

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, January 10, 2014**

The State Board of Education met Friday, January 10, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Chair Brenda Gullett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Brenda Gullett, Chair; Sam Ledbetter, Vice-Chairman; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Vicki Saviers; Toyce Newton; Diane Zook; Mireya Reith; Joe Black; Alexia Weimer, Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner

Mireya Reith joined the meeting by phone beginning at 9:00 a.m. but arrived to the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Absent: none

The State Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2014 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The reports will be presented Friday, February 14, 2014.

Ms. Gullett recognized Board member, Dr. Jay Barth. Dr. Barth received the Diane Blair Award from the Southern Political Science Association's annual meeting in New Orleans, LA.

Ms. Mahony recognized teachers, Jennifer Richardson and Christy Snow, as Presidential Award winners for Excellence in Math and Science.

Ms. Gullett recognized Senator Key, Senator Sanders, Representative Neal, Representative Mayberry and Representative Lowery.

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Mahony requested a correction to the Minutes for December 16, 2013, page 6. The statement, Ms. Zook and Ms. Mahony recognized the work and expertise of the Charter Authorizing Panel, was corrected to read, Ms. Zook and Ms. Saviers recognized the work and expertise of the Charter Authorizing Panel.

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - December 16, 2013
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement:

- Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- 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
  - Interim Report Fiscal Year 2013-14 Summary of Activities for the Standards Assurance Unit (SAU)
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-145A – Lisa Autumn Lawrence
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-145B – Cheyenne Erin Lott
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-150 – Douglas Brian Martin
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-180 – Timothy Daniel Gentry
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #T13-008 – Don Amos Turnipseed
  - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #T13-013 – Randi Renee Perkins

### **Action Agenda**

#### **Annual Report for Academics Plus Charter School**

Director of Charter Schools Mary Perry said on April 9, 2012, the State Board of Education approved a three-year renewal of the Academics Plus Charter. During the renewal process, an annual review was requested and the charter submitted its second annual report to the Arkansas Department of Education September 2013. The annual report included demographic data and progress toward meeting the academic goals approved during renewal. During the December 16, 2013 meeting, the Board pulled the report from the consent agenda and requested a follow-up discussion at the next Board meeting.

Rob McGill, representing Academics Plus Charter School, spoke on behalf of the school. He said the school has been recognized as a rewards school.

Sam Jones, attorney for PCSSD, said the mission, vision, and goals of the Academics Plus Charter School, as measured by 2012 data compared to 2013 data, showed decline.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to accept the Academics Plus Charter School annual report. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Annual Report for Arkansas Virtual Academy**

Director of Charter Schools Mary Perry said on April 9, 2012, the State Board of Education approved a three-year renewal of the Arkansas Virtual Academy charter. During the renewal process, an annual review was requested and the charter submitted its second annual report to the Arkansas Department of Education September 2013. The annual report included demographic data and progress toward meeting the academic goals approved during renewal. During the December 16, 2013 meeting, the Board pulled the report from the consent agenda and requested a follow-up discussion at the next Board meeting.

John Riggs, Board member of Arkansas Virtual Academy (ARVA), said ARVA is not a traditional school. Parents are learning coaches and are involved in the school every day. Scott Sides, director of ARVA, clarified that every child has an individual learning plan.

Mr. Ledbetter requested Mr. Sides present a report during the ARVA renewal before the Charter Authorizing Panel. The report should focus on ESL certification, support for students and the role of learning coaches.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, to accept the Arkansas Virtual Academy annual report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Annual Report for Benton County School of the Arts**

Director of Charter Schools Mary Perry said on April 9, 2012, the State Board of Education approved a three-year renewal of the Benton County School of the Arts charter. During the renewal process an annual review was requested and the charter submitted its second annual report to the Arkansas Department of Education September 2013. The annual report included demographic data and progress toward meeting the academic goals approved during renewal. During the December 16, 2013 meeting, the Board pulled the report from the consent agenda and requested a follow-up discussion at the next Board meeting.

Paul Hines, Superintendent of Benton County School of the Arts, said the charter commissioned a U of A study of perceptions of the school. The school determined they needed to do a better job of communication. They hired a marketing firm to craft a marketing plan. The school is attempting to reach a more diverse population. Mr. Hines reported the school is showing gains in attracting a more diverse student body. The school is a 2013 reward school and is accredited by AdvancEd.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Benton County School of the Arts annual report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Quest**

## **Middle School of West Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas**

Director of Charter Schools Mary Perry said on November 13-14, 2013, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for open-enrollment charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2014-2015. Representatives of Quest Middle School of West Little Rock appeared before the panel November 14 and requested that Responsive Education Solutions, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter in Little Rock to serve students in grades 6-12 with a maximum enrollment of 490. By unanimous vote, the panel approved the application for Quest Middle School of West Little Rock. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-701 et seq., the Little Rock School District requested the State Board of Education conduct a hearing to review the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. At the State Board of Education meeting on December 16, 2013, the Board voted to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision.

Chris Baumann, general counsel for Responsive Education Solution, explained the free and reduced percentage calculation used in the budget. James Taylor, CFO for Responsive Education Solution, said the budget would be adjusted to match the actual enrollment. Budgets are reviewed monthly. Gary Newton, Executive Director of Arkansas for Education Reform, gave a data comparison of surrounding schools and the history of the Quest Middle School of West Little Rock charter application. Rachelle Bloser and Pablo Valarezo, parents, spoke in support of the potential impact of the Quest Middle School of West Little Rock charter application.

Chris Heller, general counsel for LRSD, spoke in opposition to the Quest Middle School application. He noted the charter school would be located in PCSSD. He provided data to dispute the projections for free and reduced lunch calculations.

Sam Jones, attorney for PCSSD, questioned the charter's plan to achieve diversity of student population, the parent meeting location, and the innovation qualifications.

Chris Baumann, general counsel for Responsive Education Solution, responded to issues raised by the attorneys for LRSD and PCSSD. Charles Cook, CEO of Responsive Education Solutions, assured the Board that the charter would collaborate with LRSD and PCSSD. He also said the curriculum will promote innovation in learning.

Dr. Jerry Guess, Superintendent of PCSSD, responded to questions from the Board regarding plans for the area.

Ms. Saviers called for immediate consideration. The Chair called for an individual vote:

Ms. Zook –yes

Ms. Saviers - yes

Ms. Reith - yes  
Ms. Newton - yes  
Ms. Mahony – no  
Mr. Black - yes  
Dr. Barth – no  
Mr. Ledbetter – no  
Ms. Gullett – no  
The total vote was 5-4. Discussion continued.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to confirm the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision to approve the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application for Quest Middle School of West Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas. The Chair called for an individual vote and explanation as per charter guidelines:

Ms. Zook –yes  
Ms. Saviers - yes  
Ms. Reith - yes  
Ms. Newton - yes  
Ms. Mahony – yes  
Mr. Black - yes  
Dr. Barth – no  
Mr. Ledbetter – no  
The total vote was 6-2, to approve. The motion carried.

### **Hearing of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School**

Director of Charter Schools, Mary Perry, said on November 13-14, 2013, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for open-enrollment charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2014-2015. On November 14, a representative of the Redfield Tri-County Charter School appeared before the panel and requested that Redfield Tri-County Charter School, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter in Redfield to serve students in grades 5-12 with a maximum enrollment of 375. By unanimous vote, the panel denied the application for Redfield Tri-County Charter School. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-701 et seq., the applicant requested the State Board of Education conduct a hearing to review the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. At the State Board of Education meeting on December 16, 2013, the Board voted to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision.

Amanda Kight, speaking on behalf of the Redfield Board of Directors, gave an overview of the goals of the Redfield Tri-County Charter School application. Elizabeth Ann Rowan spoke about curriculum development plans for Redfield Tri-County Charter School. Representative Andy Mayberry spoke on behalf of the Redfield Tri-County Charter School application. He said this charter would provide opportunities for minority and under privileged students.

Paul Byrd asked the Board to visit the area before considering the application. Ken Shollmier said future employment is coming to Redfield and the community needs a school.

Ms. Mahony moved to give two months to the Redfield Charter. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to uphold the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision to deny the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application for Redfield Tri-County Charter School. The Chair called for an individual vote and explanation as per charter guidelines:

Dr. Barth – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Mr. Ledbetter – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Mr. Black – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Ms. Mahony – no

Ms. Newton – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Ms. Reith – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting; said two months would rush the process.

Ms. Saviers – yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting.

Ms. Zook - yes, expressed concerns reflective of questions raised during Charter Authorizing Panel meeting; said the charter would need a curriculum and speed to get the work accomplished.

Seven members voted yes and Ms. Mahony voted no to the motion. The motion carried.

The Board considered A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, and A-10 together.

#### **A-6 Consider Recommendation for New Praxis Agriculture Sciences and Technology Test**

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its Praxis™ Agriculture (0700) test, which the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted as the state's Agriculture Sciences and Technology content test beginning January 1, 2002. The new test is Praxis™ Agriculture (5701). To support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis™ Agriculture (5701) test, research staff from ETS designed and conducted a multistate standard-setting study during September 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. Twenty-eight panelists (including two from Arkansas) from 18 states were recommended by their respective education agencies. The

education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as either agriculture teachers or college faculty who prepare agriculture teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning agriculture teachers. ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis™ Agriculture (5701) test, the recommended passing score is 147 on a 100–200 scale. The two-hour assessment contains 120 selected response items covering seven content areas: Agribusiness Systems (approximately 14 items), Animal Systems (approximately 20 items), Food Science and Biotechnology Systems (approximately 14 items), Environmental and Natural Resource Systems (approximately 16 items), Plant Systems (approximately 20 items), Power, Structural, and Technical Systems (approximately 18 items), and Leadership and Career Development (approximately 18 items). The reporting scale for the Praxis Agriculture test ranges from 100 to 200 scaled-score points. Public School Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Effectiveness Michael Rowland recommended adopting the Praxis™ Agriculture (5701), replacing the Praxis™ Agriculture (0700), with a cut score of 147 effective September 1, 2014.

#### **A-7 Consider Recommendation of New Praxis Family and Consumer Science Test**

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its Praxis™ Family and Consumer Sciences (0121/5121) test, which the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted as the state's FCS content test beginning September 1, 2008. The new test will be Praxis™ Family and Consumer Sciences (5122). To support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis™ Family and Consumer Sciences (5122) test, research staff from ETS designed and conducted a multistate standard-setting study during September 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. Thirty-two panelists (including two from Arkansas) from 20 states were recommended by their respective education agencies. The education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as either Family and Consumer Sciences teachers or college faculty who prepare Family and Consumer Sciences teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning Family and Consumer Sciences teachers. ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis Family and Consumer Sciences test, the recommended passing score is 153 on a 100–200 scale. The two-hour assessment contains 120 selected-response items covering six content areas: Food and Nutrition (approximately 26 items), Housing and Interior Design (approximately 14 items), Textiles, Fashion, and Apparel (approximately 14 items), Human Development and Interpersonal Relationships (approximately 24 items), Foundations of Family and Consumer Sciences Education (approximately 20 items), and Resource Management (approximately 22 items). Public School Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Effectiveness Michael Rowland

recommended adopting the Praxis™ Family and Consumer Sciences (5122), replacing the Praxis™ Family and Consumer Sciences (0121/5121), with a cut score of 153 effective September 1, 2015.

#### **A-8 Consider Recommendation of New Praxis Gifted and Talented Test**

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its Praxis™ Gifted Education (0357) test, which the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted as the state's Gifted and Talented content test beginning September 1, 2007. The new test is Praxis™ Gifted Education (5358). To support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis™ Gifted Education (5358) test, research staff from ETS designed and conducted a multistate standard-setting study during November 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. Eighteen panelists (including three from Arkansas) from seven states were recommended by their respective education agencies. The education agencies recommended panelists with (a) experience as either gifted education teachers or college faculty who prepare gifted education teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning gifted education teachers. ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis™ Gifted Education (5358) test, the recommended passing score is 157 on a 100–200 scale. The two-hour assessment contains 120 selected response items covering five content areas: Development and Characteristics of Gifted Students (approximately 25 items), Learning Environment for Gifted Students (approximately 23 items), Instruction of Gifted Students (approximately 33 items), Identification and Assessment of Gifted Students (approximately 22 items), and Professionalism (approximately 17 items). Public School Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Effectiveness Michael Rowland recommended adopting the Praxis™ Gifted Education (5358), replacing the Praxis™ Gifted Education (0357), with a cut score of 157 effective September 1, 2014.

#### **A-9 Consider Recommendation of New Praxis Physical Education and Health Test**

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (0856/5856) test, which the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted as the state's Physical Education and Health content test beginning January 1, 2002. The new test will be Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (5857). To support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (5857) test, research staff from ETS designed and conducted a multistate standard-setting study during November 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. Seventeen panelists (including two from Arkansas) from 11 states were recommended by their respective education agencies. The education agencies recommended panelists



with (a) experience as either Health and Physical Education teachers or college faculty who prepare Health and Physical education teachers and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning Health and Physical Education teachers. ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (5857) test, the recommended passing score is 160 on a 100–200 scale. The two-hour-and-ten-minute test contains 130 selected-response items covering five content areas: Health Education as a Discipline/Health Instruction (approximately 26 items), Health Education Content (approximately 32 items), Content Knowledge and Student Growth and Development (approximately 22 items), Management, Motivation, and Communication/Collaboration, Reflection, and Technology (approximately 29 items), and Planning, Instruction, and Student Assessment (approximately 21 items). Public School Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Effectiveness Michael Rowland recommended adopting the Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (5857), replacing the Praxis™ Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge (0856/5856), with a cut score of 160 effective September 1, 2014.

#### **A-10 Consider Recommendation of New Praxis School Psychology Specialist Test**

Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated its Praxis™ School Psychologist (0401) test, which the Arkansas State Board of Education adopted as the state's School Psychology Specialist content test beginning July 1, 2002. The new test is Praxis™ School Psychology (5402). To support the decision-making process of education agencies establishing a passing score (cut score) for the Praxis™ School Psychology (5402) test, research staff from ETS designed and conducted a multistate standard-setting study during November 2013 in Princeton, New Jersey. The National Association of School Psychologists recommended panelists with (a) experience as either school psychologists or college faculty who prepare school psychologists and (b) familiarity with the knowledge and skills required of beginning school psychologists. ETS provides a recommended passing score from the multistate standard-setting study to help education agencies determine an appropriate operational passing score. For the Praxis™ School Psychology (5402) test, the recommended passing score is 147 on a 100–200 scale. The 2-hours-and-20-minute test contains 140 selected-response items covering four content areas: Professional Practices, Practices that Permeate All Aspects of Service and Delivery (approximately 42 items), Direct and Indirect Services for Children, Families, and Schools (Student-Level Services) (approximately 32 items), Systems-Level Services (approximately 22 items), and Foundations of School Psychological Service Delivery (approximately 44 items). Public School Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Effectiveness Michael Rowland recommended adopting the Praxis™ School Psychology (5402), replacing the Praxis™ School Psychology (0401), with a cut

score of 147 effective September 1, 2014.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to approve the new Praxis Agriculture Sciences and Technology test, the new Praxis Family and Consumer Science test, new Praxis Gifted and Talented test, new Praxis Physical Education and Health test, and the Praxis School Psychology Specialist test as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators**

The Department recommended changes to the Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators adopted by the Professional Licensure Standards Board to revise the wording of Standard 2 and its accompanying guideline, revise Standard 6 and create a new Standard 7 out of the former Standard 6 and revise the wording of the accompanying guidelines, renumber and revise the wording and accompanying guideline of Standard 8, implement a technical change made in Act 454 of the 2013 Regular Session, and implement new provisions in the Code of Ethics under Act 1323. After the State Board released the rules for public comment on October 14, 2013, the Department made additional changes to the rules. The Department requested the State Board authorize the release of the proposed rules for a second public comment.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed New Policies Governing Programs for Educator Licensure Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas**

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Cheryl Reinhart and Teacher Educator Program Advisor for the Office of Educator Licensure Dr. Mike Lucas said the Department recommended the promulgation of this new rule to replace outdated policies for Department approval of teacher education programs. The Department requested the State Board authorize the release of the proposed rule for public comment.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the proposed New Policies Governing Programs for Educator Licensure Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Nontraditional Licensure Programs**

The Department recommended changes to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Nontraditional Licensure Programs to implement Acts 413 and 454 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly and to update other provisions. The State Board released the proposed rules for public comment on August 12, 2013. Department staff received public comments on the proposed rules and after careful consideration of the public comments and State Board member concerns, made revisions to the proposed rules. The Department requested the State Board authorize the release of the proposed rules for a second public comment period.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the proposed Rules Governing Nontraditional Licensure Programs for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Professional Development**

The Department recommended changes to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Professional Development to implement changes made to the Arkansas Code regarding professional development under Act 2 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013. The Department requested the State Board authorize the release of the proposed rules for public comment.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the proposed Rules Governing Professional Development for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing the Master Principal Program**

The Department recommended changes to the Rules Governing the Master Principal Program to implement the changes to the Arkansas Code under Act 459 of the 2013 Regular Session and to update the rules. The Department requested the State Board authorize the release of the proposed rules for public comment.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the proposed Rules Governing the Master Principal Program for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for Final Approval: Rules Governing Ethical Guidelines and Prohibitions for Educational Administrators, Employees, Board Members, and Other Parties**

Act 608 of 2013 amended Ark. Code Ann. § 6-24-101 et seq. relating to ethical prohibitions for administrators, board members, and employees. Revisions to these rules include the necessary changes based on Act 608 of 2013. The State Board approved these revisions for public comment on September 9, 2013. Public comments were received and additional revisions were made to the rules. The State Board released these rules for a second public comment period on November 4, 2013. One comment was received and an additional revision was made. The Department requested the State Board give final approval to these rules.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Rules Governing Ethical Guidelines and Prohibitions for Educational Administrators, Employees, Board Members, and Other Parties. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Final Approval: Proposed Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System**

The Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS) implement an administrator evaluation system for school districts to evaluate administrators. The rules were approved for public comment on November 4, 2013. A public hearing was held on November 7, 2013, and the public comment period ended on December 9, 2013. As a result of public comments, some technical changes were made. The Department recommended the State Board of Education approve the rules as final.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Final Approval: Teacher Evaluation (repeal)**

The State Board of Education released for public comment the repeal of the Teacher Evaluation rules at the October 14, 2013, meeting. A public hearing was held and the public comment period expired with no public comment. The Department requested the Board adopt as final the repeal of these rules.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to repeal the Rules for Teacher Evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License: Lauren Brooke Buckner**

The Department recommended revocation of the standard teaching license of Lauren Brooke Buckner. On August 1, 2013, Ms. Buckner was convicted of a disqualifying offense under Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-410(c). The State Board shall not issue a first-time license nor renew an existing license and shall revoke any existing license not up for renewal of a person who has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of a disqualifying offense listed in Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-410(c). On November 13, 2013, the Department notified Ms. Buckner that the offense disqualifies her from holding an Arkansas teaching license and advised her of the opportunity for a hearing to request a waiver from the State Board. Ms. Buckner signed for the certified letter but has not requested a waiver or responded within the time period required.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to revoke the teaching license of Lauren Brooke Buckner. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Hearing on Waiver Request for Teaching License – Eneldia Berlanga-Thames**

Eneldia Berlanga-Thames holds a standard teaching license. The Department notified Ms. Berlanga-Thames that a background check conducted for the purpose of her license renewal revealed a disqualifying offense under Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-410(c). Ms. Berlanga-Thames requested a hearing before the State Board to seek a waiver of the offense. Greg Alagood represented Ms. Berlanga-Thames.

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Cheryl Reinhart recommended a waiver.

Greg Alagood, counsel, asked the Board to not place the additional stipulations on the waiver.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to grant the waiver request for teaching license with no additional stipulations to Eneldia Berlanga-Thames. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Hearing on Waiver Request for Teaching License – Melvin T. Ewart**

Melvin T. Ewart holds a lifetime teaching license. The Department notified Mr. Ewart that a background check conducted for the purpose of his employment at an Arkansas school district revealed a disqualifying offense under Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-410(c). Mr. Ewart requested a hearing before the State Board to seek a waiver of the offense. Mr. Ewart represented himself.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to delay action until next month regarding the Hearing on Waiver Request for Teaching License for Melvin T. Ewart. The motion carried unanimously.

### Reports

#### Public Comment: Hunter Ray

Mr. Hunter Ray spoke in opposition to the PARCC assessments.

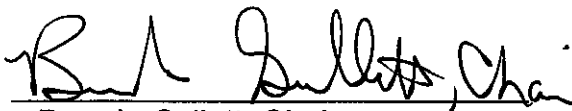
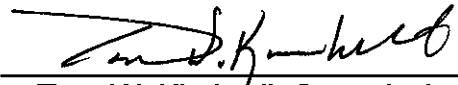
#### Public Comment: Kevin Bauer

Kevin Bauer requested a hearing before the Board to review his probation of teaching license. The Board recommended Mr. Bauer work with Ms. Reinhart to place the item on the February Board agenda.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*

   
Brenda Gullett, Chair Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner