effective with the 2014-2015 school year, and empowered the State Board of Education to approve

through rules a method for assigning letter grades. She said the Board approved a method developed by the University of Arkansas Office of Innovation for Education, in conjunction with the ADE and stakeholders. She said after the public comment period ended, the Board revised the proposed rules to exempt from receiving a letter grade Alternative Learning Environments (ALEs) that have their own LEA (Local Education Agency) number. The Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council subsequently referred the proposed rules (with this revision) to the Joint Education Committee, to which the ADE presented a possible alternative to the language exempting ALEs from receiving a letter grade.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Rating System on Annual School Report Cards for second public comment period. Ms. Mahony made a substitute motion to change the language in the proposed rules to remove "may opt" and replace with "shall" in 4.03 and remove the last sentence in 4.03. Dr. Barth seconded the substitute motion. Ms. Zook voted no. The final vote was 5-1. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Tony Wood, Commissioner of Education