

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2013

The State Board of Education met Monday, February 11, 2013, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Jim Cooper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Present: Jim Cooper, Chair; Brenda Gullet, Vice Chair; Dr. Jay Barth; Sam Ledbetter; Alice Mahony; Toyce Newton; Mireya Reith; Vicki Saviers; Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner; and Kim Wilson, Teacher of the Year

Absent: Joe Black

Reports

Chair's Report:

Ms. Mahony announced she and Ms. Newton would collaborate with South Arkansas Community College to sponsor the GLAM: Girls Learning About Math conference May 15.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kimbrell said it was week six of the General Assembly and predicted legislative business to pick up speed.

Recognition of Teachers from the People's Republic of China Who are Teaching Mandarin Chinese Language and Culture to Arkansas Students

Seventeen teachers from China were recognized for their work in Arkansas schools and three others for their work at the Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas. The teachers are:

Miss Liu Yanxin - Arkansas School for Math/Science
Miss Hu Qin - Arkansas School for Math/Science
Miss Hu Xiao - Batesville School District
Miss Chang Le - Beebe School District
Miss Liao Danyu - Bentonville School District
Miss Qu Hui - Bentonville School District
Miss Qu Guimin - Cabot School District
Miss An Yi - Conway School District
Miss Jiang Lida - Cross County School District
Miss Wang Haixia - Harrisburg School District
Miss Lu Xian - Hot Springs School District
Miss Hu Jing - North Little Rock School District

Miss Wang Rui - Pulaski County Special School District
Miss Jin Yan - Pulaski County Special School District
Miss Zhang Qian - Pulaski County Special School District
Mr. Sun Xiaomin Rogers School District
Miss Gu Zheng - Wynne School District
Miss Jin Xiaoxiao - University of Central Arkansas
Miss Liu Jiachi - University of Central Arkansas
Ms. Lu Xiaohong - University of Central Arkansas

Informational Update on Common Core State Standards and PARCC

Dr. Laura Bednar, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, said the key to the successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was quality professional development at all levels. She expressed appreciation to Deborah Coffman for her work on the CCSS strategic plan focused on professional learning. Dr. Bednar acknowledged Melody Morgan and the assessment staff for their teamwork in running the statewide assessment program.

Noting the PARCC assessments will be delivered online in 2014-2015, Dr. Bednar said 54 percent of the state's school districts had completed the technology readiness tool designed to give a picture of readiness for the online tests.

Board members expressed a desire to see more districts complete the survey in preparation for the testing.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the January 14, 2013, Board Meeting
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Waivers for Teachers Teaching out of Area
- Review of Loans and Bonds--
- Two-Year Extension of Social Studies Textbook and Instructional Materials Contract (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2016)
- Sanction for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure Board
 - Wanda Lee O'Quinn
 - Keith B. Dooley
 - Vivian Leanna Perry
 - Blake Daniel Rhein

Action Agenda

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

Hearing on Waiver Request for Certified Teacher License – Ryan Gore

Katherine Donovan, Professional Licensure Standards Board attorney, said Ryan Gore, a MAT applicant for a provisional license, was convicted of a disqualifying offense for licensing in 1999. Mr. Gore requested a waiver of the disqualifying conviction.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, approval of the waiver with the stipulation of probation for a period of two years and no other disqualifying conviction or violation of code of ethics. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services

The State Board of Education released the proposed rules for public comment July 9, 2012. A public hearing was held November 30, 2012. The public comment period expired December 3, 2012. Department staff did not receive public comments on the proposed rules but did revise the rules based upon further review of applicable state statutes. The State Board was requested to give final approval to the proposed rules.

Mr. Ledbetter pointed out that acronyms should be spelled out the first time used.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, final approval with the writing modifications. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Positive Youth Development Grants

The State Board approved and released these proposed rules for public comment October 8, 2012. A public hearing was held October 25 and several comments and questions were received. No written comments were received. The State Board was requested to give final approval to the proposed rules.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, final approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Approval for Public Comment: Revisions to the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Designation of Nominations Committee for 2013-2014

Chairman Cooper announced that Ms. Saviers and Ms. Newton would join him as members of the nominations committee to recommend a slate of officers for 2013-2014. The committee will report at the May meeting.

Ms. Mahony expressed concern regarding high stakes tests and asked if the Board could do anything to address the issue.


Commissioner Kimbrell said the only way to make change would be through legislation. He said 280 seniors had not met the Algebra I high stakes requirement for graduation, but had two more opportunities to take the test.

Board members asked for a report at the next board meeting of the demographics of those seniors who had not passed the Algebra I test.

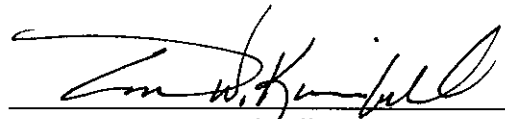
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.



Jim Cooper, Chair



Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner