

**State Board of Education
Minutes
September 11, 2000**

The State Board of Education met on Monday, September 11, 2000, in the Auditorium of the State Education Building. Luke Gordy, Chairman, called the Agenda Meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

The following members were present: Luke Gordy, Chairman; Richard Smith, Vice Chairman; JoNell Caldwell; Claiborne Deming, Shelby Hillman; Betty Pickett and Anita Yates.

The following members were absent: William Fisher; Robert Hackler and Lewis Thompson, Jr.

Ms. Hillman moved that an item be added to the Consent Agenda to approve for public comment Rules and Regulations on Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB). Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Yates moved approval of the Consent Agenda to include the added item. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Minutes from August 2000
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Personnel Recommendations
- Status of Arkansas Schools
- Approval of Organizations for Implementation of Act 648 Community Service Program
- Approval of Recommendations and Strengths and Weaknesses of State Science Selecting Committees for grades K-8 and Grades 9-12.
- Approval for Public Comment Rules and Regulations on Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB).

Director's Report

Mr. Simon deferred to Sammye Taylor, attorney with the Attorney General's Office, for an update on the Lake View case.

Ms. Taylor began by noting the coverage of the Lake View case in the *Arkansas Democrat/Gazette* (September 11, 2000). She summarized the case history by indicating there were two major issues being deliberated: Lake View (1) dealt with equitable distribution of funds for public schools in the state; and Lake View (2) dealt with the state's constitutional responsibility to provide an adequate education to all students. The

Attorney General's Office filed a motion for continuance for the hearing scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2000 and that motion was denied by the court. The Lake View attorneys dismissed their Lake View (2) case; however, the judge merged the adequacy issue with the equity issue into the Lake View (1) case. Ms. Taylor informed the Board that the case must go to trial or settle and that no appeal is possible until after a trial. The Attorney General's Office has set aside five weeks to try the case. They have begun the process of identifying witnesses and collecting materials.

Ms. Pickett inquired if the Lake View attorneys had changed. Ms. Taylor indicated that Mr. Wilson's license had been suspended and that Mr. Lewellen is now the lead attorney for Lake View.

Action Agenda

Proposed revisions of Rules and Regulations Governing the Probationary Status and Accreditation of Public Schools

Bob Maddox was recognized to present this issue. Mr. Maddox noted that these proposed revisions were necessary to bring the document in line with the revisions of the Accreditation Standards. He stated the request was for approval of these revisions so they can be submitted for public comment. Mr. Gordy asked if the revisions were consistent with the most current changes in teacher licensure. Mr. Maddox assured him they were. Ms. Caldwell moved adoption of the proposed revisions for public comment. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Probationary Teacher Status Report – Sheena Earl

Scott Smith was recognized to present this item. Mr. Smith reported to the Board that Ms. Earl had been issued a probationary license approximately one year ago, which is due to expire. Ms. Earl has provided evidence that a recommendation is forthcoming from the Pardon Board for a full pardon. The paper work and documentation should be forthcoming within two months. Mr. Smith recommended that the Board continue her probationary teacher licensure status through December 2000 to allow time for Ms. Earl to receive official pardon documentation. Mr. Smith moved continuing Ms. Earl's probationary license through December. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stipulated Agreement in the Matter of a Teaching Certificate – Donald Wilson

Scott Smith was recognized to present this item. Mr. Smith reported to the Board that on a request for renewal of licensure, Mr. Wilson failed to report a previous felony conviction that occurred in 1975. Mr. Smith indicated that Mr. Wilson had agreed to a one-year probationary license, which is in keeping with other such instances. Ms. Caldwell moved that Donald Wilson be issued a one-year probationary license. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

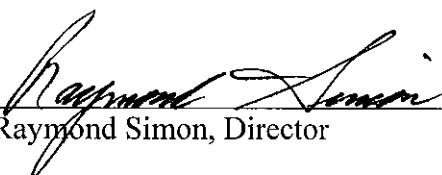
Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan

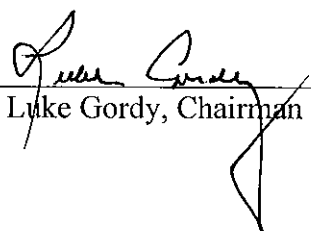
Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to present this item. Dr. Smith reported to the Board that staff continues to seek agreement with the parties in a number of areas. They have agreed to a meeting to be held on October 2 to discuss the new monitoring plan. Staff also continues to seek a private contractor or company to assist with the data disaggregation and analysis that will be necessary to determine compliance with loan forgiveness. Richard Smith moved acceptance of the report. Mr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Pickett requested that the reporting matrix be adapted to indicate new information being presented. She noted it was difficult to discriminate between new actions and information that had previously been reported. Dr. Smith agreed to revise the format for reporting this information to the Board.

Mr. Smith moved adjournment. Mr. Deming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded and reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson


Raymond Simon, Director


Luke Gordy, Chairman