

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Sunday, June 8, 1997, in the Matthews Room of the Holiday Inn West, 201 South Shackelford, Little Rock, AR. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman  
Edwin Alderson  
Carl Baggett  
JoNell Caldwell  
Bill Fisher  
Luke Gordy  
Betty Pickett  
Elaine Scott  
Richard Smith  
Sherry Walker  
Anita Yates

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Member absent: Martha Dixon

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. The Board was urged to look at a calender and prepare to set a date for the Gentry hearing during the Monday, June 9 meeting. The Board was also urged to take a few minutes to review the updated State Board Operating Guidelines so they could be place on the consent agenda during the Monday, June 9 meeting.

Director Gene Wilhoit introduced Ms. Theresa Dixon (staff attorney) as she reviewed with the Board a work schedule resulting from the last legislative session. Mr. Wilhoit stated that some of the rules and regulations are new, some will require substantial changes, and some will require technical changes (see attachment #1).

Mr. Wilhoit announced that the revision of Act 326 is considered a short-term priority. He also stated that he may be deposed or appear at a hearing next week relating to the Lakeview case. The charge is that the Department was unconstitutional under Act 916 & Act 917.

Ms. Walker passed out planning questionnaires for the Board Retreat (see attachment #2). Mr. McLarty recognized Ms. Julie Cullen in the audience and welcomed her to dine with the Board.

The Board stood in recess until 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 9, 1997 in the ADE auditorium.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Monday, June 9, 1997, in the auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 8:37 a.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman  
Edwin Alderson  
Carl Baggett  
JoNell Caldwell  
Bill Fisher  
Luke Gordy  
Betty Pickett  
Elaine Scott  
Richard Smith  
Sherry Walker  
Anita Yates

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Member absent: Martha Dixon

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Minutes (May 18 & 19, 1997)
2. Promotions/Newly Employed/Separation ---  
Ms. Clemetta Hood ..... C2-1
3. Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement  
Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan ---  
Ms. Charity Smith ..... C3-1
4. Minority Recruitment Report --- Ms. Pam Bratton ..... C4-1
5. Approval for Salaries and Employment for Fiscal Year 1997-98 ---  
Ms. Hood ..... C5-1
6. Recommendation of Textbooks/ Instructional Materials Unit ---  
Ms. Sue McKenzie ..... C6-1

- 7. Request Approval of Loans and Bonds Applications ---  
Mr. Robert Coleman ..... C7-1
- 8. Status of Arkansas Schools --- Mr. Bob Maddox ..... C8-1
- 9. Personnel Recommendation --- Ms. Hood ..... C9-1

**Mr. Alderson made the motion to add the Board Operating Guidelines (see attachment #3) as consent agenda item #10. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Ms. Scott made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Baggett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Wilhoit reported the following:

Ms. Ann Biggers received an award at the Advanced Placement Guidance Council Conference, and Ms. Barbara Patty received the National Geographic Society Award.

Mr. Ron Fair has completed for the Department 240 desk audits with 35 in the final phases (see attachment #4). His initial work will be completed by the July Board meeting.

The Department had the following retirements/departures: Mr. Bob Coleman, Ms. Dorothy Caldwell, Mr. James Woodworth, and seven others also. Mr. Bill Ballard and Dr. Diana Julian will leave as of June 30.

The Department was notified by the Office of Civil Rights that it had been nominated for a special award in the area of compliance with handicapping conditions.

**DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD PRIORITIES**

Director Wilhoit reported on the following:

Continue to improve the COE school improvement process and linking the Federal Consolidated plan to COE

Revising the teacher evaluation process

Early Childhood Training Program

**Initial Policy Discussion for Drafting Rules and Regulations Governing  
Distribution of Selective Service Registration Forms to Students Required to  
Register with the Selective Service System**

Mr. Frank Anthony gave an overview of Act 229 of 1997 and provided background information about the development of rules and regulations for Selective Service Registration. It was decided that this was also a federal mandate so it would be necessary to provide forms to students but not necessary to provide accountability to the Department (see attachment #5).

**Initial Policy Discussion for Drafting Rules and Regulations Allowing  
School Districts to Obtain Reasons for Dropping Out of School**

Mr. Frank Anthony provided background information about Act 230 of 1997 and stated that the Act 230 would be tied together with the rules and regulations (see attachment #6).

**Initial Policy Discussion for Drafting Rules and Regulations Governing  
the National Board Certification of Teachers**

Mr. Frank Anthony provided background information about Act 1225 of 1997. Mr. Anthony explained that this act will provide a financial incentive for National Board Certification of Teachers, the Department will pay one half of the participation fee, a process of one year, and teachers must repay the state if they don't complete the certification (see attachment #7).

**Initial Policy Discussion for Drafting Rules and Regulations Governing  
School Compulsory Attendance**

Mr. Frank Anthony provided background information on Act 1230 of 1997 which mandates compulsory school attendance from ages five through seventeen. Students must be five on or before September 1. Two windows have been built into the law for a waiver until October 1. All waivers are tied to the number of free and reduced lunches in a school district (see attachment #8).

**Mr. Smith made the motion to go forward with the writing of the above four rules and regulations. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Initial Policy Discussion for Drafting Rules and Regulations  
Governing Act 804 of 1997**

Dr. Bobbie Davis presented this information in the absence of Mr. James Boardman. She stated that Act 804 of 1997 deals with the filing of financial reports by school districts in a timely manner. The Department will provide the districts a list of all reports

that could affect their aid.

**Mr. Gordy made the motion to move forward with the writing of rules and regulations. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Approve for Public Comment Proposed Rules and Regulations Governing Comprehensive Testing & Assessment Programs**

Mr. Bill Ballard provided background information on interpreting test scores and the leadership of the Department in training for teachers.

Dr. Gayle Potter reviewed the proposed rules and regulations for Act 1172. Edits will be made for clarification then they will be reviewed by Ms. Theresa Dixon, staff attorney, before the document goes out for public comment.

Mr. Luke Gordy expressed concerns about holding more than one public hearing. Mr. Anthony reminded the Board of the upcoming ASCD Conference in Hot Springs as exposure for these rules and regulations. Ms. Caldwell noted it was particularly important to get this information to the parents.

The Board recessed from 10:40 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

### **Approve for Public Comment Proposed Rules and Regulations Governing Home Schooled Students**

Ms. Yvette Dillingham provided an overview of Act 400 of 1997 relating to the administration of test for home schooled students in grades five, seven, and ten.

**Ms. Walker made the motion to approve for public comment. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Dillingham also noted that the committee recommended changing the word "shall" to "may" in section 7.01.

**Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the change. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion failed.**

### **Recommendation of a Proposed Public School Fund Budget for 1997-98**

Mr. John Kunkel presented the proposed budget. After some discussion, Mr. Fisher suggested that this discussion continue after the GPA report later in the agenda.

### **Site Selection - Arkansas Governor's School 1998-2000**

Ms. Ann Biggers announced that the site selection committee selected Hendrix College as their recommendation for Governor's School for 1998-2000. **Mr. Alderson made the motion to defer the site selection recommendation until the July meeting in order to receive additional information from each of the schools. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried by majority vote with Ms. Walker, Mr. Smith, Ms. Scott and Ms. Pickett voting against.**

### **Arkansas Better Chance Grant Recommendations**

Ms. Glenda Bean provided background information and the list of renewal recommendations. Ms. Bean noted that Sparkman Learning Center didn't submit their proposal by the deadline therefore it will not be considered for renewal. She stated that the Northeast Arkansas Cooperative will work with the Piggott program and the Mid-South Community College will work with the Arkansas State University Program.

**Mr. Gordy made the motion to accept this recommendation with stipulation that the Sparkman money remain in the area. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.** (Mr. Smith recused himself from voting or participating in this discussion.)

### **Request for Waiver on Denial of Application for a Teaching Certificate**

Ms. Theresa Dixon presented the recommendation of the Department for a waiver request Mr. James Edward Hall. It was noted that he received a pardon from the Governor of Louisiana. **Ms. Walker made the motion to table this item until the July meeting. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried by majority vote.**

The Board recessed for lunch and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. for the Milken GPA Recommendation.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mr. David Rainey presented the report from the Milken Educators. Their recommendation was not to use 2.0 GPA as the sole requirement for participation in extracurricular activities but to include multiple indicators, i.e., attendance, standardized test scores (see attachment #9).

Those speaking in addition to Senator John Brown for an alternative to the 2.0 GPA were: Mr. Robert Kanaby, Executive Director of the National High School Association; Mr. Steve Nawojczyk, Retired Coroner, now Consultant; Mr. Roy Kirkland, Superintendent, Barton School District (did not speak); Mr. Paul Suski, Assistant City

Attorney for North Little Rock; Mr. Jim Rowland, Director of Athletics, Fort Smith School District; Mr. Ralph Ruby, Jr., Arkansas State University; Mr. Jimmy Coats, Director, Arkansas Activities Association; Ms. Patsy Gatlin, Attorney General's Office, Youth Gang Clearing House; and Mr. Charles Knox, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (see attachment #10).

Mr. McLarty announced that a special called Board meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. Monday, June 30 to openly deliberate the 2.0 GPA. All written comments should be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 20.

**Mr. Alderson amended his previous motion regarding the site for Governor's School to change the deadline to June 25 to receive additional information from the colleges so the information can be disseminated at the June 30 meeting. Mr. Gordy seconded and the amended motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Alderson made the motion to approve the recommendation from the nominating committee for the 1997- 98 State Board officers. Mr. Fisher will serve as chair and Mr. Gordy as vice-chair. Ms. Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Recommendation of a Proposed Public School Fund Budget for 1997-98 Continued**

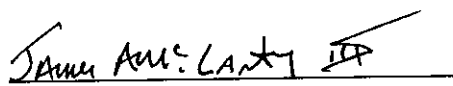
Mr. John Kunkel and Director Wilhoit explained each line item along with discussion and questions by the Board. **After some changes were noted, Ms. Walker made the motion to approve the budget. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

Dr. Gayle Potter distributed the Arkansas History Guidelines which must be in the schools as soon as possible. These guidelines were set up in K-3,4-6, and 7-12 configurations. They will be revised as necessary.

Mr. McLarty recognized Mr. Reginald Wilson, Executive Assistant to the State Board, and announced that this will be his last Board meeting under the Department restructuring.

Mr. Gordy gave a commendation to Mr. McLarty for his service through this year as chair of the Board. Mr. Alderson voiced his support of the commendation.

The Board adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

  
James McLarty, Chairman

  
Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary