

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2013

The State Board of Education met Monday, January 14, 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; Joe Black (present but not participating in discussion or vote); Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner; and Kim Wilson, Teacher of the Year

Absent: None

Reports

Chair's Report:

Chairman Jim Cooper welcomed Joe Black back to the Board after a lengthy illness. He announced Mr. Black would not participate in discussion or vote.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kimbrell reported the College Board had agreed to support PARCC's efforts to bring additional program management expertise to the development of the next generation assessments. He announced that PARCC had established an executive committee to expedite decisions and the work of the consortium.

Dr. Kimbrell said another effort was being made to school districts to encourage their completion of the technology readiness tool which would help PARCC gauge the state's readiness for the delivery of online assessments.

Recognition of Arkansas 2012 History Teacher of the Year

Sonja Williams, an American history teacher at Hall High School in the Little Rock School District, was recognized as the state's 2012 History Teacher of the Year. The award honors exceptional history teachers for their work.

Informational Update on Common Core State Standards and PARCC

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Laura Bednar called upon the State Board to help communicate the state's messages about the Common Core State Standards. She reminded the Board the work with SREB around the literacy and math design collaboratives was the state's CCSS professional learning for secondary schools.

Dr. Bednar announced ADE would partner with AASCD in their summer conference scheduled for June 9-12 to focus on system change. She said the state's priority schools would be encouraged to participate and bring teams for the professional learning.

Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Item C-7 was pulled for further discussion.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval of the Consent Agenda with exception of Item C-7. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the December 10, 2012, 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—One Revolving Loan Application
- Division of Public School Accountability Standards Assurance Unit Interim Report
- Sanction for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure Board
 - Marolyn Linda Barnett
 - Chelsea Elizabeth Damron (Barnhill)
 - Danny Dewayne Davis
 - Amanda Brooke Eakins
 - Tina Renee Foster
 - Kim Patrick Garner
 - Jack Woodrow James, Jr.
 - Patti Kay Stigall

C-7 Covenant Keepers College Preparatory Charter School Quarterly Report

Dr. Valerie Tatum, school director, and Doug Brown with APSRC explained the process for budget adjustments based on a lower enrollment than originally projected.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Agenda

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

Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Blytheville High School – A New Tech School, Blytheville School District

Mary Perry, Charter School Program Director, introduced a request from the Blytheville School District to convert Blytheville High School – A New Tech School—into a district

conversion charter school. The school would serve grades 9-12 with a proposed enrollment of 1,000 students.

Superintendent Richard Atwill and other district representatives said the New Tech process breaks the connection between race, poverty and academic success and would take learning to a new level for their students.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application:
Rogers New Technology High School, Rogers Public Schools**

Ms. Perry presented a request from the Rogers School District for a district conversion charter at Rogers New Technology High School. The school would serve grades 9-12 with a proposed enrollment of 600 students.

Superintendent Janie Darr said her district's New Technology High School will feature an instructional approach centered on project-based learning and will be open to students from Rogers High School and Rogers Heritage High School. The school will initially serve ninth and tenth graders and will add a grade each year.

Ms. Gullett moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application:
Murfreesboro High School, South Pike County School District**

In presenting a request from the South Pike County School District for a conversion charter at Murfreesboro High School, Ms. Perry said the school would serve grades 7-12 with a proposed enrollment of 600 students.

Superintendent Roger Featherston said he believed converting Murfreesboro High School into a New Tech school and operating as a conversion charter would be the best educational opportunity for students. Mr. Featherston said change was challenging but his district was ready to make it work.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application:
Brunson New Vision Charter School, Warren School District**

Ms. Perry presented a proposal from the Warren School District for the Brunson New Vision Charter School. The conversion charter school would serve grades 4-5 with a proposed enrollment of 300 students.

District representatives said the school was an extension of the program already in place for younger students at Eastside New Vision School. Like Eastside, students at Brunson will have to show evidence of their learning and their readiness to move to the next level of instruction.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Gullett, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cooper left the meeting prior to considering the next agenda item.

Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Washington Academy, Texarkana School District

Ms. Perry presented a proposal from the Texarkana School District for a conversion charter at Washington Academy—a nonpunitive alternative learning school. The school would serve grades 9-12 with a proposed enrollment of 160 students.

Superintendent Russell Sapaugh reminded the State Board his district fought the establishment of an open enrollment charter school in his district a year ago. He said since then he and his staff learned there were certain features of charter schools that when combined with the resources of a school district gives another avenue to reach some students. The school features flexible hours, varied instruction, one-on-one tutoring, the ability to earn college credit while in high school and career connections.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Miner Academy, Bauxite School District

Ms. Perry said the Bauxite School District was requesting a conversion charter for the proposed Miner Academy. The school would serve grades 6-12 with an enrollment of 500 students.

Superintendent Jerrod Williams said Miner Academy would serve students in need of an alternative learning environment.

The State Board tabled action on this request until it could get more clarity on the plans.

Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application: The Academies at Jonesboro High School, Jonesboro Public Schools

Ms. Perry presented a request from the Jonesboro School District for conversion charter status for the Academies at Jonesboro High School. The school would serve grades 10-12 with a proposed enrollment of 1,800 students.

District representatives explained one academy will center on technology, engineering, mathematics, manufacturing and agriculture. The second academy focus will be business, communications and finance. Career and technical courses, world history and foreign language will also be included. The third academy will include health, human services, law and government administration. Biology courses, consumer science, hospitality and tourism will be incorporated into that program.

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

Continuation Hearing of Open Enrollment Charter Application Appeal: America's Charter School

Ms. Perry presented a request for America's Charter School, a proposed open-enrollment public charter school to be located within the Lincoln School District. Students in grades 8-12 would be served with a proposed enrollment of 500 students. She reminded the State Board that a hearing was held November 1, 2012, at which time the application was tabled to allow the applicant additional time for clarification and technical assistance.

Dr. Frank Holman, charter applicant, said the online, project-based learning program would primarily serve students who are currently disenfranchised from the regular public school setting.

Board members recognized Dr. Holman's passion and visionary spirit but thought there was too much uncertainty and confusion around the instructional delivery.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to deny the application. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request for Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Charter Amendments: Northwest Classical Academy, Premier High School of Little Rock, and Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff

Responsive Education Solutions, the sponsoring entity for Northwest Classical Academy, Premier High School of Little Rock and Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff, requested an amendment to those charters.

The group asked to amend its governing structure to allow board members of Responsive Ed of Arkansas who may or may not be residents of the state to serve. It also asked for a separate school board for each charter.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to allow for the amendments with the stipulation that at least three of the seven member Responsive Ed of Arkansas board be residents of the state and represent the three individual school boards. The motion carried. Ms. Mahony voted no.

Consideration of Licensure Revocation for Cause – Stacy Stracener

Katherine Donovan, PLSB attorney, said Stacy Stracener entered guilty pleas to eleven counts of sexual assault in the first degree, class "A" felonies, and two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, class "B" felonies, on December 14, 2012, in the Circuit Court of Lonoke County, Arkansas, case number CR 12-87. Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410, each of the offenses is a separate ground for revocation, suspension, or probation. Ms. Stracener's attorney John Hall waived her right to a hearing.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to revoke the license of Stacy Stracener. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Recommendation of Suspension of Educator's Licenses with Unpaid PLSB Fines

A recommendation was made to suspend the teaching license of Charlotte Maxine Ellison, Roanne Worsham and Mindy Sue McFarland for failure to pay fines ordered by the State Board for violation of the Code of Ethics.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to suspend the license of the three educators until payment of the fines. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Recommendation for New Praxis II Journalism (7-12) Test to be Effective September 1, 2013

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to adopt the Praxis Journalism (0223) test with a cut score of 155 replacing the Principles of Learning and Teaching effective September 1, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

Redfield Residents Ask to Keep School Open

Ronald Meredith, a resident of Redfield, asked the State Board to intervene in the White Hall School Board's decision to close the Redfield Middle School. Mr. Meredith said the school was meeting state standards and students would be better served in their community.

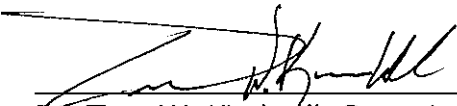
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.



Jim Cooper, Chair



Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner