

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
March 10, 2022**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair, Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair; Randy Henderson, Kathy McFetridge; Dr. Beth Anne Rankin; Dr. Fitz Hill; Susanna Post, 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner, Ex-Officio Secretary

Present via ZOOM: Charisse Dean; Adrienne Woods

Absent: Steve Sutton; Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, March 10, 2022, in the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Auditorium. Chair Ouida Newton, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, led by a moment of silence.

**Consent Agenda**

Items included for consideration in the Consent Agenda were as follows:

1. Minutes
  - a. 01-13-22
  - b. 02-10-22
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #21-116 Terri Barker
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #22-016 Ashley Hipps
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #22-067 Chanece Ross
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #22-079 Grant Myrick

A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin. The motion unanimously passed.

## **Action Agenda A.**

### **VI.1. Consideration of Standards for Accreditation Waivers**

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter School presented VI.1.a. through VI.1.c. to the State Board for consideration.

#### **VI.1.a. Consideration of Sheridan School District request for Standards for Accreditation Waiver**

Present via ZOOM from Sheridan School District was Dr. Jerry Guess, Superintendent and Ms. Angie Holiman, eSchool System Administrator and Cycle Coordinator.

Sheridan School District is requesting a Standards for Accreditation Waiver for the 2021-2022 academic year. Sheridan is experiencing an overage for sixth-grade art and music wheel. The overage is for three (3) students receiving special education services and they are accompanied by a paraprofessional.

A motion to approve the Standards of Accreditation Waiver for Sheridan School District was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **VI.1.b. Consideration of Mayflower School District request for Standards for Accreditation Waiver**

Mayflower School District is requesting a Standards for Accreditation Waiver for class size for the 2021-2022 school year. Mayflower School District's sixth-grade class has been at or above the class size limit of 28 students multiple times throughout the 2021-2022 academic year. The district does not anticipate needing the waiver beyond this school year.

A motion to approve a Standards of Accreditation Waiver for Mayflower School District was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.1.c. Consideration of Shirley School District request for Standards for Accreditation Waiver**

Present via ZOOM from Shirley School District was Ms. Tyrene Gardner, Superintendent.

Shirley School District is requesting a Standards for Accreditation Waiver for the district's kindergarten class. The class size is currently 23 with a half-time paraprofessional. This number places the district a total of one (1) student over the 22 student limit with a half-time paraprofessional.

A motion to approve a Standards of Accreditation Waiver for Shirley School District was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.2. Consideration of Requests for Act 1240 Waivers**

Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel, presented two Act 1240 Waiver requests to the State Board for consideration. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-103 (Act 1240 of 2015), a traditional public school may petition the State Board for waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school.

#### **VI.2.a. Jacksonville North Pulaski School District Act 1240 Waiver Request**

Present via ZOOM from Jacksonville North Pulaski School District was Dr. Jeremy Owoh, Superintendent.

The Jacksonville North Pulaski School District requests a waiver of class size and teaching load for its Jacksonville High School to support a student teacher internship in Physical Science. The district requests this waiver for only the current school year (2021-22).

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for Jacksonville North Pulaski School District for Jacksonville High School was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Ms. Charisse Dean. The motion unanimously passed.

## **VI.2.b. Brinkley School District Act 1240 Waiver Request**

Present from Brinkley School District was Dr. Brenda Poole, Superintendent.

The Brinkley School District requests waivers of Teacher Licensure, Library Media Specialist Licensure, and Instructional Day. The district requests these waivers through the 2025-2026 school year.

As the State Board expressed concerns regarding the waiver requests, namely the waiver for Instructional Day, Ms. Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, advised the State Board that the Office of Public School Accountability will provide support to Dr. Poole to assist her in working through the issues and see what options are available and what the community will support. Then, will return to make the recommendations so the State Board, who will then have full content to make decisions.

### **Teacher Licensure Waiver**

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for teacher licensure for Brinkley School District for one year, until the end of the 2022-2023 school year was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Library Media Specialist Waiver**

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for library media specialist for Brinkley School District for one year, until the end of the 2022-2023 school year was made by Ms. Charisse Dean, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Instructional Day Waiver**

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for Licensure Day for Brinkley School District for one year, until the end of the 2023 school year was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 5 Yes to 2 No.

### **VI.3. Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions**

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Interim Charter Director presented Items VI.3.a. through VI.3.d.

#### **VI.3.a. Open Enrollment Charter Application**

The Charter Authorizing Panel voted to approve the Open Enrollment Charter Application for the 2022 application cycle.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the Open Enrollment Charter Application was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **VI.3.b. Consideration of Haas Hall's five (5)-year charter renewal and amendment requests**

Present via ZOOM for Haas Hall Academy was Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer, Jr., Founder & Superintendent of Schools.

Haas Hall Academy is requesting:

- Five (5) year renewal of the charter with all existing waivers for Haas Hall Academy 7240703, Haas Hall at the Lane 7240709, Haas Hall Academy Jones Center 7240706, and Haas Hall Bentonville 7240712
- The addition of a new site for grades 7-12 in Ft. Smith
- An increase in enrollment cap by 500 to accommodate the Ft. Smith campus students.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of a five-year charter renewal and amendment requests was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **VI.3.c. Consideration of Premier High School Fort Smith amendment request**

The Charter is requesting to locate its school within 1,000 feet of a Dollar General Store which has an off-premises beer and wine consumption license. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board provided a letter to the Charter Authorizing Panel concerning this matter, and the amendment was approved.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approving Premier High School Fort Smith's amendment request was made by Ms. Charisse Dean, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.3.d. Consideration of Premier Little Rock amendment request**

The Charter is requesting:

- 1) Increase Enrollment Cap to 600
- 2) Create New District: Premier High Schools of Arkansas
- 3) Merge Charters under New District: Premier High School-Little Rock & Premier High School-Fort Smith
- 4) Add an Expansion Campus: Texarkana

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approving Premier High School Little Rock's amendment requests was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VII.1. For Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites (Sections 1 and 4 only)**

Item VII.1. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Following the public comment period for DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites (Sections 1 and 4 only), non-substantive changes were made. The Division requests the State Board's final approval of these rules.

A motion of final approval for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites (only Sections 1 and 4) was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Dr. Sarah Rankin. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VII.2. For Final Approval: DESE and State Board of Nursing Rules Governing the Administration of Insulin, Glucagon, and Medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis to Arkansas Public School Students**

Item VII.2. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Following the public comment period for DESE and State Board of Nursing Rules Governing the Administration of Insulin, Glucagon, and Medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis to Arkansas Public School Students rules, non-substantive changes were made. The Division requests the State Board's final approval of these rules.

A motion of final approval for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Administration of Insulin, Glucagon, and Medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis to Arkansas Public School Students was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

**VII.3. For Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Eye and Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools**

Item VII.3. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Following the public comment period for DESE Rules Governing Eye and Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools, non-substantive changes were made. The Division requests the State Board's final approval of these rules.

A motion of final approval for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Eye and Vision Screening Report in Arkansas Public Schools was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**VII.4. Consideration of final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools**

Item VII.4. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, DESE Attorney Specialist.

The State Board approved the DESE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools on December 29, 2021, for release for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval. The rules were approved by the Governor's Office on January 13, 2022, and were released for public comment. Comments were received and non-substantive changes were made. Subsequently learning that there will not be an ALC Rules Sub-committee meeting in March, the effective date may be changed to April or May, a non-substantive change, which will be taken care of in-house after approval. The Division requests the final approval of the rules.

A motion of final approval for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Public Charter Schools was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

**VII.5. Consideration of Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions**

Item VII.5. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, DESE Attorney Specialist.

The State Board approved the DESE Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions on October 14, 2021, for release for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval. The rules were approved by the Governor's Office on January 12, 2022, and were released for public comment. Comments were received and non-substantive changes were made. The Division requests the final approval of the rules.

A motion of final approval for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin. The motion unanimously passed.

## VII.6. Consideration of Revised State Board Standard Operating Procedures

Item VII.6. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Ms. Freno summarized substantive changes that were made to the proposed revisions of the State Board's Standards Operating Procedures, which were:

- **Page 4 – Chair/Vice Chair Nominations**  
Changed Operating Procedures to allow a vote in either April or May after nominations for Chair or Vice Chair.
- **Page 7 – Consent Agenda**  
Clarifies that a matter may be pulled from the Consent Agenda and considered by the State Board on that day, unless notice must be provided to ensure due process.
- **Page 10 – Substitute Motions**  
Changed procedures for substitution motions to make procedure consistent with Robert's Rules pertaining to substitution motions.

A motion of approval for the Revised State Board Standard Operating Procedures was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

### Chair and Vice-Chair Nominating Committee

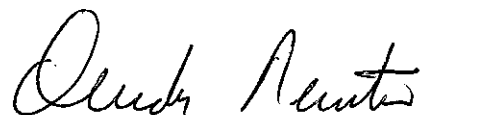
Ms. Newton appointed Ms. Kathy McFetridge to lead the State Board Chair and Vice Chair Nominating Committee. She appointed Mr. Randy Henderson and Dr. Beth Anne Rankin to the committee. The Nominating Committee will present a report to the State Board in April 2022.

### Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:16 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

  
Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner  
Ex-Officio Secretary

  
Ouida Newton, Chair  
State Board of Education