

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2016

The State Board of Education met Thursday, October 13, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Chair; Dr. Jay Barth, Vice-Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Meghan Ables, 2016 Teacher of the Year, and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: None

Consent Agenda

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the consent agenda, less consent items 7, 8, 9, and 12. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – September 8, 2016
- Minutes – September 9, 2016
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- 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
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-099 – David Wesley Waddell
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-088 – Keresia Lorraine Jones
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-119 – Debra Ann Duford
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-120 – Christopher M. Horne
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-134 – Annette Susan Queck

Action Agenda

Consent Items 7, 8, 9, and 12 moved to the Action Agenda:

#7 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-096 – Mary Lorene Horton

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Chief Investigator Mr. Eric James said any changes or recommendations would be sent back to the educator and PLSB Ethics Subcommittee for consideration.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to send consent item #7 back to the PLSB Ethics Subcommittee for consideration of adding professional development for the educator. The motion carried unanimously.

#8 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-101 – Mallory Dawn Rorie

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to send consent item #8 back to the PLSB Ethics Subcommittee for consideration of additional review of the suspension time for the educator. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

#9 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-109 – Ruby Jean Fowler

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to send consent item #9 back to the PLSB Ethics Subcommittee for consideration of professional development and/or reflection by the educator. The motion carried unanimously.

#12 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-131 – Jeremy E. Ellis

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to send consent item #12 back to the PLSB Ethics Subcommittee for consideration of professional development for the educator. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

A-1 Consideration of Resolution for Arkansas School Bus Safety Week, October 17-21, 2016

Senior Transportation Manager Mr. Mike Simmons introduced special guests Ms. Susie Everett, representing Everett Buick GMC, Ms. Michelle Cadle and Ms. Trina Kuklaw, representing Arkansas PTA, and Mr. Tom Farmer, representing Bryant School District, and said they were instrumental in the Flashing Red. Kids Ahead. campaign. Mr. Simmons requested the State Board of Education recognize October 17-21, 2016, as Arkansas School Bus Safety Week.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to accept the resolution to recognize October 17-21, 2016, as Arkansas School Bus Safety Week. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook also encouraged drivers to follow the speed limit in school zones.

A-2 Consideration of Resolution for Arkansas Safe Schools Week, October 16-22, 2016

Director for Arkansas Center for School Safety Dr. Cheryl May requested the State Board of Education recognize October 16-22, 2016, as Arkansas Safe Schools Week. She recognized Safe School Committee members Captain Jamie Hammond, Mr. Bubba Jones, Ms. Otistene Smith, Ms. Deborah Coffman, Ms. Kimberly Friedman, and Mr. John Kaminar.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve a resolution to recognize October 16-22, 2016, as Arkansas Safe Schools Week. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver Filed by the Strong-Huttig School District

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the Strong-Huttig School District had fewer than 350 students in the two years immediately preceding the current school year. Consequently, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1603 required the district to be consolidated with or annexed to another school district unless the State Board granted the district's petition for a minimum school district size waiver pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613. She said the State Board shall grant the petition for waiver if the District demonstrates the several factors set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613. She said the district must request the waiver yearly. She said currently the district was not in academic, fiscal, or facilities distress. She said the district was not in probationary status for violation of the standards of accreditation.

Strong-Huttig School District Superintendent Mr. Jeff Alphin said all buildings were safe and have been met all mandated maintenance requirements. He said the 2016-2017 budget has been submitted to the Department. He said the district utilized a financial consultant and a state audit. He said instruction was continuing to improve. He said the district continued to prepare graduates to become successful citizens. He said the current enrollment was 311 students.

Representative John Baine said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1613 was a unanimous decision by the General Assembly. He said small, rural schools could be effective for students due to the new technologies available for learning. He encouraged the Board to consider this waiver because the Strong-Huttig School District is a viable district willing and committed to students and the community.

Mr. Alphin said the district had a broadband tower on-site and had excellent broadband access. He said each student will have a laptop. He said the district had a plan to improve academic achievement. He said Advanced Placement and concurrent credit courses are available to students.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant the petition for Minimum School District Size Waiver for the Strong-Huttig School District. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board encouraged the district to consider opportunities for the district for the upcoming years.

A-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Hope School District

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. She said the waiver request was for three (3) years.

Hope School District Superintendent Mr. Bobby Hart said the long-term library media specialist retired and the only applicant for the position was hired as a long-term substitute. He requested a waiver from educator licensure for library media specialist to allow time for the applicant to enroll in a program of study to meet licensure requirements.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said this was an appropriate avenue for waiver for this position. She said library media specialist was an endorsement (add on) to a standard teaching license.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve district request for waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Hope School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Kirby School District

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. She said the waiver was requested for three (3) years.

Kirby School District Superintendent Mr. Pike Palmer requested waivers for class size and teacher licensure. He said the request for class size increases was for Kindergarten, 1st grade – 3rd grade, and 4th grade – 6th grade. He said the district was under the 350 student enrollment and therefore needed larger class sizes to maximize the funding for the district. He said the waivers granted to Kirby Elementary School would permit the school to have a maximum of 25 students in Kindergarten, 28 students in grades 1-3, and up to 30 students in grades 4-6. He said the licensure waiver would allow a paraprofessional to teach elementary physical education. He said the paraprofessional would receive additional professional development. He said he would collect data regarding the effects of the waiver on student achievement.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said this was an appropriate avenue for waiver for the position.

Elementary Principal Ms. Dolores Cowart said the district had a certified Orton-Gillingham dyslexia teacher.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to deny the district request for waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Kirby School District for class size for Kindergarten. Ms. Zook voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to deny the district request for waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Kirby School District for class size for grades 1-3. Ms. Zook and Ms. Chambers voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve district request for waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Kirby School District for class size for grades 4-6. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve district request for waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Kirby School District for licensure. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

A-6 Consideration of Recommendation to Adopt Art: Content Knowledge (5134) Replacing Art: Content and Analysis (5135) to Accommodate Test Takers

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said the Educational Testing Service (ETS) offers two art content assessments: Praxis® Art: Content Knowledge (5134) and Praxis® Art: Content and Analysis (5135). The Praxis® Art: Content and Analysis (5135) is the current art content test adopted for Arkansas educator licensure in Art (K-12). Praxis® Art: Content and Analysis (5135) has 85 selected-response (multiple choice) questions and three (3) constructed-response (written discussion) questions and is offered four (4) testing periods a year (March, June, September, and December). The Praxis® Art: Content Knowledge (5134) has 120 selected-response questions and is offered every month (12 testing periods a year). She said to accommodate the art licensure test being offered more frequently, the Department recommended adopting the Praxis® Art: Content Knowledge (5134) with a cut score of 158, effective October 1, 2016. She said the Department also recommended allowing candidates to take either the 5134 or 5135 until December 31, 2016.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve recommendation to adopt Art: Content Knowledge (5134) replacing Art: Content and Analysis (5135) to accommodate test takers. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Sean F. Steiger

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Mr. Sean F. Steiger was seeking a first time teaching license. On July 21, 2016, the Department notified Mr. Steiger that he was ineligible for licensure and employment in an Arkansas public school based on a disqualifying offense enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Mr. Steiger requested a waiver of the disqualifying offense. Ms. Liwo said the Department recommended that the State Board grant the waiver request. Mr. Steiger did not attend the meeting.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to grant the waiver of the disqualifying offense for Mr. Sean F. Steiger. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration for Next Steps for the Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group

Ms. Ann Brown Marshall said the Stakeholder Group received information regarding research firms and requested guidance from the State Board on next steps. She said the Stakeholder Group wanted to make decisions based on data.

The Board discussed, focusing on data that are currently available, research from Effective Schools, and collaboration among traditional and charter schools south of the river. The Board recommended focusing on question #6, how collaboration between traditional public schools and open-enrollment charter educational offerings can maximize the achievement of students and fiscal efficiency of the system of public education south of the river. The work should move forward focused on (1) What is working? (2) How do we get to collaboration? and (3) How to include this information in ESSA?

Ms. Reith asked Dr. Barth to be the liaison to the Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group.

No additional action was taken at this time.

A-9 Consideration for Early Start Time on November 10, 2016

Chair Mireya Reith asked Board members to consider an early start time for the November 10 meeting because November 11 is a holiday. Board members will participate in a work session on the evening of November 9.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve an early start time of 8:30 a.m. on November 10, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Report-1 Little Rock School District

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Michael Poore presented the Power of Us – a call to action for LRSD Now.

Mr. Poore said the challenges for the district included academic performance, capital needs for multiple facilities, equity of support for wrap around services, middle school enrollment, antiquated business systems, loss of desegregation funds, and public perception. He said he would be reaching out to the community for a list of items that could be considered for cost savings. He said to overcome the budget issues he would be transparent and inclusive, provide timeline alignment, and encourage a willingness to invest in the district. He said the investment would restructure the LRSD debt, enhance community support programs to impact achievement, and support positive public relations for the district.

Mr. Poore said the improvements included Achieve Team, Literacy Council, Special Education Task Force, Bright Futures, Parent/Student/Staff/Community Engagement, Career Development Centers, K-10 Project Based Environments with a Middle School emphasis, Student Report Card, Athletics/Fine Arts, and Capital Improvements.

Mr. Poore said the Achieve Team model was focused on schools in academic distress and actions that can bring about improvement. Washington Elementary Principal Ms. Katherine Snyder said the Achieve Team conducted a needs assessment and planned pathways around barriers. She said the staff then identified how to move the work forward and designed an action plan. Henderson Middle School Mr. Frank Williams said the Achieve Team examined data and put the information into action for students. He said the work was focused on meeting the needs of individual students. He said the Achieve Team was working to make every classroom like an EAST classroom – project based learning. J.A. Fair High School Mr. Michael Anthony said the data indicated needed improvement in teaching and learning. He said the Achieve Team reflected on how to support the teachers. He said the district had an abundance of resources to support these needs.

Mr. Poore said Ms. Sadie Mitchell and Ms. Sabrina Stout are leading the work of the Literacy Council to improve reading and writing. He said parents and staff on the Special Education Task Force were working to improve the learning for all students. He said the Bright Futures program would meet the needs of children in the Little Rock Community by addressing needs within 24 hours. He said the City of Little Rock and Goodwill Industries are in full support of Bright Futures. He said the Parent/Student/Staff/Community engagement and outreach was evident in the teams that are walking in the communities to meet with patrons.

Mr. Poore said the district needed to create additional learning environments including career development centers, middle school partnerships, and project based learning opportunities. He said career development centers would include careers focused in construction, medical, aerospace, and technology. He said each high school needed a career center. He said the district could be growing their own educators with future educator programs. He said the students needed more opportunities for concurrent credit. He said the K-10 project-based environments (middle school emphasis) would partner with organizations such as UAMS, Heifer International, and First Security. He said the district was working on a student report card with better indicators of growth from fall to spring.

Mr. Poore said the capital improvements are needed now. Dr. Marvin Burton asked students to provide input on the new Southwest Little Rock High School. McClellan High School Student Ms. Faith Madkins said students need the new school now. McClellan High School Student Ms. Paola Vazquez said the old building issues caused disruptions in learning. She said the students need better labs and materials. She said a new school should be a vibrant, safe place to learn. J. A. Fair High School Alumni Mr. Ambrossiaal Rose Jr. said the new school would be more engaging for the students and more conducive to learning in the 21st century. Dr. Burton said the new school would provide a collegiate feel for learning in the academic village because of the focus on college and career readiness, culture and student engagement, health and wellness, and resource readiness.

Mr. Poore said the capital improvement projects would require a vote from the public to improve the roofs, HVAC systems, technology, athletic and fine arts facilities, and parking lots. He said the sense of urgency is now. He said the equity of opportunity was needed now.

Mr. Poore said Ms. Cathy Kohler and the educator association was instrumental in previous cost savings to the district. He said they would be engaged in the planning for the future. He said plans to restructure the debt was needed to do the right things for students.

Commissioner Key said the previous Little Rock School Board had planned for a millage increase to build the new high school. He said Mr. Poore was recommending debt restructuring to build the new high school and make other school improvements.

Mr. Poore said he would be asking the public to prioritize budget cuts. He said a school utilization team would be developed to discuss how current buildings can be repurposed. He said in November and December, the team would be in every zone. He said if a school was planned for closure the administration would be meet directly with the community.

Report-2 2016-2017 Novice Teacher and Beginning Administrator Mentoring Overview

Director of Educator Effectiveness Ms. Sandra Hurst provided a report on the enhancements and updates to the novice teacher and beginning administrator mentoring systems. She said educators may be mentored through the BloomBoard platform in addition to the one-to-one mentoring program. She said educators may achieve micro-credentials through the BloomBoard system.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said Ms. Marilyn Johnson from the Arch Ford Cooperative was leading the work with the other education service cooperatives. She said educators are collaborating across the state.

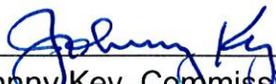
Report-3 Educator Preparation Praxis Core Report

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said as a prerequisite to licensure, Arkansas candidates must demonstrate that they meet the requirement of basic skills, pedagogical, and content-area knowledge. The Praxis Core was adopted by the State Board of Education as the assessment for demonstrating basic skills. She said the report represented three years of pass rate data for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading (5712), Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing (5722), and Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Math (5732). Pass rates are not disaggregated by educator preparation providers (EPP), since EPP do not prepare test takers for the Praxis Core. All skills assessed in the Praxis Core tests have been identified as needed for college and career readiness in reading, writing, and math.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Mireya Roth, Chair