

Professional Licensure Standards Board
Friday, March 3, 2023
PLSB Full Board Minutes

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board held its quarterly meeting via Zoom and in person for those who could attend on **March 3, 2023**. Voting members of the Board present were, Chair, Dr. Donny Lee, Mary Jane Bradley, Hosea Born, Brenda Brown, Joe Fisher, Lynne Gronseth, Kathy Howell, Annette Hux, Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, J. D. Keeling, Karen Lasker, Wendy Peer, Victoria Groves-Scott, Dr. Phong Tran, Darrick Williams, and Dudley Webb, III.

ADE staff members present: Whitney James, Sarah Banker, Cheri Rolett, Shannon Rostad, Vikki Jennings, Melissa Hamric, Darrick Williams, and Andy Sullivan.

Voting members not present: Dr. Andrea Martin and Dr. Sheena Williamson
Non-voting members not present: Tonya Williams and Karli Saracini (ADE)

Guests: Bill Moreland, Kristy Hobson (ADE), David Bell, and Tonya Gibson

1. Call to Order – Dr. Donny Lee, - Chair

Dr. Donny Lee called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Dudley Webb made a motion to approve the December 2, 2022, PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Karen Lasker.
Motion passed. None opposed.

Karen Lasker made a motion to approve the January 27, 2023, Special PLSB Full Board minutes; seconded by Dudley Webb.
Motion passed. Non opposed.

3. Legislative update – Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner and Whitney James, PLSB Managing Attorney

- a. Page 42-Section 23: Background Checks
Sometimes third-party vendors are used and, in this case, ADE’s background checks are processed through a third-party vendor.
- b. The LEARNS bill will include administrative personnel to report immediately a concern in a criminal case for a qualifying offense. The Arkansas Educators Licensure System (AELS) will be flagged when this happens and will show pending until the criminal case is resolved.
- c. The Code of Ethics will reflect volunteers who are coaching; background checks will

be required, and they will be uploaded in AELS.

- d. Administrators are to report to PLSB within 24 hours Standard 1. A notification form is in the process of being put together for this reporting complaint.
- e. Any pending violations for Standard 1 will be viewable to the public.
Example: Inappropriate communication, sexual interaction with students, etc.
- f. House Bill 1516; act to allow a public school to partner with a professional.
- g. Section 23: Rewriting the background rules and Code of Ethics will be rewritten, licensure fees, and rules.
- h. Section 28:

4. Executive Order focus group – Andy Sullivan, Director of Educator Effectiveness

- a. Executive Order 2308; This has been put together in a review process and it is currently being implemented. One of the questions asked was:
 - 1. Remove any unnecessary redundancies, and burdensome fees that are related to the licensure topics below?
 - First time license
 - Reciprocity
 - Licensure renewal
 - Licensure exceptions
 - Technical permits
 - Pathways to licensure
 - Hiring and Promotions

5. Action Items:

a. Consideration of Licensure fees – Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner and Greg Rogers, CFO

- 1. Cost for Initial Licensure
- 2. Licensure Fees Breakdown:
 - Application Fee \$75
 - Distribution is \$3.25 INA
 - Processing Fee (\$72.25 PLSB)
 - Background Checks \$38.25 - \$2.00 INA processing Fee, \$22 State Police, \$14.25 FBI
 - Central Registry Child Maltreatment; \$1 INA Processing Fee; R10 DHS

Total License Fee \$124.25

There will be a \$97,000 loss without licensure fees if this is passed for one year.

Dr. Lee asked for a motion to recommend it to the State Board.

Kathy Howell made a motion to waive a first-time license fee beginning April 1st to August 31, 2023; seconded by Dudley Webb.

Kathy Howell made a motion to amend her motion to waive a first-time license fee beginning April 1st, 2023, and to waive a first-time license fee beginning May 1st to August 31st, 2023; seconded by Dudley Webb.

Motion passed unanimously. None opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next PLSB Full Board meeting will be on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.