

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1997
MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Sunday, May 18, 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 4:07 p.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman
Edwin Alderson
Carl Baggett
JoNell Caldwell
Martha Dixon
Luke Gordy
Betty Pickett
Elaine Scott
Sherry Walker
Anita Yates

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Members absent: Bill Fisher
Richard Smith

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present and introduced the new board member Mrs. Anita Yates, replacing the late Dr. James Whitmore.

Director Gene Wilhoit reviewed with the Board the ADE Reorganization recommendations. He introduced and discussed the following:

- Major Functions of the Arkansas Department of Education
- Appendix A - Major Functions of the ADE as Perceived by Input Groups
- Appendix B - Validation Instrument
- Appendix C - Validation Results
- Appendix D - Validation Analysis
- Survey Results Provided by Dr. Joe Austin
- Draft Copy of Proposed Restructuring
- Report on Restructuring Activities
- Arkansas Department of Education Reorganization Issues
- The Murphy Commission - A Brief overview
- (Attachments 1-10)

The Board recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. to go into Executive Session with a motion by Mr. Gordy. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and returned into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Edwin Alderson made the motion to return to public session. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman James McLarty announced that the Board took no action. At 8:25 p.m., Ms. Scott made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, MAY 19, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Monday, May 19, 1997, in the auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman
Edwin Alderson
Carl Baggett
JoNell Caldwell
Martha Dixon
Luke Gordy
Betty Pickett
Elaine Scott
Sherry Walker
Anita Yates

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Members absent: Bill Fisher
Richard Smith

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mr. McLarty made a special note in the loss of board member Dr. James Whitmore, and requested that Mr. Alderson draft a resolution regarding his service to be adopted at the next meeting. Mr. McLarty requested that Mr. Baggett contact Dr. Jim Rollins, Superintendent at Springdale, concerning a memorial contribution in Dr. Whitmore's honor.

Chairman McLarty also welcomed and introduced Mrs. Anita Yates as the new Board member to replace Dr. Whitmore.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes (April 13,14, & May 5, 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 of Personnel and Salaries for 1997-98 --- Ms. Hood C5-1

Mr. Gordy made the motion to approve items 1- 4 on the Consent agenda and the May 5 phone conference minutes. Mr. Alderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Wilhoit reported on the following:

Safe driving awards were funded for 31 school districts.
 Results of criterion-referenced exam, including guide book for teachers and items to be released. He noted that there was a slight improvement in reading scores but almost no change in math scores.
 The Home School Office in the Department has closed and the responsibilities have been moved to the cooperatives. Refunding of prepaid checks has been completed.
 Mr. Wilhoit met with the Arkansas Business Alliance concerning the Arkansas Scholars. This four-year program requires that students maintain at least a C in every course, 95% attendance rate, and take the core curriculum. Scholars will receive priority as they enter the workforce.
 Approval of Federal Special Education legislation will make it necessary for Special Education assessment item to be placed on the June or July agenda.
 The framework assistance publication supporting the Arts Framework is completed.
 Mr. Wilhoit and Senator Mahony will attend a Southern Region Education Board meeting regarding end of level exam.
 Mr. Wilhoit presented two plaques to the Board where the Department is recognized by First place and runner-up.
 Confirmation has been received for Federal technology literacy grants which have been designated for teacher training, student access to materials, and software development.

The Special Education item should be placed on the Sunday evening agenda in June or July.

DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD PRIORITIES

Director Wilhoit reported that Public Outreach is still in the initiation phase and working on a contract.

He noted that Early Childhood legislation for summer school has been changed.

Alternative Education Certification Task Force will continue to look at uniform certification.

Ms. Scott made the motion to change the name Alternative Education Certification Task Force to Performance Certification Licensure Task Force. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATES ON MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVES

Dr. Charles Watson provided background information to the Board. Mr. Wilhoit reported that there should be a sequence to mathematical ideas, the curriculum should be results oriented, knowledge and skills should be clearly defined, and a training component needs to be addressed (see attachments #11- #12).

DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FUND, 1997-98 FUNDING

Mr. John Kunkel gave an overview of the Revenue Stabilization Law which states the public school funding expenditures. The schools will receive \$140 million more in 1997-98 than in 1996-97. There will be \$192 per student increase. Category A monies are available to be budgeted and Category B monies will be prioritized when they are available (see attachment #13). Mr. Wilhoit outlined the following priorities: APSCN, criminal background check, incentive funding programs, isolated and rural schools, and transportation.

The Board recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

DISCUSSION ON 1997 EDUCATION-RELATED ACTS 1997 LEGISLATIVE ROLL-OUT DOCUMENT

Ms. Brenda Matthews provided the Board with the final summary of enactments concerning the Department of Education and public schools. Three hundred fifty-seven bills were tracked (see attachment #14).

INITIAL DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON ASSESSMENT

Dr. Gayle Potter presented background information and recommendations on the following: assessment based, current legislation, special education, and LEP students. Dr. Potter noted that priorities and time lines should be developed to determine the length of time IEP and LEP students would utilize the alternative assessment program before moving into the regular assessment program. Dr. Potter mentioned that security and confidentiality of testing and requirements for training should be included in the rules and regulations.

Ms. Scott made the motion to develop rules and regulations as presented. Ms. Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FINAL APPROVAL OF RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING K- 3 SUMMER SCHOOL

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney presented the final rules and regulations for K-3 Summer School. Ms. McKinney stated during public comment, there were concerns of allowing the use of extended days and flexibility of days (see attachment #14A).

Ms. Pickett made the motion to adopt the final rules and regulations. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COE CONSOLIDATED PLAN CHANGES

Dr. Charles Watson provided information concerning the five-year evaluation cycle used in Creating Opportunities for Excellence (COE) and changes discussed by the reviewing committee of the current COE plan. The Board was provided with a mission statement (see attachment #15).

BOARD DETERMINATION OF TEACHER LICENSURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND MIDDLE CHILDHOOD LEVELS

Ms. Janinne Riggs presented the recommendation to allow ~~concept of allowing~~ grade four to be included in both early childhood (P-4) and middle level (4-8) for teacher licensure.

Ms. Pickett made the motion to approve. Mr. Alderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCESS TO DETERMINE CORE CURRICULUM

Director Wilhoit presented background information to the Board and requested that they keep these concepts in mind as a core curriculum is determined. The core curriculum should be in place by December in order to begin with the seventh grade. Mr. Wilhoit then presented the following to the Board: ∈ the number of courses should be maintained or increased ∉ specific content should be addressed in each area ∠ computer competency should be a requirement ∇ higher education will be involved in the planning process, and ® vocational/technical education will be included in the planning process.

Mr. Gordy made the motion that this process begin as outlined by the Director. Ms. Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

FISCAL DISTRESS REPORT

Dr. Bobbie Davis provided the Board with a "Report on Fiscal Distress Districts" (see attachment #16). Dr. Davis' report included the following:

- ∈ Four step screening process
- ∉ 1996-97 Fiscal Distress Phase 1 Listing
- ∠ 1997-98 Fiscal Distress Phase 1 Listing
- ∇ Map indicating the locations of the 1997-98 Phase 1 Listing
- ® Activities Conducted During 1996-97
- © Local Fiscal Services Annual Financial Report & Budget Review Procedures Checklist
- ™ Fiscal Distress Phase I School Improvement Plan
- ∏ Fiscal Distress Review

Dr. Davis reported there were seven school districts listed as Fiscally Distressed for 1996-97. The following four have been removed from that list and now declared not in Fiscal Distress: Bay, Earle, Gentry, and Humnoke School Districts. Leaving Heber Springs, Lakeview, and Shirley School Districts on the list for a second year.

DISCUSSION ON THE PROCESS RELATED TO 2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE STUDY

Mr. David Rainey expressed concerns of including all 30 Milken educators in a meeting, but wanted to limit the meeting to 10 members. These members would come from different areas of the state with diverse opinions represented on the committee. Mr. Rainey reported that SEDL resources and contacts of the educators would be used

in their study of this 2.0 grade point average study. Mr. Rainey requested financial support to bring the 10 Milken educators together for this discussion and their recommendations.

Mr. Alderson made the motion to approve the meeting and to make financial support available (not to exceed \$2,000). Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ralph Ruby, Professor at Arkansas State University, made remarks pertaining to the issue.

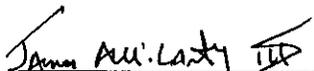
INITIAL DISCUSSION ON RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING HOME SCHOoled STUDENTS

Mr. Frank Anthony outlined Act 400 which closed the Home School Office at the Department and transferred the responsibilities to the cooperatives. Rules and regulations must be developed to carry out this transfer.

Chairman McLarty handed out a NASBE report (see attachment #17) to each Board member and reminded the nominating committee that their report is due at lunch.

Mr. McLarty charged Mr. Wilhoit to fill the vacant litigation attorney position with the most qualified applicant. **Mr. Alderson made the motion to approve. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

At 12:30 p.m. it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.


James McLarty III, Chairman


Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary