

**In The Matter Of:**  
*ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*

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*May 12, 2022*

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*Sharon K. Hill, CCR*  
*(501) 680-0888*

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ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MAY 12, 2022  
10:00 a.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD MEMBERS:

MS. OUIDA NEWTON, Chairman  
DR. SARAH MOORE, Vice Chairman  
DR. FITZGERALD HILL  
MS. KATHY McFETRIDGE  
MS. ADRIENNE WOODS  
MR. STEVE SUTTON  
DR. BETH ANNE RANKIN  
MR. RANDY HENDERSON

NON-VOTING PARTICIPANTS:

MR. JOHNNY KEY, Secretary of Education  
MS. SUSANNA POST, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

DESE LEGAL COUNSEL:

MS. LORI FRENO, General Counsel  
MS. WHITNEY JAMES, Attorney

LOCATION:

ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
- Auditorium  
#4 Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

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1 PROCEEDINGS  
2 CHANGES TO AGENDA  
3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: We do have some changes to the  
4 agenda this morning. We're going to need to add --  
5 Hackett is going to be asking for a 1240 waiver, and  
6 we'll need to take a vote to add that to the agenda.  
7 And I would like to place it after the charter item  
8 right before we break for lunch, if that's okay with  
9 everyone. But we will need a motion and a vote for  
10 that.  
11 DR. MOORE: I'll --  
12 MR. SUTTON: Motion to amend the agenda.  
13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Mr.  
14 Sutton.  
15 DR. MOORE: I'll second that.  
16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Dr. Moore.  
17 All in favor?  
18 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
20 Okay. And I do need to say that we have three  
21 board members joining us by Zoom this morning, so we  
22 do have more than what it looks like we do have this  
23 morning. So there are three that are Zooming in with  
24 us this morning, so we appreciate them being here.  
25 We have one more item that we need to vote on

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1 before we begin. We do have some people here for  
2 public comment this afternoon, and so we need to vote  
3 to allow public comment, if it's the Board's  
4 pleasure?  
5 DR. MOORE: I'll move to allow public comment.  
6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Dr. Moore.  
7 MR. HENDERSON: Second.  
8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Mr. Henderson.  
9 All in favor?  
10 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
12 Okay. Motion passes.  
13 (OFF THE RECORD FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA)  
14 (BACK ON THE RECORD)  
15 A-1: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (ABC) FY23 -  
16 AGENCY GRANT AWARDS  
17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: So we're moving on to the  
18 action agenda. The first thing on our action agenda  
19 is Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance Agency  
20 Grant Awards. Dr. Pride and Ms. Bridges.  
21 MS. BRIDGES: Good morning.  
22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Good morning.  
23 MS. BRIDGES: I'm Lori Bridges, the Director of  
24 Early Childhood Programs. And pursuant to the  
25 authority granted to the State Board of Education,

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1 the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education,  
 2 Arkansas Better Chance respectfully requests approval  
 3 for the Arkansas Better Chance Program Renewal Grants  
 4 for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of  
 5 \$105,431,010.  
 6 The requested funds for the ABC renewal grant  
 7 will provide early childhood services for children  
 8 birth to 5 through 231 agencies that oversee 533  
 9 sites, serving 23,527 children in both center-based  
 10 and home visiting settings. These programs employ  
 11 3,535 early childhood teachers, paraprofessionals,  
 12 and coordinators across the state of Arkansas.  
 13 ABC is also requesting to support foster  
 14 children, as well as homeless and displaced children  
 15 as the need arises. ABC would provide waivers in  
 16 order for identified children to receive immediate  
 17 services. The placement of a displaced child in an  
 18 ABC program would add an additional child to that  
 19 total awarded number of slots for that program.  
 20 A request for the Board to approve the Arkansas  
 21 Better Chance program renewal grant for the 2022-2023  
 22 in the amount of \$105,431,010.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We'll see if we have  
 24 any questions. We'll go online first.  
 25 Ms. McFetridge, do you have any questions?

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1 MS. McFETRIDGE: No. Thank you.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Dr. Rankin?  
 3 DR. RANKIN: No questions.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. Woods?  
 5 MS. WOODS: No, ma'am.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. On my left here?  
 7 Dr. Moore.  
 8 DR. MOORE: Good morning. I should know this  
 9 and I'm sure some of these questions I might've asked  
 10 before. But are these looking just specifically at  
 11 pre-K/4 students or is it 3 or 4 -- pre-K/3, 2, or  
 12 even younger?  
 13 MS. BRIDGES: Yes, it's even younger. Our ABC  
 14 program provides services to birth to 5.  
 15 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 16 MS. BRIDGES: So we do have infants and  
 17 toddlers. Now we provide about 10% of the total  
 18 awarded slots to infants and toddlers.  
 19 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 20 MS. BRIDGES: So 90% of that award does go to 3-  
 21 and 4-year old programs.  
 22 DR. MOORE: I know when we look at these  
 23 programs a lot of them have been around for a long  
 24 time. But I know there are some parts of the state  
 25 where programs have closed or where they just haven't

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1 been accessed. Is that something that y'all are  
 2 actively working to recruit new centers or new  
 3 districts where there is gaps in services? And are  
 4 there any new ones this year? How does that work?  
 5 MS. BRIDGES: Yes. Well, our appropriation --  
 6 you know, we've got a set amount appropriation, so we  
 7 allot \$112,000,000 to serve children in our funding.  
 8 When we have programs that choose to not participate,  
 9 whether it's area -- needs changing in their areas,  
 10 we reallocate those slots to other programs but have  
 11 wait-lists for qualifying ABC families.  
 12 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 13 MS. BRIDGES: So we try to, you know, disperse  
 14 those where the need is. Now we do have wait-lists  
 15 across the state, and as we review census data and  
 16 enrollment data across the state in our programs we  
 17 do look to see where we could reallocate to areas  
 18 that are in need. But we do have processes for that.  
 19 Now as far as new -- adding new agencies, there is,  
 20 you know, a process, a competitive process for that  
 21 --  
 22 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 23 MS. BRIDGES: -- as well. So we do have  
 24 programs reaching out to us, you know, looking into  
 25 if there are available funding for their -- to add to

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1 their ABC program.  
 2 DR. MOORE: When you're giving out the funding  
 3 is it a flat amount per student?  
 4 MS. BRIDGES: It is a flat amount per student.  
 5 Now the amount differs if it's a center-based or home  
 6 visiting.  
 7 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 8 MS. BRIDGES: So there is a little difference in  
 9 that award amount. But it is flat funding.  
 10 DR. MOORE: That makes sense. Thank you.  
 11 MS. BRIDGES: You're welcome.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Any questions over here  
 13 on my right?  
 14 Ms. Post.  
 15 MS. POST: I just wondered if you could  
 16 elaborate. I noticed in Fort Smith, which is my  
 17 home, that there's the center-based but there's also  
 18 the home visiting. So what does that look like?  
 19 MS. BRIDGES: That's the program model. So we  
 20 have two program models, center-based which includes  
 21 any school program, center-based where it's an  
 22 educational setting; but it also includes our family  
 23 care homes. So that is a program model. And then we  
 24 have home visiting which is our HIPPI and our PAT  
 25 programs where we have home visiting educators that

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1 reach out to families, stay-at-home mothers,  
 2 grandparents that care for their children, and  
 3 provide curriculum resources and weekly visits to  
 4 help them provide resources to become, you know,  
 5 kindergarten -- the kindergarten readiness curriculum  
 6 to provide. So it's an outreach program to support  
 7 the home visiting, the in-home -- not center-based,  
 8 but the home visiting program.  
 9 Does that answer your question?  
 10 MS. POST: Yes. And not to go down too far of a  
 11 rabbit trail, but I was just on a Zoom with the PBS  
 12 group yesterday talking about Rise and Shine plans  
 13 for this summer. So it might be a collaboration  
 14 possibility, because I know they're working on  
 15 curriculum and packets --  
 16 MS. BRIDGES: Yes.  
 17 MS. POST: -- to send out. And I think every  
 18 county in Arkansas is onboard now.  
 19 MS. BRIDGES: Well, that is definitely something  
 20 we can push out to our program staff and share with  
 21 the families as well.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. I had a question, and  
 23 things that we've been doing here lately has made my  
 24 mind go this direction. What data does the ABC  
 25 collect at maybe the sites or even as a whole to

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1 determine the effectiveness of what we're doing with  
 2 the \$105,000,000?  
 3 MS. BRIDGES: Okay. Yes. Great question.  
 4 Well, we do environment rating scores, so we look at  
 5 programs for quality. We've got quality standards  
 6 that we expect all of our programs to, you know,  
 7 implement. And then we also do child assessment  
 8 data.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 10 MS. BRIDGES: We use what is -- it's called a  
 11 work sampling data system where it provides  
 12 performance-based assessments three times a year on  
 13 the children targeted from those early childhood  
 14 standards that are required in our programs. And so  
 15 we collect that data to show child progress  
 16 throughout the year. We assess three times a year --  
 17 fall -- you know, beginning, middle and end of the  
 18 year. So we provide that data to show positive  
 19 outcomes. And we do a longitudinal study which is on  
 20 our website that shows the data from year to year on  
 21 the positive outcomes that our programs are providing  
 22 children and families.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Is anyone at the State  
 24 collecting that interim data that you're talking  
 25 about that's collected three times a year and looking

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1 at it as a state, do you know?  
 2 MS. BRIDGES: Well, we do share that data with  
 3 our Early Childhood Commissions and, you know, a  
 4 taskforce. And we look -- use that data to determine  
 5 programming models, if we need to, you know, work  
 6 with professional development. Because the next part  
 7 of this action item is our professional development  
 8 or technical assistant grant where we use that data  
 9 to -- you know, are there areas where we need to  
 10 provide more support on, you know, quality standards  
 11 and those programs that may not be producing the  
 12 outcomes that we need to see.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. It just  
 14 seems like there might be an opportunity, if there's  
 15 some things that's being done that we might be able  
 16 to use that in some way, to think about what -- you  
 17 know, as they transition from pre-K into kindergarten  
 18 there might be an opportunity there.  
 19 Okay. Thank you.  
 20 MS. McFETRIDGE: Ms. Newton, can I ask a  
 21 question?  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Sure. I'm sorry.  
 23 MS. McFETRIDGE: No. How are you doing with  
 24 teacher shortages, staff shortages? Can you maybe  
 25 talk about that a little bit?

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1 MS. BRIDGES: Okay. Yes. You know, part of the  
 2 quality standards for the Arkansas Better Chance is  
 3 to put, you know, qualified credentialed teachers in  
 4 those classrooms. We do provide staff qualification  
 5 plans. So if they have a K-6 licensure but are  
 6 wanting to teach in a pre-K program, we have avenues  
 7 to help them get the added credential for 3 and 4  
 8 year olds. And so we -- over the last two years we  
 9 have seen an increase in, you know, teachers  
 10 requiring a staff qualification plan to get their  
 11 required credentials.  
 12 As far as the staff shortage, we have worked  
 13 with Licensure and Teacher Effectiveness on providing  
 14 an alternate plan to support teachers that are  
 15 interested in the early childhood field to give them  
 16 an alternate pathway to receive those credentials.  
 17 And -- but we are seeing an increase in qualified  
 18 staff, you know, seeking those extra credentials.  
 19 MS. McFETRIDGE: Okay. Thank you for that.  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Mr. Henderson.  
 21 MR. HENDERSON: In looking at the proposed  
 22 slots, in regards to standardization, when you look  
 23 at Arkansas River obviously their numbers are so much  
 24 more significant. What is the driving factor of  
 25 that?

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1 MS. BRIDGES: Need. You know, when we have  
 2 programs that, you know, show a need in their area  
 3 for additional slots, they've got an area where maybe  
 4 there is a high number of families meeting the  
 5 qualifications for the ABC programs -- and it's a  
 6 higher income level than maybe your federal  
 7 programming, pre-K program, or your HeadStart  
 8 programming. ABC is the 200% below national poverty  
 9 level, which that gets into, you know, working  
 10 families that are trying to -- you know, trying to  
 11 provide a means of providing for their family without  
 12 the high cost of, you know, child care. So it's  
 13 just, you know, a needs assessment that we do surveys  
 14 in those areas.  
 15 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any other questions from board  
 17 members?  
 18 Okay. I think we're ready for a motion.  
 19 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make the motion that we  
 20 approve the ABC program grants.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Ms.  
 22 McFetridge.  
 23 MR. HENDERSON: Second.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Mr. Henderson.  
 25 All in favor?

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1 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 3 Okay. Motion passes.  
 4 MS. BRIDGES: Thank you.  
 5 A-2: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE (ABC) FY23 -  
 6 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE GRANTS  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. And you're here also  
 8 for the Professional Service Grants.  
 9 MS. BRIDGES: Yes. ABC Professional Service  
 10 Grants support 3,535 ABC early childhood teachers  
 11 across the state -- they are paraprofessionals,  
 12 coordinators, and school administrators -- with  
 13 training, coaching, technical assistance and services  
 14 in order to provide the high quality early learning  
 15 environments for our children. ABC early childhood  
 16 staff are required to complete 30 hours annually --  
 17 that's both the teacher and the paraprofessionals in  
 18 those classrooms -- in the area of trauma informed  
 19 care, child growth and development, social-emotional  
 20 learning, mental health, health and wellness,  
 21 emergent literacy, learning experiences in the area  
 22 of math and science, and serving children with  
 23 special needs. Family engagement is a top priority,  
 24 as well as the Arkansas Child Development and Early  
 25 Learning standards that we use to support continuous

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1 quality improvement in our programs.  
 2 So, a request for the Board to approve the  
 3 Arkansas Better Chance Professional Service Grants  
 4 for the program year 22-23 in the total amount of  
 5 \$6,514,219.10.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Let's see if we have  
 7 any questions.  
 8 Ms. Woods?  
 9 MS. WOODS: No, ma'am.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Dr. Rankin?  
 11 DR. RANKIN: No questions.  
 12 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Ms. McFetridge?  
 13 MS. McFETRIDGE: No questions. Thank you.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Anyone over here on my right?  
 15 Over here?  
 16 Dr. Moore.  
 17 DR. MOORE: I do want to ask if there -- I  
 18 believe these sound all familiar, but are there any  
 19 changes this year that have occurred?  
 20 MS. BRIDGES: No changes. Well, no, we have the  
 21 same amount of professional service grants this year  
 22 as we did last year.  
 23 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I had one question. I know  
 25 that you discussed that you had standards. Does that

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1 make its way down into curriculum, that the programs  
 2 have a standardized curriculum? Or do each one kind  
 3 of do their own thing?  
 4 MS. BRIDGES: At this point Arkansas Better  
 5 Chance provides an approved list of curriculum; it's  
 6 a comprehensive curriculum. So it is a requirement  
 7 that each program implement an approved comprehensive  
 8 curriculum.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 10 MS. BRIDGES: But at the Division we have the  
 11 pre-K RISE initiative that we are supporting to help  
 12 with that, you know, kindergarten readiness for those  
 13 --  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Sure.  
 15 MS. BRIDGES: -- foundational literacy skills  
 16 that we can provide children in the pre-K setting.  
 17 So we're working to align those --  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah.  
 19 MS. BRIDGES: -- with our kindergarten  
 20 transition plans.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: That's the word I like to  
 22 hear. All right. Good job.  
 23 All right. Any other questions?  
 24 Okay. I think we're ready for a motion.  
 25 (A MOMENT OF SILENCE)

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Don't everyone speak at once.  
 2 MR. SUTTON: Motion to approve.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. A motion by Mr. Sutton.  
 4 MR. HILL: Second.  
 5 MS. WOODS: I'll second.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Dr. Hill. I heard  
 7 Dr. Hill first, so we'll go with that.  
 8 All in favor?  
 9 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 11 All right. Thank you so much for being here  
 12 this morning.  
 13 MS. BRIDGES: Thank you very much.  
 14 A-3: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS  
 15 a) FOUNDERS CLASSICAL ACADEMY CHARTER AMENDMENT  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. We're going to  
 17 look at Consideration of Charter School Amendments.  
 18 Dr. Sutherlin, good morning, welcome.  
 19 DR. SUTHERLIN: Good morning. So Matthew  
 20 Sutherlin, Standards and System Support/Charter.  
 21 We have Founders Classical Academy and they are  
 22 actually requesting to add a new virtual building;  
 23 statewide enrollment will be for that building. And  
 24 then also to increase the enrollment cap from 2,500  
 25 to 3,000 to accommodate those students.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 2 DR. SUTHERLIN: And I believe Ms. Provenza is on  
 3 the call.  
 4 MS. PROVENZA: Yes, I'm here.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I'm looking, so -- oh, I see  
 6 you now. Okay. All right. Welcome, glad you're  
 7 here. Do you have something you would like to share  
 8 this morning?  
 9 MS. PROVENZA: We are just grateful for the  
 10 opportunity that we had to present this to the  
 11 Charter Authorizing Panel. And we're looking forward  
 12 to the possibility of being able to serve more  
 13 students across the state of Arkansas.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Well, let's see if  
 15 any board members have questions.  
 16 Anyone online have a question?  
 17 No, okay.  
 18 On my left, anyone have a question?  
 19 On my right?  
 20 Okay. So I think we're ready for a motion and  
 21 this motion will be to either review or not review.  
 22 MR. HENDERSON: I'd like to make a motion not to  
 23 review.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Mr.  
 25 Henderson not to review.

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1 MS. WOODS: I second.  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Ms. Woods.  
 3 All in favor?  
 4 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 6 Okay. Motion passes.  
 7 Congratulations. Thank you for being here this  
 8 morning.  
 9 MS. PROVENZA: Thank you so much. Really  
 10 appreciate it.  
 11 b) PREMIER HIGH SCHOOLS OF ARKANSAS CHARTER AMENDMENT  
 12 DR. SUTHERLIN: The next item is actually  
 13 Premier High Schools of Arkansas's charter amendment.  
 14 And they are requesting to add a virtual building  
 15 with statewide enrollment and to increase the  
 16 enrollment cap from 625 to 875, and that would be to  
 17 accommodate the new students. And I believe Mr.  
 18 Felton and Mr. Shack are on the call.  
 19 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Welcome, Gentlemen.  
 20 I'm still looking for you.  
 21 Are they there?  
 22 MR. FELTON: Good morning. Yes, good morning.  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Oh, I see you now.  
 24 Okay. Good morning, welcome. Do you have something  
 25 that you would like to share?

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1 MR. FELTON: Well, I can just second Susan.  
 2 We're excited about the opportunity to reach more  
 3 students and continue to spread this model across the  
 4 state of Arkansas. So thanks for the support.  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Well, thank  
 6 you for being here. We'll see if we have any  
 7 questions from any board members.  
 8 Anyone on my right?  
 9 Over here on my left?  
 10 Anyone online have a question?  
 11 All right. So I think we're ready for a motion  
 12 to either review or not review.  
 13 DR. RANKIN: I make that motion not to review.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Dr. Rankin made a  
 15 motion not to review.  
 16 DR. HILL: Second.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Dr. Hill.  
 18 All in favor?  
 19 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 20 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 21 Okay. Motion passes.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 MR. FELTON: Thank you. Thank y'all.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. Thank you for  
 25 being here.

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1 A-4: 1240 WAIVER REQUEST BY HACKETT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 2 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: All right. We are now to our  
 3 Hackett 1240 waiver. I think I see Dr. Pfeffer  
 4 coming to present this one.  
 5 DR. PFEFFER: Yes. Good morning.  
 6 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Good morning.  
 7 DR. PFEFFER: And so the Hackett School District  
 8 -- you know, last month we reviewed the criteria  
 9 around Act 1240 waivers and we started really working  
 10 with school districts to help them understand when  
 11 they're coming to us with a waiver they need to make  
 12 -- we need to make sure that the criteria are in line  
 13 with what the 1240 waivers are for. And so when we  
 14 look at the criteria for enhancing student learning  
 15 opportunities, promoting innovation, and increasing  
 16 equitable access to effective teachers we looked at  
 17 what Hackett School District was asking to do -- and  
 18 they are working with UAFS, with their apprenticeship  
 19 model for educator preparation. You've had other  
 20 districts -- I think last month we had the Alma  
 21 School District come to us and ask for a similar  
 22 waiver.  
 23 And so we visited with the leadership at the  
 24 district and reviewed this application. And this is  
 25 one that we feel fits perfectly in line with what an

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1 Act 1240 waiver is needed for, and that is to allow  
 2 the mentor teacher the ability to work directly with  
 3 two teacher interns who will be in the classroom.  
 4 But that mentor teacher will be the teacher of  
 5 record, but she will have assigned to her I think a  
 6 little over 50 students which necessitates the need  
 7 for a waiver from the teaching load requirements.  
 8 The mentor teacher will be dedicated to training the  
 9 two apprentices, who will then complete their  
 10 education program and licensure requirements and will  
 11 hopefully become part of our teacher workforce very  
 12 soon.  
 13 So we feel comfortable with all of the supports  
 14 that the district has put into place, so we would  
 15 recommend approval for it. But the superintendent is  
 16 available if you all have any other questions or if  
 17 they would like to present anything.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. Who do we have online?  
 19 Do we have someone from Hackett on?  
 20 DR. PFEFFER: Yes. Mr. Ray looks like he's --  
 21 there we are now. There we go.  
 22 SUPT. RAY: We're having some problems. Can you  
 23 hear me?  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 25 SUPT. RAY: I have to turn my volume down when

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1 I'm talking. So do y'all have any questions for me?  
 2 I didn't have anything to present. I think Ivy did a  
 3 great job.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. We'll see  
 5 if we have some questions.  
 6 Anyone over here have questions?  
 7 DR. MOORE: Yes. This is to go into effect in  
 8 the next school year. Is that correct?  
 9 SUPT. RAY: Yes.  
 10 DR. MOORE: Have y'all already identified the  
 11 college students who will be participating?  
 12 SUPT. RAY: We have our mentor teacher here.  
 13 Dr. Riley might could answer. I don't know who the  
 14 students are.  
 15 DR. RILEY: I'm Dr. Monica Riley from the  
 16 University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.  
 17 We have a group of students who have met the  
 18 requirements to apply for this position. The school  
 19 district will be interviewing them and selecting who  
 20 is the best fit for their building, but it's about 12  
 21 students or so that have applied for the  
 22 apprenticeship. We also have this in Fort Smith and  
 23 now in Alma, so they're all interviewing for that  
 24 same.  
 25 DR. MOORE: Okay. So the district is selecting

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1 those individuals and you all --  
 2 DR. RILEY: The district will.  
 3 DR. MOORE: Do they have to be recommended by  
 4 you all in order to apply?  
 5 DR. RILEY: They do. They come to me and I vet  
 6 them and we insure that they have a sufficient GPA,  
 7 that they have no dispositional issues. They  
 8 interview with me. I then make a recommendation and  
 9 allow them to apply once they have interviewed with  
 10 me and they've been vetted by the University.  
 11 They'll also receive the same support as other  
 12 interns, so they'll have a University supervisor that  
 13 will visit them throughout the semester and supply  
 14 support as needed to both the mentor teacher and the  
 15 student.  
 16 DR. MOORE: Okay. Thank you.  
 17 DR. RILEY: Thank you.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Over here, questions?  
 19 What about online?  
 20 MS. McFETRIDGE: No questions.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. I had a couple of  
 22 questions.  
 23 What grade levels are you intending this to be  
 24 for?  
 25 SUPT. RAY: 5th grade.

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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: 5th grade. Okay.  
 2 And how long is this waiver for?  
 3 SUPT. RAY: Five years.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. So, Dr. Pfeffer, are we  
 5 comfortable with five years or are we -- because  
 6 we've been kind of thinking about three.  
 7 DR. PFEFFER: So the request is very narrow in  
 8 terms of the scope for the waiver because what it --  
 9 it's not waiving licensure.  
 10 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 11 DR. PFEFFER: Okay. It's waiving the -- well,  
 12 let me go back and ask. I shouldn't say that. I may  
 13 need, our Standards for Accreditation, the Standard  
 14 1-A.6. It's waiving the teaching load for the  
 15 teacher.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 17 DR. PFEFFER: Okay. So I do know it's waiving  
 18 the teaching load and then the compensation. So  
 19 right now if a teacher is teaching more students than  
 20 what the standards will allow, the law is very  
 21 prescriptive in the amount of money that the teacher  
 22 would be paid if they agree to take on additional  
 23 students. In this case, because the teacher is put  
 24 in a role where she's supervising others that are  
 25 going to actually be teaching the class but, you

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1 know, helping to develop the skills of the teacher,  
 2 this is changing the dynamics. So they needed a  
 3 waiver for that. The specific waiver -- Mr.  
 4 Sutherlin, if you would come -- because I think  
 5 that's important when we do these waivers; we need to  
 6 clearly articulate for you what is being asked to be  
 7 waived.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 9 DR. PFEFFER: So this --  
 10 DR. SUTHERLIN: So what we have is 1-A.5 is  
 11 Class Size for next year and 1-A.6 is actually  
 12 Teaching Load.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay.  
 14 DR. SUTHERLIN: So they can't have over 150  
 15 students.  
 16 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. And then the -- this is  
 17 a full year -- going to be a full year mentorship?  
 18 DR. PFEFFER: Yes, I believe that's right.  
 19 Dr. Riley is shaking her head yes.  
 20 So this will be for the entire school year. You  
 21 know, that's something you may want to discuss is  
 22 that if the district then wanted to continue to  
 23 implement the apprenticeship model, you know, that if  
 24 they did that next year then the waiver could also  
 25 apply for districts if they do that; you could decide

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1 to do it for the one year. But what we could do is,  
 2 you know, make it clear that this would apply as long  
 3 as the district is participating with this specific  
 4 type of model --  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 6 DR. PFEFFER: -- and then it could go on there.  
 7 This should be made clear in their teacher  
 8 recruitment and retention plan that this is something  
 9 that they're doing. And then at the point if they're  
 10 not participating, then, of course, we wouldn't want  
 11 to just be saying, okay, now each and every teacher  
 12 can have 100 kids and no additional compensation.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. One last question, Dr.  
 14 Pfeffer. We've approved several of these  
 15 apprenticeships and I'm excited about them. Is there  
 16 any way that we could start collecting data, student  
 17 data from these teachers that are being mentored and  
 18 maybe doing some comparisons on the effectiveness of  
 19 it -- of the program?  
 20 DR. PFEFFER: We can. I think what we will need  
 21 to do as -- so we have just issued a survey to all  
 22 districts around the teacher residency model for  
 23 assessing the level of readiness, the level of  
 24 interest for districts that are going to implement.  
 25 So I think it gives us the opportunity to then

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1 collect from districts like Alma, Van Buren, and  
 2 Hackett that are already getting started. We are  
 3 going to need to capture the fact that they are  
 4 participating. And so once we have that, then we can  
 5 go back and have them report out on successes. I  
 6 think the challenge will just be when to collect the  
 7 information and how to bring that back to you.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Right.  
 9 DR. PFEFFER: But that's definitely something we  
 10 can discuss in terms of, you know, what would we use  
 11 as criteria for success in terms of student outcomes.  
 12 But it's also about increasing the pipeline as well.  
 13 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Sure. Sure. But, you know,  
 14 we want to make sure we're doing the right thing for  
 15 kids. And so --  
 16 DR. PFEFFER: Yes.  
 17 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: -- we want to -- and I think  
 18 we are. But I just want to -- would like to collect  
 19 some data to back that up.  
 20 DR. PFEFFER: Okay. So probably the best thing  
 21 would be maybe in their -- maybe we need to sit down  
 22 in a work session and actually say what would be some  
 23 success criteria that we would expect.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Thank you.  
 25 DR. RILEY: Could I address?



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1 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 2 DR. RILEY: As part of my research with the  
 3 University I'm actually collecting that data.  
 4 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Wonderful.  
 5 DR. RILEY: I can provide student data for the  
 6 classes where we've had this apprenticeship thus far.  
 7 That data will show you common summative assessments  
 8 and it will also show you that the data for those  
 9 students, those apprentices that are in those  
 10 classrooms has student outcome data equal to or  
 11 greater than those other teachers in that building.  
 12 So I'm glad to provide that to whoever would like to  
 13 review it.  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: I think that would be  
 15 something great, if you could share that with maybe  
 16 Dr. Pfeffer or Dr. Sutherlin, and then maybe they  
 17 could get it to us.  
 18 DR. PFEFFER: We can do that. And then, Dr.  
 19 Riley, I think that will help us as we're working  
 20 with other institutions and districts to build that  
 21 into the university's part of the process.  
 22 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes.  
 23 DR. PFEFFER: So thank you for that.  
 24 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yeah. Perfect. Thank you so  
 25 much.

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1 All right. Any other discussion or questions on  
 2 this item?  
 3 Okay. So I think we're ready for a motion.  
 4 (MOMENT OF SILENCE)  
 5 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Y'all are quiet this morning.  
 6 Did y'all not wake up or what's going on here?  
 7 DR. MOORE: I'll move to approve.  
 8 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. We have a motion by Dr.  
 9 Moore.  
 10 MR. SUTTON: And I'll second.  
 11 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Seconded by Mr. Sutton.  
 12 All in favor?  
 13 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 14 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 15 All right. That brings us to the end of the  
 16 morning and it is not even 11:00, Guys. What has  
 17 gotten into y'all? Y'all are doing good. Good job.  
 18 So would it be okay -- I don't know if Ms. --  
 19 yes, okay, I see a shake of the head from Ms. Freno.  
 20 We're going to move on to the afternoon agenda.  
 21 B-1: FOR FINAL APPROVAL: DESE RULES GOVERNING ARKANSAS  
 22 MILITARY CHILD SCHOOL TRANSITIONS  
 23 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: The item is Final Approval of  
 24 DESE Rules Governing Military Child Transitions.  
 25 Good morning.

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1 MS. JAMES: Good morning. My name is Whitney  
 2 James, with the Department.  
 3 These rules were given final approval back on  
 4 March 10th. But prior to -- when they went before  
 5 ALC an additional change was recommended and  
 6 incorporated at Section 3.5. And the Division is  
 7 requesting final approval of the rules with this one  
 8 additional change.  
 9 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Could you just be specific in  
 10 what the change was?  
 11 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am. At Chapter 3, Section 5  
 12 there is one paragraph that states that the Division  
 13 will cooperate with the Council for Military Children  
 14 to develop a guidance document to assist parents with  
 15 the application and provisions of the Arkansas  
 16 Military Child School Transitions Act and the rules.  
 17 And that's the only change that was made.  
 18 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. Any  
 19 questions or discussion from online?  
 20 MS. McFETRIDGE: No.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. On my right?  
 22 Dr. Moore.  
 23 DR. MOORE: Yes. I was just going to make sure  
 24 -- so this has approval from the military committee?  
 25 What's the -- was this -- this was reviewed by the

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1 military committee?  
 2 MS. JAMES: Yes, ma'am. I discussed this with  
 3 Colonel Kaminar.  
 4 DR. MOORE: Yes.  
 5 MS. JAMES: And, Colonel Kaminar --  
 6 DR. MOORE: I wanted to hear that.  
 7 MS. JAMES: I did discuss this with him. And  
 8 this guidance was already being discussed that it was  
 9 going to be developed anyway. We just added that to  
 10 the rule.  
 11 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 12 MS. JAMES: That may answer your question.  
 13 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 14 COL. KAMINAR: And, Ma'am, I'm completely  
 15 confident we can get that guide done.  
 16 DR. MOORE: Okay.  
 17 COL. KAMINAR: We're onboard with it. We can  
 18 make it happen.  
 19 DR. MOORE: Great. Thank you. Thank you for  
 20 the work y'all do.  
 21 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Yes. Okay.  
 22 Any other questions or discussion?  
 23 Okay. We're ready for a motion.  
 24 DR. RANKIN: I'll move to approve.  
 25 MS. McFETRIDGE: I'll make the motion to

1 approve.  
 2 DR. RANKIN: Oh, I'll second.  
 3 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Okay. All right. We have a  
 4 motion by Ms. McFetridge and a second by Dr. Rankin.  
 5 All in favor?  
 6 (UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)  
 7 CHAIRMAN NEWTON: Any opposed?  
 8 All right. Congratulations and we appreciate  
 9 your work.  
 10 MS. JAMES: Thank you so much.

11  
12  
13 (The Action Agenda was concluded at 11:00 a.m.)  
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 C E R T I F I C A T E  
 STATE OF ARKANSAS )  
 ) ss.  
 COUNTY OF SALINE )  
 I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and  
 Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken,  
 do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct  
 transcription before the Arkansas Division of Elementary and  
 Secondary Education, State Board of Education, in Little Rock,  
 Arkansas, on May 12, 2022, that the said proceedings was  
 reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and  
 supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and  
 correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.  
 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related  
 to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.  
 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties  
 within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency  
 to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control  
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 WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: May 15, 2022.  
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 SHARON K. HILL, CCR  
 Certified Court Reporter  
 Certificate No. 670

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<p><b>UAFS (1)</b> 21:18</p> <p><b>UNANIMOUS (8)</b> 3:18;4:10;14:1; 17:9;19:4;20:19; 30:13;33:6</p> <p><b>University (4)</b> 23:16;24:10,12; 29:3</p> <p><b>university's (1)</b></p>				