

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Monday, January 13, 1997, in the auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 9:17 a.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman  
James Whitmore, Vice Chairman  
Edwin Alderson  
Carl Baggett  
JoNell Caldwell  
Martha Dixon  
Bill Fisher  
Luke Gordy  
Betty Pickett  
Elaine Scott  
Sherry Walker

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and introduced Ms. JoNell Caldwell as the new appointee to the Board.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Minutes (December 8/9, 1996)
2. Promotions/Newly Employed/Separation
3. Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
4. Minority Recruitment Report

**Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Gordy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Scott asked for clarification of the Department's monitoring responsibilities based on Judge Wright's latest decision in the desegregation case. Mr. Tim Humphries responded that our obligations have not changed at this time.

## **ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Wilhoit included the following in the Director's report:

1. **Educational Articles** - The Department has contracted with Mr. David Dees to write education related articles for newspapers on a weekly basis. The Board was asked to contact Ms. Gayle Morris if they have particular topics of interest for some of the educational articles. The hope is to align the topics with the flow of work done by the Board and the Department. This will be an attempt to relate issues to the local actions that occur in districts across the state. Ms. Walker suggested an article focusing on the success of the K-5 initiative.
2. **Assessment** - The Department would like to come back in February to note the adjustments in the assessment schedule based on budget adjustments that had to be made. This is not an adjustment in direction or purpose, only resources.
3. **Department Restructuring** - After several meetings, the Administration team has a clear sense of where we are now and the following steps that must be addressed in the near future.
  - (1) to validate some of the work with the policy makers (Board, Governor, Legislature), and our constituents (school districts).
  - (2) lay out the mission of the Department
  - (3) identify the focus activities and Department priorities
  - (4) identify the critical constituents
  - (5) identify the critical priorities
  - (6) produce a clear statement of job responsibilities
  - (7) suggest structural changes
  - (8) align job descriptions with developed core functions (accountability)
4. **Technology** - Hardware and software applications that are going to be necessary for the near future are fairly adequate. Consultants have recommended a great deal of work in this area, almost a zero based assessment of our technology work, redesign and support, with a redesign focusing on the staff, organization, and capacity to support technology.
5. **Department Addition** - Create a Human Resources Unit in the Department with a major function of staff training.

### **Discussion on State Board Priorities**

No Report.

## CONSIDERATION OF GRANT AND REVOCATION OF A TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Mr. Tim Humphries presented background information, documentation and the Department's position regarding the teaching certificate of Mr. James Edward Green. Mr. John Kearney, legal counsel for Mr. Green, presented his case to the Board. Mr. Kearney asked that the Board cast two votes, one for reinstatement and one not to revoke. **Ms. Scott made the motion to reinstate and revoke the teaching certificate of Mr. James Edward Green. Ms. Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

## CONSIDERATION OF REVOCATION OF A TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Mr. Tim Humphries presented background information, documentation and the Department's position regarding the teaching certificate of Mr. Thomas David Hines. Mr. Barry Bryant, legal counsel for Mr. Hines, presented his case to the Board. **Mr. Alderson made the motion to revoke the teaching certificate of Mr. Thomas David Hines. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

## INITIAL DISCUSSION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TEACHER EVALUATION

After a short discussion with the Board by Mr. Wilhoit, he opened the floor for comments from Mr. Charles Knox and Mr. Rich Nagel. All parties were supportive of the philosophy and balance in the teacher evaluation guidelines. **Ms. Scott made the motion to develop these guidelines into proposed rules and regulations. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

## DISCUSSION ON THE ARKANSAS COMPREHENSIVE TESTING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (ACTAP)

This item will be prepared for the February Board meeting.

- Ms. Charity Smith made available to the Board, the February 1, 1997 Semi-Annual Desegregation Monitoring Report.
- The Annual School District Report Card is also available upon request by Board members.
- Due to inclement weather, the laptops ordered for Board training did not arrive, therefore training was postponed until further notice.

**The Board recessed for ten minute and reconvened to discuss legislative issues.**

Mr. Fisher presented the following legislative issues:

1. Eliminate the two tracks of study - **Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**
2. Broaden school choice [keeping in mind desegregation issues and adequate facilities] - **Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**
3. Revision of Act 236-- 1) Language more precise in goals and directions; 2) initiatives are outdated; 3) emphasize education for all students; 4) maintain provisions for accountability; 5) the act should include the expanded work of the Teacher Licensure Taskforce and also Professional Development; 6) coincide with the school improvement process (parent involvement and flexibility in the day-to-day management with the schools).  
**Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and direct the Department to draft these changes in Act 236. Mr. Gordy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Fisher made the motion to have draft of bills faxed to the Board, and a conference call made at the earliest convenient day. Mr. Alderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

4. Inadequacies in Act 917 [ addressing the inadequate levels of funding] **Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**
5. Technology--- 1) Expand technology to a broader application; 2) Planning in technology should be tied to the school improvement process; 3) Resources available under IMPAC should be brought into the planning process to allow local districts greater flexibility; 4) ADE capacity -- hardware technology and staff development; 5) Repayment of loan; and 6) Rates and tariffs for schools for line cost and use - **Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and authorize the Department to draft legislation to operate under one technology system with Dr. Leon McLean as a resource. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**
6. Exit Exam -- [support given although funding is a challenge] - **Ms. Scott made the motion to use the term "proficiency exam" in place of exit exam. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Fisher made the motion to continue the use of a proficiency exam on the high school level. Mr. Gordy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Adult Education Programs -- [with 16 & 17 year old students] -- Mr. Fisher made the motion to direct the Department to draft legislation to allow the monies from the school districts to follow 16 and 17 year old students into adult education programs. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Mr. Fisher made the motion for the Board Chair to appoint a committee of the Board to address the wording in Act 6-11-102 regarding the employment and dismissal of a Director. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. McLarty appointed Mr. Alderson, Mr. Gordy, and Ms. Walker to that committee.**

9. **Vocational Education and General Education -- this legislation to combine Vocational and General Education is covered under the following: Acts 25-6-101, 25-6-102, and 25-6-103.**

**Mr. Fisher made a motion to recommend that the Board Chair appoint a committee to draft legislation to combine the two departments into one. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried by a majority vote. Mr. Smith voted against. Mr. McLarty appointed Mr. Alderson, Mr. Gordy, and Ms. Walker to that committee.**

10. **Workforce Development -- Dr. Franks shared with the Board his comments in the area of workforce development. Dr. Franks also apologized to the Board about a letter that was sent to Higher Education Presidents and others, and not this Board. The Board strongly shared their concerns with Dr. Franks about their exclusion from the discussions that had taken place with Higher Education. Mr. Fisher made the motion to oppose legislation which would transfer the powers and funding of the Vocational Education Board to a new Board. Mr. Gordy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Fisher made a motion to go into executive session. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

The Board went into executive session at 11:43 a.m. and returned at 1:37 p.m.

Mr. Smith made the motion to return to open session. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Edwin Alderson made the following motion:

Whereas, Arkansas Code Annotated 6-11-102(a) provides that the State Board of Vocational Education is empowered to employ a person who is to act as the Director of Vocational and Technical Education;

And, Whereas, Arkansas Code Annotated 6-11-102(e) provides that it is the specific intention of the act to declare that the Director of Vocational and Technical Education is an employee of the State Board of Vocational Education;

And, Whereas, in order to accommodate the personal request and plea of Governor Mike Huckabee, Stephen B. Franks was hired by the Board without the usual screening, recruitment and hiring procedures;

And, Whereas, during his short tenure of service Stephen B. Franks has failed to obtain the confidence of the Board and to perform his duties as required by law and to the satisfaction of the State Board of Vocational Education;

Now, Therefore, the State Board of Vocational Education does hereby terminate the employment of Stephen B. Franks effective immediately and declares that as of the date and time of this resolution he is no longer an employee of the State Board of Vocational Education.

Mr. Luke Gordy seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

**FOR**

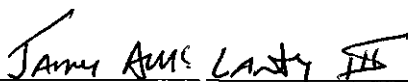
Edwin Alderson  
Martha Dixon  
Bill Fisher  
Luke Gordy  
Betty Pickett  
Elaine Scott  
Sherry Walker

**AGAINST**

James Whitmore  
Richard Smith  
JoNell Caldwell

Mr. Gordy made the motion to have Mr. Charlie Brown act as Interim Director of the Vocational and Technical Education Division. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Scott made the motion to adjourn at 1:45 p.m. Dr. Whitmore seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



James McLarty III, Chairman



Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Addendum to January 12, 1997 Board Meeting

Final Report from Teacher Licensure Task Force

The Teacher Licensure Task Force Final Report including six recommendations for action was presented to the Board. (Attachment - Teacher Licensure Task Force Final Report dated January 12, 1997). Mrs. Elaine Scott moved to accept the recommendations of the Task Force and go forward with implementation. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*William B. Fisher*

*Raymond Seaman*