

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, January 14, 2011**

The State Board of Education met Friday, January 14, 2011, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Dr. Naccaman Williams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Present: Dr. Naccaman Williams, Chairman; Sherry Burrow; Jim Cooper; Brenda Gullett; Sam Ledbetter; Alice Mahony; Dr. Ben Mays; Toyce Newton; Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner; and Vandy Nash, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Absent: Vicki Saviers

Reports

Chair's Report:

There was no report from the Chairman.

Commissioner's Report:

Dr. Kimbrell introduced Don McGohan, Assistant Superintendent in the Bryant School District and a member of the Professional Licensure Standards Board, to give an update on the Licensure Task Force.

Mr. McGohan said the group was in the process of selecting members representing teachers, administrators, higher education, Department of Education and others to review the process for licensure and develop recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of P-12 teachers and administrators.

In recognizing Joyce Vaught as the 2011 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year, Commissioner Kimbrell noted her tenure beginning in 1945. He said Ms. Vaught, Superintendent of the Lakeside School District in Chicot County, has devoted more than six decades of service to children in the Delta region of Arkansas. She began teaching ten years before the landmark desegregation case *Brown vs. The Board of Education*; worked 20 years before the authorization of *ESEA* and almost 30 years before *IDEA*. Dr. Kimbrell recalled Ms. Vaught's willingness to assume the responsibility of educating children of a neighboring district after the state took control. Under Ms. Vaught's leadership, the children in that annexed area have made great strides in student achievement.

Update: Common Core State Standards

Dr. Laura Bednar, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, gave an update on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Dr. Bednar said the new learning standards will be implemented in K-2 beginning the 2011-2012 school year; grades 3-8 will follow in the 2012-2013 school year; and grades 9-12 will implement the standards in 2013-2014. Full implementation of the Common Core State Standards and a common assessment system will be in place by 2014-2015. Dr. Bednar noted the Assessment Technical Advisory Committee's endorsement of the implementation timeline.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Mays questioned the appropriateness of the discipline recommended for Consent Agenda Item C-6 (PLSB Case 11-008 Robert Garrison).

Dr. Mays moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to pull Item C-6 to allow further consultation with the PLSB on the findings regarding Case 11-008. The motion carried six (6) to one (1) in a roll call vote.

Mays—yes
Burrow—yes
Gullett—yes
Ledbetter—yes
Mahony—yes
Cooper—no
Newton—yes

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the December 13, 2010, Board Meeting
- Approval of an \$85 Per Day Stipend for State Board Members and Reimbursement of Actual Expenses for Mileage and Per Diem Consistent with State Authorization
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than 30 Days
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Sanctions for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure Standards Board

- Ricky Pilcher
- Kristi Young
- Adam Matthews
- Paula Henderson

Action Agenda

(Complete records of the hearings are available in the State Board office.)

Consideration of Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Charter Amendment: Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School, Jacksonville, Arkansas

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan, Charter School Coordinator, presented a request from the Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School to amend its charter to allow for a new middle school located on the Little Rock Air Force Base and to raise its enrollment from 644 to 1,019 by the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Sam Jones, legal counsel for the Pulaski County Special School District, spoke against the proposal saying it would hinder the District's desegregation efforts.

Mr. Cooper moved, seconded by Dr. Mays, approval of the amendments with the stipulation that the Charter's board provide a resolution stating it would not use the long-term debt as leverage when seeking renewal. The motion carried unanimously.

ADE General Counsel Jeremy Lasiter was absent during the discussion and action on this agenda item.

Hearing of District Conversion Public Charter School Application and ADE Review: Cross County New Tech High School-Cross County School District

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan presented a proposal from the Cross County School District for a district conversion charter school—Cross County New Tech High School. The school would serve grades 7-12 with a proposed enrollment of 500 students.

Dr. Matt McClure, Cross County School District Superintendent, explained that teaching in every class would be done through projects that would require students—each of whom would be equipped with a laptop computer—to develop skills in communication, collaboration, technology, analytical thinking and problem solving.

Board members questioned the district's ability to successfully implement the program.

Dr. McClure said it would take hard work on everyone's part.

Ms. Mahony said she didn't think the current facility was large enough to support the program and wondered if graduates would qualify for state scholarship programs because of the change in graduation requirements.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, approval of the application for the conversion charter school, Cross County New Tech High School. The motion carried six to one in a roll call vote.

Gullett-yes
Newton-yes
Burrow-yes
Mahony-no
Cooper-yes
Ledbetter-yes
Mays-yes

Continuation Hearing of Open Enrollment Charter Application Appeal and ADE Review: SIATech Little Rock, Little Rock, Arkansas

In presenting this proposal, Dr. Mary Ann Duncan reported the hearing for this application was held November 8, 2010, but was tabled to allow the applicant additional time for clarification and technical assistance. The proposed school will serve students ages 16-22 in grades 9-12.

Dr. Linda Dawson, representing SIATech, said the 22 units required for graduation would be taught. The remaining 16 courses that schools must teach will be made available through distance learning or through cooperative arrangements with other schools.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the open enrollment application for SIATech. The motion carried five to two in a roll call vote.

Ledbetter-yes
Gullett-yes
Newton-yes
Cooper-yes
Mahony-no
Burrow-yes
Mays-no

Consideration of Request for Open Enrollment Public Charter School Charter Amendment: Osceola Communication Arts Business School, Osceola, Arkansas

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan reported the Osceola Communications Arts Business School (OCABS) appeared before the Board at the December 13, 2010, meeting requesting amendments to their current charter. The request was tabled until the January meeting to provide the State Board with additional information.

Mr. Ray Cooper, the school's new director, explained the school was withdrawing its original request to expand grade levels served and waiving the requirement for licensed teachers. He said the school was seeking approval to create a single governing board and clarification of the enrollment cap.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Mr. Cooper, approval of the single board governance structure. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cooper moved, seconded by Dr. Mays, to clarify the enrollment cap as 375 students. The motion carried. Mr. Ledbetter voted no.

Board members expressed concern that the focus of the school had shifted.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to notify the school to appear at the March State Board meeting for possible charter revocation or probation. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Approval: Classification of District in Fiscal Distress-Strong-Huttig

Mr. Bill Goff, Assistant Commissioner of Financial and Administrative Services, presented a recommendation for identification of the Strong-Huttig School District as being in fiscal distress because declining balances and audit findings.

Mr. Cooper moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, to identify the Strong-Huttig School District as being in fiscal distress. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Recommendation for New Praxis II Cut Scores in Technology Education and English Language, Literature and Composition to be Effective September 1, 2011

Ms. Beverly Williams, Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources, presented a recommendation of two new Praxis II assessments and appropriate cut scores effective September 1, 2011:

- Technology Education exam (#0051) with a recommended cut score of 159. This exam replaces exam (#0050).
- English Language, Literature and Composition: Content and Analysis (#0044), will replace exam (# 0043) Content Knowledge with a recommended cut score of 166.

Mr. Cooper moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the new exams and cut scores. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.