

**State Board of Education
Minutes
December 11, 2000.**

The State Board of Education met on Monday, December 11, 2000 in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Luke Gordy, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Luke Gordy, Chairman; Claiborne Deming; Bill Fisher; Robert Hackler; Shelby Hillman; Betty Pickett; Lewis Thompson, Jr.; and Anita Yates.

The following members were absent: JoNell Caldwell and Richard Smith.

The initial item of business was hearings from charter school applicants. A complete transcript of those proceedings is submitted separately as written and transcribed by a certified court recorder.

Mr. Gordy announced that Consent Agenda Item C-4 would be moved to the Action Agenda.

Mr. Fisher moved adoption of the Consent Agenda as amended by removing Consent Agenda Item C-4, Extension of Contract with Harcourt Educational Measurement to administer the Stanford 9 for school year 2001-2002. Mr. Hackler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from November 13, 2000
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Personnel Recommendation

ACTION AGENDA

Extension of Contract with Harcourt Educational Measurement to administer the Stanford 9 for School Year 2001-2002

Ms. Yates indicated that her question about the contract for the norm-referenced test was to determine when the Board could discuss the issue of spring testing as opposed to testing in the fall. She stated that previously the Board had been informed that no change could be made in the contract until a new contract was issued without incurring a significant cost. Extending the contract appears to further delay any possibility of changing the testing from fall to spring. Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to respond to the question. Dr. Smith did indicate that this extension was being recommended for

multiple reasons: (1) The next edition of the Stanford – Stanford 10 – is not available and there is no new test to adopt from this provider; (2) The Department has been advised by testing specialists and statisticians that to be able to implement the accountability program it will be necessary to maintain a test that can be linked to the SAT 9 for trend measures to be valid; and (3) The cost of adopting a new test under a new contract would potentially increase the cost of testing in a year for which there appears to be no additional funds.

Ms. Yates expressed disappointment with this recommendation, because she had been promised that the issue of spring testing would be discussed at the end of the current contract. Dr. Smith summarized the Departments reasons for supporting fall testing following a discussion of the virtues of fall vs. spring testing.

Mr. Deming requested information as to when testing was administered in other states. And Mr. Fisher requested information as to differences in performance by students when testing was administered in spring vs. fall. Dr. Smith indicated that the information would be provided at the January Board meeting.

Mr. Gordy inquired about training provided to local schools that would help with the understanding of test data and its use in teaching/learning in the school. Dr. Smith stated that such training was provided by staff in her area as well as by others in the Department.

Ms. Pickett noted that an earlier version of the budget projected increases in the testing budget for this biennium. Mr. Simon agreed, but responded that those increases originally projected to support testing at additional grade level were eliminated from the budget due to projected shortfall in revenue.

Mr. Fisher moved to adopt staff recommendation to extend the contract. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan

Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to make this presentation. Dr. Smith highlighted actions completed since the last report. At the November 16 meeting the ADE staff provided responses to questions submitted from the parties pursuant to the monitoring plan. Also, the Pulaski County District submitted additional questions regarding monitoring. Dr. Smith informed the Board that Dr. Rod Roth has been retained to work with the parties in determination of assessment measures. The next meeting is set for December 15. She noted that December 31 is the last day for a decision on the instrument for determining if the districts will have to repay funds based on student performance.

Ms. Pickett moved acceptance of the report as presented. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Set Board of Directors Meeting dates for 2001

Ms. Pickett moved acceptance of the calendar as printed in the Agenda Book. Mr. Hackler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Final Approval for Proposed Amendment to Rules and Regulations Governing the Certification Laws and Regulations Concerning Standard Certificate/Licensure Renewal

Brenda Matthews was recognized to present this item. Ms. Matthews indicated these rules and regulations have been presented previously and that the Department has received no comment either written or verbally concerning the adoption of these revisions. She affirmed that these guidelines only apply to individuals holding the standard certification, not anyone with a provisional license. Mr. Hackler moved adoption of the Rules and Regulations as presented. Mr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rescission of a Teaching Certificate, Ms. Joverna F. Thompson

Scott Smith was recognized to present this item. Mr. Smith indicated that this and the other two rescissions on this agenda are different from previous rescissions in that no criminal act has been committed. The issue is that these qualifying examination scores used for licensure have been revoked by Educational Testing Service (ETS), the company that administers the test. Mr. Smith indicated that Ms. Thompson was present for the hearing. Ms. Thompson indicated to the Board that she has held a teaching license in Arkansas previously, but it expired while she was working in the Head Start program in Eudora. Two years ago she was hired as a classroom teacher in Eudora and applied for renewal of her certificate. She was required to provide test scores on the Praxis in that she did not complete the Arkansas Teacher Test administered during the 1984-85 school year. At that time she completed the test with qualifying scores and was issued a new certificate. Since ETS has revoked the scores, Ms. Thompson no longer meets the qualifications for renewal of the certificate. Mr. Hackler inquired if it were possible to grant a provisional licensure while she was retaking the Praxis. Mr. Smith informed the Board that such a recommendation does not appear to be one of the Board's options. The Board explored options available to Ms. Thompson and to the accreditation status of the Eudora School District should Ms. Thompson's certificate be revoked. Ms. Pickett moved that Ms. Thompson's certificate be revoked. Mr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Maddox, ADE staff, was asked to project the accreditation status of the Eudora school if Ms. Thompson continues to teach. Mr. Maddox indicated it would be dependent on who was the teacher of record in the position held by Ms. Thompson, if she is the teacher of record and has no valid certificate, the school would have probationary accreditation. Should she retake the test in January and earn a qualifying score that status could change up until the final review is made by the Board next June.

Rescission of a Teaching Certificate, Ms. Ramona Turner Marble

Scott Smith requested that this item be deferred in that his office has not been able to contact Ms. Marble.

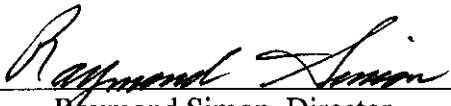
Rescission of a Teaching Certificate, Ms. Everlean Whittington

Scott Smith informed the Board that Ms. Whittington is not currently employed as a teacher, nor has she previously held an Arkansas certificate. Mr. Hackler moved rescission of Ms. Whittington's certificate. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

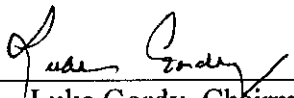
Mr. Deming moved adjournment. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Dr. Charles D. Watson



Raymond Simon, Director



Luke Gordy, Chairman