

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
August 10, 2023**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Adrienne Woods; Lisa Hunter; Randy Henderson; Steve Sutton, Jeff Wood, Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary.

ZOOM: Leigh Keener

Absent: Ken Bragg; Capri Salaam, 2023 Teacher of the Year

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, August 10, 2023. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:59 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

III.1. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Secretary Jacob Oliva introduced Mr. Dushun Scarbrough, Director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (Commission). The Commission consists of a staff of four and volunteers. Also present from the Commission were Mr. Tim Baker, Volunteer; and Ms. Tiffany Pettus, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Historian. Mr. Scarbrough presented to the State Board an informational update on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission's statewide community support and statewide projects.

Mr. Scarbrough invited anyone who wishes to volunteer to contact the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission at 888-290-KING or visit [www.ARKingDream.org](http://www.ARKingDream.org).

Chair Dr. Sarah Moore congratulated and welcomed new State Board members Mr. Ken Bragg, Sheridan, currently out of the country, and Ms. Leigh Keener, Little Rock, attending via ZOOM.

**Changes to Agenda**

**Action Agenda**

**Added**

V.4. Consideration of Extension of Act 1240 Waiver: Helena-West Helena School District

**Pulled**

V.1. School Choice Appeals under the Public School Choice Act of 2015  
V.1.a. School Choice Appeal – Henry

#### **V.4. Consideration of Extension of Act 1240 Waiver: Helena-West Helena School District**

Item V.4. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, Division of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Attorney Specialist. Also present was Dr. Keith McGee, Superintendent, and Ms. Traci Holland, Executive Director of Learning Services Administration. Ms. Stacy Smith, ADE Deputy Commissioner, provided further information to the State Board.

The Helena-West Helena School District is seeking a waiver of educator licensure. The district is seeking a waiver for a three-year period. The waiver will expire June 30, 2026.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for Helena-West Helena School District was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.5. Consideration of Request for Approval to Release Public Comment DESE Rules Governing School Safety**

Item V.5. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, Division of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Attorney Specialist and Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, ADE Chief of Staff.

The Division requests approval to release for public comment, pending Governor's office approval, the rules governing school safety, which incorporate the requirements of Ark. Code Ann. 6-10-121, 6-10-128, 6-15-1302, 6-15-1303, and 6-17-113.

A motion to release for public comment the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing School Safety, pending Governor's Office approval, was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.


## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:18 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*



Jacob Oliva, Secretary  
Arkansas Department of Education



Ouida Newton, Chair Sarah Moore  
State Board of Education