

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Thursday, April 8, 2021**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, April 8, 2021, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Vice Chair Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Newton led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Ouida Newton, Vice Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Susan Chambers; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Steve Sutton; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Ms. Charisse Dean, Chair

Changes to Agenda

Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to add discussion of the nominating committee for State Board of Education Chair and Vice Chair to the agenda in new business.

Presentations

IV.1. Month of the Military Child

Presenter: John Kaminar

Description: April of each year is recognized by the United States Department of Defense and by state governments as Month of the Military Child. The Arkansas State Board of Education annually adopts a resolution recognizing Month of the Military Child and honoring the children of military families.

Ms. Woods, seconded by Dr. Hill, moved to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

IV.2. United States Senate Youth Program

Presenters: Rachel Horn
Melissa Starkey

Description: "The United States Senate Youth Program was created by Senate resolution 324 in 1962 in order 'to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and emphasize the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Presented for recognition of their achievement are:

Anna Dean – Senior
Bentonville West High School, Centerton

Jax Nalley - Senior
Har-Ber High School, Springdale

Ms. Dean and Mr. Nalley enthusiastically shared their experiences and what they have learned in the program with board members.

Consent Agenda

Presenter: Ouida Newton

Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

1. Minutes
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
4. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 21-045 Russell Anglin
6. Consideration of the Consent to Surrender Teaching License of Jeffrey Osborn Professional Licensure Standards Board Case # 21-064

Action Agenda A

A-1 State Board Review of PLSB 20-121 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation – Tiffany Gant

Presenters: Lori Freno
Amy Douglas

Description: Ms. Gant was employed as a teacher under an ACT 1240 waiver. Ms. Gant has appealed her ethics hearing recommendation and requested a State Board review pursuant to 16.02 of the Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. Ms. Gant is represented by attorney Mr. James Valley.

State Board members heard presentations by Mr. Valley and Ms. Douglas. Board members asked clarifying questions of Mr. Valley, Ms. Gant, and Ms. Douglas.

Ms. Woods moved to, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the finding of fact. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, that Standards 1 and 2 were violated. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to accept the PLSB recommended sanction of Level 4 Public Notification of Ethics Violation. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with four (4) votes. Dr. Moore and Dr. Hill abstained.

A-2. Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas for the 2021-2022 School Year

Presenter: Dr. Frank Servedio

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to accept the Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas. The motion passed unanimously.

A-3. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request - Mountain Pine School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Mountain Pine School District is requesting a waiver of two of the required 178 student-teacher interaction days due to a power outage in the community during the snow storm. The school is planning to add thirty minutes to the end of the school day for twenty-four days to make up the missed instructional time. The waiver is requested for the 2020-2021 school year.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the waiver request. The motion passed unanimously.

A-4. Consideration of District Waiver Request - Gravette School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Gravette School District is requesting a waiver of library media specialist ratio and time requirements in the middle and high schools so that the specialists can provide additional support and remediation to ninth grade students who have failed a course due to unsuccessful virtual learning. The waiver is requested for three (3) years.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the Act 1240 waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

A-5. Consideration of District Waiver Extension Request - Barton School District (*Note: Item considered before A-4 in meeting)

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Barton School District is requesting a waiver extension of class size and teaching load for high school seminar courses, library media specialist ratio for K-12, daily planning period for K-12, school start date and teacher licensure for K-12. The waiver extension is requested for five (5) years.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Each component of the waiver request was separately considered. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the **Counselor Class Size** waiver for five (5) years with a mid-point report at year 2.5. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the **Library Media Specialist Ratio** waiver for five (5) years with a mid-point report at year 2.5. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the **Daily Planning Period** waiver for five (5) years with a mid-point report at year 2.5. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the **Teacher Licensure** waiver for five (5) years with a mid-point report at year 2.5. The motion passed unanimously.

A-6. Consideration of District Waiver Extension Request - Watson Chapel School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Watson Chapel School District is requesting an extension of the waiver for teacher licensure for K-12. The waiver extension is requested for five (5) years.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for five (5) years with a midpoint report at year 2.5. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Vice Chair Newton noted that Chair Dean requested that Dr. Hill and Ms. McFetridge serve on the nominating committee for State Board Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve adding Dr. Hill and Ms. McFetridge to the nominating committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Presenter: Joel Lookadoo

Mr. Lookadoo highlighted recent visits to schools and Educators Rising regional events.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key gave a legislative session update and an update on the Arkansas Leadership Academy.


Public Comments

There were no public comments.


Adjournment

Ms. Newton adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid

X 

Ms. Charisse Dean
Chair

X 

Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary