

Professional Licensure Standards Board
Tuesday, April 14, 2009

A meeting of the Professional Licensure Standards Board was held in the auditorium of the Arkansas Department of Education, on April 14, 2009. Members of the Board present were Brenda Brown, Dr. Mitch Holifield, Kathy Howell, Sheila Jacobs, Don McGohan, Donna Morey, Andrew Tolbert, Dr. John Beineke, Dr. Tony Finley, Ron Tolson and Beverly Williams. Dr. Peggy Doss, Michelle Hayward, Mona Moore and Dale Query were unable to attend. Guests in attendance were Peggy Nabors-AEA, Jeanne Jones-ADHE, Cynthia Moten-ADHE and Tom Kimbrell-AAEA.

There were nine (9) voting members present, representing a quorum and two non-voting members present.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am and the agenda was distributed.

II. Approval of the Minutes –Friday, March 13, 2008

Dr. Holifield made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting date March 13, 2009 as written, was seconded by Ms. Howell, motion passed unanimously.

III. Fund Balance – As of 03/31/09 is \$245,706.62 – Hopefully our third investigator will be on board. We have interviewed and the position has been offered to a lady.

IV. Update on the Code of Ethics Video - The Code of Ethics video has been revised to convey the seriousness of the issue. The ending portion of the video is the only part that has changed and was shown to the committee for review.

V. Code of Ethics Investigation:

- a) **Revised Allegation Form** – The revision to the Allegation Form comes from questions about an allegation not being reported to the Arkansas State Police Child Abuse Hotline. It was reported, but because the student was eighteen (18), the hotline would not make the report, although the victim was still a student. The purpose of the revision was to inquire if an educator is making the complaint and is a mandatory reporter that that process must still be fulfilled. After discussion about the revision Ms. Morey made a motion to make the changes as written to the Allegation Form, seconded by Ms. Howell, motion passed unanimously.

- b) **Test Investigation – Explanation of Procedural Tweaks** – Dr. Holifield made a motion that the recommended sequence in regards to the investigating violation testing procedures be piloted for this year and in the fall at a time deemed appropriate by State Department of Education we will revisit this procedure and at that time determine whether we will tweak it again or we can accept it as it is and treat it as a Standard 6 violation, seconded by Mr. Tolbert, motion passed unanimously.

- c) **Four (4) cases were presented to ARSBOE on Monday, April 13, 2009.** – Randy Lawson, President of the State Board of Education contacted Ms. Williams and stated that as long as the recommendations from the PLSB are not being contested by the educator, he would like for the recommendations to go on the consent agenda. Dr. Holifield stated that it would also prevent the chairman of the sub-committee from attending all state board meetings.

VI. Further discussion on Instructional Facilitators – John Beineke- Dr. Beineke was not available at the first discussion about the Instructional Facilitators; he did make it known that had he been available that he would have supported the Instructional Facilitators. Ms. Williams presented further information to the board and shared that she had also presented this information at the dean’s meeting earlier in the month. Questions asked were: (1) Will there be any further direction for Universities? IHEs should submit their program of study for approval to the ADE as they would for any endorsement. (2) Was there or was there not a pilot? There will not be any pilots. ADE is simply seeking proposal applications from IHEs who wish to submit. (3) What is the role of the co-ops? The roles of the co-ops are the same that they have always been to offer support, including professional development to the school districts for which they serve.

VII. Recommendations from Office of Professional Licensure: Ron Tolson –

- a) **Out of State ALP** – Because of different shortages of teachers around the state school districts hire teachers that are licensed, but they are not licensed for the assignments that they are getting. When this happens school districts are required to submit a waiver request to work under an ALP. Traditionally ALP has only been approved for those individuals who were adding areas to Arkansas. Ms. Williams and Mr. Tolson were asked to put together some information to do a study of to share with committee showing the need. The committee is more than willing to look at and assist. More discussion at next meeting.
- b) **Professional Licensure Level (initial, standard, professional) – Professional Level Requires:** (many states recognize). Mr. Tolbert made a motion to create a professional licensure level which encompasses, it’s only going to be reflected on the license itself, still to be charged \$100 renewal just like the standard, a minimal of three (3) years of experience and Masters Degree or higher Degree or National Board Certification, seconded by Dr. Beineke, motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Discussion on PE/Health** – Table until another time – no one has heard any concern in this area.
- d) **Recommendation about experience to be licensed as Counselor, library Media** – Ms. Morey made a motion to require two (2) years to be employed as a classroom teacher before you can be licensed as a counselor or library media or to be employed on the ALP, seconded by Ms. Howell, motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Rules:**
 - i. **Administrator Rules** – A draft of the rules were shared, but are waiting to be reviewed by legal, will discuss in May. Building Level Administrators at this time are licensed P-8 / 7-12. A secondary licensed principal can not

be the principal of the middle school building grades 6-8. Current levels of license only allow your elementary principal to be a middle level principal. Ms. Williams propose to change the levels of licensure to P-8 / 5-12 by adding the two grades 5 and 6 secondary licensed administrators to also serve as a middle school principal.

- ii. FYI – Rules for Renewal and Lifetime Teaching License will go out later this month from ADE.**

VIII. Other Agenda Items:

- a) May meeting date is Tuesday, May 12, 2009
- b) The May agenda will review PLSB Rules on Code of Ethics to include the new legislation. There will be three changes. 1) FOIA piece did come through. Everything in Ms. Mason's office is confidential, the governor has already signed it, it has an emergency clause, and it went into effect. 2) subpoena power and the 3) administrative procedures act.
- c) Lifetime licenses are free and can be applied for as soon as they turn age sixty-two (62). They will have to have a current background check and verify that they have teaching experience.

IX. Adjournment