

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sunday, October 12, 1997

Springdale, Arkansas

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met for the regularly scheduled meeting on Sunday, October 12, 1997, in the Administrative Offices of Springdale Public Schools. Bill Fisher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members present: Bill Fisher, Chair; Luke Gordy, Vice-Chair; Edwin Alderson; Carl Baggett; JoNell Caldwell; Martha Dixon; James McLarty; Betty Pickett; Richard Smith; Sherry Walker; and Anita Yates.

Members absent: Lewis Thompson, Jr.

Mr. Fisher recognized Dr. Jim Rollins, Superintendent of Springdale Public Schools, who welcomed the Board to Springdale and to Springdale Public Schools.

Mr. Fisher noted that Betty Pickett was attending the Excellence in Arkansas Public School Task Force meetings on behalf of the Board. Mrs. Pickett reported that she had attended the organizational meeting at which Senator Argue challenged the group to think broadly and creatively in its deliberations and recommendations. Monthly meetings are anticipated in preparation of legislative recommendation for the 1999 session.

The Break the Mold Schools Conference is scheduled for Little Rock on October 16-17, 1997. Mrs. Yates is representing the Board at this conference.

Mrs. Yates reported on accomplishments of the Lincoln School District in the area of technology. She stressed that their success is an example of what can happen when there is a vision supported by an engaged community.

Mr. Fisher reported that six board members will be attending the NASBE conference.

Mrs. Pickett noted that Board members had received a draft of the proposed revision of the Operating Guidelines within the 30 day time frame for consideration at the November Board meeting. These Guidelines are being revised to meet the requirements of Act 730 of 1997.

Mr. Simon reported that his first three weeks on the job had been good. He introduced Dr. Woodrow Cummins as the newly hired Deputy Director. Dr. Cummins has begun the process of induction and will be on the job full time on October 20, 1997. Mr. Simon was pleased to be able to announce the 1998 Milken winners and the finalists for Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Fisher asked for comments on the Minutes for September 7, September 8, September 23, and October 3, 1997. Mr. Smith moved approval of all Minutes as printed. Mr. McLarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Fisher requested that the following Items be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Action Agenda: C-7, Request for Approval of Loans and Bond Applications; and C-10, Personnel Recommendations.

Mr. Gordy moved that the remaining Consent Agenda items be approved. Mr. Alderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Technical correction to "Recommendation for Action" in Consent Agenda item C-12. On page C-12-1, the date "September 30, 1996," should read, September 30, 1997. Mr. Alderson moved the acceptance of this amendment. Mrs. Pickett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Technical correction in item C-2, in Paragraph 1.01 of the Rules and Regulations, "Act 1381" is incorrect and should read Act 1318.

Technical correction in item C-5, in Paragraph 4.01 of the Rules and Regulations, "multiplies" should be replaced with "multiplied."

Technical correction in item C-4, to add wording to Paragraphs 3.04 and 3.05.

Mrs. Pickett moved reconsideration of the previous action to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pickett moved that C-4 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pickett moved approval of technical amendments as noted above in items C-2, C-5, and C-12. Mr. Alderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith moved approval of the Consent Agenda (not including C-4, C-7 and C-10). Mrs. Pickett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed for committee sessions at 12:45 p.m. It will reconvene at 2:45 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m.

ACTION AGENDA

Committee #1 - Betty Pickett reporting

The Committee considered the following wording addition to Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Growth Facilities Funding (Consent Agenda Item C-4). To the end of Paragraphs 3.04 and 3.05 add the following, "divided by the ADM of the previous year expressed as a percentage rounded to the nearest hundredth." Mrs. Pickett moved adoption of these Rules and Regulations as amended. Mrs. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pickett moved the adoption of Consent Agenda Item C-7 (Request for Approval of Loans and Bond Applications). Mrs. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Yates moved the adoption of proposed Rules and Regulations for Civil Liability for the purpose of public comment. She also suggested review by the Board Legislative Committee. Mrs. Walker Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee requested staff to prepare Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Funds in Targeted Categories and report to the Board at the November meeting.

Following a review of the state aid calculation based on Act 275 of 1997 (early graduation), the committee recommends that students who graduate early (at the end of the first semester) not be counted as part of the school's ADM for the spring semester. Motion by Mrs. Pickett. Mr. McLarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee 2 - James McLarty reporting

Mr. McLarty reported that the committee directed staff to prepare a plan for professional development based on the state assessment results that would narrow the focus and direct future efforts. Specifically targeted should be mathematics with emphasis given to the middle level.

Mr. McLarty moved that the Board not request a waiver that would allow more than the 22.7% of Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Funds be used for subject areas other than mathematics and science. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee requested that staff prepare a monthly report documenting the progress of Phase II Academic Distress Schools (Alzheimer and Elaine). It also requested that staff develop a public relations initiative specifically directed toward all schools experiencing academic distress as well as those on the "watch list."

Mr. McLarty moved the adoption of the State Education Technology Plan as mailed to the Board. Mrs. Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McLarty moved that the Board adopt policy requiring that each local district develop a local technology plan and that those first plans be submitted to the ADE for review on or before December 1, 1997. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee #3 - Sherry Walker reporting

Mrs. Walker moved that the Draft Rules and Regulations Governing Four-Day School Weeks be approved for public comment with the following change in wording in Paragraph 5.02 - "Assessment measures will include the state approved norm-referenced test and other assessment instruments required by or approved by the ADE." Mr. McLarty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker moved the final approval of Rules and Regulations for Advanced Placement Incentive Program. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Walker reported that the committee accepted the recommendations presented by staff concerning the development of the core curriculum. No other action was taken.

The committee recommends a change in policy concerning the conduct of the textbook caravan each year. The committee suggested that the caravan continue, but that it be organized and operated by the publishers, not by ADE staff. ADE will work with the publishers to see that this transition works smoothly, but would not assign staff to accompany the caravan. This model is used in Oklahoma and seems to function satisfactorily. Mrs. Walker made the above motion. Mr. Gordy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSING ACTIONS

Mr. Simon introduced Margaret Preston who was hired in September as the Assistant Director for Communications.

Mr. Gordy moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel. Mrs. Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the executive session, Mr. McLarty moved to reopen the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Smith moved that no action be taken on Consent Agenda Item C-10 (Personnel Recommendations). Mrs. Walker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

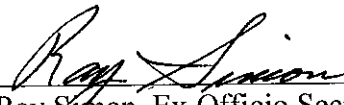
Mr. Smith reported that he had made contacts in Lake Village for the site of a spring meeting.

Mr. McLarty made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Yates seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorded by: Dr. Charles Watson



Bill Fisher, Chairman



Ray Simon, Ex Officio Secretary