

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
Thursday, April 14, 2016**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, April 14, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

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

Absent: none

**Work Session**

**W-1 Education Service Cooperatives**

The work session was rescheduled for May 2016.

**Reports**

**Report-1 Recognition of Military Families**

Commissioner Key said April 2016 is the Month of the Military Child. He said during April the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, along with many other organizations will recognize the important role children play in our military communities. He recognized the work of Senator Jane English and her support of the military.

Public Information Manager Mr. John Kaminar introduced the honored guests. Mr. Kaminar said the United States Navy was represented by Mr. Ethan Gonzalez, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Maumelle Middle School, Ms. Emily Gonzalez, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Maumelle Middle School, and Ms. Addison Gonzalez, a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Pine Forest Elementary. He said the students were accompanied by their father, Chief Petty Officer Rudy Gonzalez, the senior enlisted leader at the Navy Operational Support Center in Little Rock, and their mother, Ms. Katrina Gonzalez.

Mr. Kaminar said the Arkansas Army National Guard was represented by Mr. Zachary Phillips, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Mann Magnet Middle School in Little Rock. He said Zachary was accompanied by his mother, Sergeant First Class Sherrie Phillips, a Budget Analyst for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Financial

Management Technician for the Camp Robinson Finance section. He said the Phillips' were joined by Ms. Erica Wand, Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator for the Arkansas National Guard.

Mr. Kaminar said the Air Force families were accompanied by Ms. Stephanie Koonst, Family Support Coordinator at the Little Rock Air Force Base. He said Mr. Bradley Budde, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at Cabot Freshman Academy, attended with his mother, Master Sergeant Shawna Budde, of the 19<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron, where she serves as the Education Superintendent of the University Center.

Mr. Kaminar introduced Ms. Adrienne Jones, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Cabot Junior High South and her sister, Ms. Paisley Jones, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Southside Elementary in Cabot. They were accompanied by their father, Master Sergeant Marty Jones, who is an Executive Officer working for the 19<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group Commander; as well as, their mother, Jenny Jones, and little sister, Ruby Jones.

Mr. Kaminar introduced Ms. Adeena Sanabia, a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at LISA Academy, where her younger brother, Martin Sanabia, attends kindergarten. He said they are here with their father, Technical Sergeant Martin Sanabia, a firefighter in the 19<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron, and their mother Nevra Sanabia.

Mr. Kaminar read the Governor's proclamation and State Board's resolution recognizing April as Month of the Military Child.

## **Report-2 Update on Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) and ESSA**

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said that in December 2015 President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001. She said under ESSA school districts and states are responsible for improving the quality and effectiveness of teachers. She said ESSA eliminated the HQT provision of NCLB, but replaced it with the following statement.

The state must:

- Identify disparities of low income and minority students being disproportionately taught by ineffective, inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers, principals, or other school leaders;
- Have a mechanism to address these disparities;
- Describe the measures they will use to evaluate and publicly report on this requirement.

Ms. Pfeffer said while the goals of HQT were to ensure teacher quality, the reality was often the HQT burdened districts with paperwork, additional reporting requirements, and barriers to employing teachers. She said to ensure that Arkansas maintains standards for teacher quality, the state will maximize the

opportunity to create an Arkansas plan for qualified teachers where current licensure requirements might not apply. She said Arkansas has relied on HQT requirements when teacher licensure is waived. She said without any requirements, where licensure is waived, there are no minimum qualifications or standards for teachers.

Ms. Pfeffer said the Department has worked with several stakeholders during the past few months to draft new Arkansas Qualified Teacher (AQT) rules. These rules (which ADE plans to present to the Board in May) will seek to maintain standards for quality teachers while providing flexibility for schools to hire effective teachers. She said the rules would also greatly reduce paperwork for districts and streamline reporting requirements. She said the rules would be Arkansas rules, instead of rules from the former federal requirements. She said the rules would also impact a limited number of teachers as compared to HQT regulations as Arkansas licensure requirements already ensure teachers are prepared and can demonstrate content knowledge and pedagogical skills.

The AQT rules will only apply for core academic areas:

- When a school/district has a waiver from licensure (charter schools or Act 1240 schools);
- For special education teachers or ALE teachers to ensure that they have content knowledge/expertise to teach in the assigned area.
  - Federal HQT requirements eliminated Special Education (SPED); however, the ADE had to assure that special education teachers would be AQT to receive federal funding for special education because Arkansas cannot assure that all SPED teachers would be fully licensed in the 2016-17 SY (18% were not fully licensed this year).
- Documentation of AQT will be in eSchool (local district paperwork needed only for ADE on-site reviews).

Ms. Pfeffer said the AQT provisions are more flexible than HQT, but also allow those meeting previous HQT requirements to be AQT. She said essentially all former HQT are grandfathered into these requirements. She said the AQT rules will reduce time and paperwork for schools, add flexibility for teachers who are not licensed to teach in a particular area, and maintain quality standards for educators.

Ms. Pfeffer said the ADE has both short and long-term goals to address teacher effectiveness. She said the ADE will work with educators and legislators during the 2017 legislative and rule making process and the development of the state's ESSA plan to redesign the structure of educator licenses to ensure that all schools and all classes have qualified, effective personnel teaching and leading in school districts and incentivize career advancement for educators through new licensure and certification opportunities.

## **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the consent agenda, less consent item 21 and with a minor correction to the minutes for March 31, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Items included in the Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes - March 10, 2016
- Minutes - March 18, 2016
- Minutes - March 31, 2016 (corrected)
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Newly Employed, Promotions, and Separations
- Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-151- Randalyn H. Sutterfield
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-174 - Cody Dewayne Forga
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-187 - Jill Moody
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-003 - Nanette Eva King
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-009 - Barton Wayne Harrison
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-012- Janice Marie Shumpert
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-028 - Steven David Golden
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-036 - Crystal Dawn Waldrop
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-038 - Luke Sandlin Hammond
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-042 - Steven R. Ingle
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-056 - Ricky L. Copeland
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional licensure Standards Board for Case #16-061 - Randy Ray Knew
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-050 - Jacqueline T. Arigbede
- Consideration of Voluntary Surrender and Permanent Revocation of Teaching License - Melissa Ellen Stewart
- Consideration for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing the Creation of School Districts by Detachment

- Public Release of School Performance Reports

### **Action Agenda**

#### **C-21 Consideration of Proposed Rules Governing the Standards for Professional Ethical Conduct for Arkansas Educators (formerly the Code of Ethics)**

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart proposed that the Rules Governing the Standards for Professional Ethical Conduct for Arkansas Educators (formerly named the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators) be released for public comment. She said the rules were amended to implement Act 1090 of 2015, make changes to licensure fees and ethics violation fines, and amend procedures for handling ethics complaints.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the Rules Governing the Standards for Professional Ethical Conduct for Arkansas Educators (formerly the Code of Ethics) for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-1 Consideration of 2016-2017 Arkansas Better Chance Renewal Grant Applications**

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education requested approval for the renewal of the Arkansas Better Chance grants for the 2016-2017 school year for a total of \$100,130,200.00.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the 2016-2017 Arkansas Better Chance renewal grant applications for a total of \$100,130,200.00. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-2 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance Summer Services 2016**

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said ABC Summer Services have been provided in previous years through the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Child Care Development Funds (CCDF). She said this year these funds are limited, leaving children potentially without Pre-K educational services for the summer. She said recommended access to a portion of the unused ABC funds remaining in the current fiscal year be used to assist in providing summer services. She said the need for these services targets four year old children to continue school readiness for kindergarten and to prevent summer loss. She said a list of selected sites would be presented to the Board at the May meeting.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve Arkansas Better Chance Summer Services for 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-3 Consideration of Adoption of Mathematics Standards**

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said when charged with the task of revising the previous mathematics standards, a group of qualified individuals from across the state came together to craft standards that were specific for the schools and students of Arkansas. She said the result of this work is the Arkansas Mathematics Standards. She said districts may implement these standards now but the expected full implementation would be 2017-2018.

Public School Program Coordinator Mr. Thomas Coy said the Mathematics Standards reflected what Arkansas educators know to be best for students. He said these standards retained the same structure as the previous standards. He said the educators added some standards that are denoted at the end of the standards so as to not change the nomenclature. He requested the State Board to adopt the Arkansas K-12 Mathematics Standards.

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton said these standards are strong and will ensure students are globally competitive.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to adopt the Mathematics Standards. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-4 Consideration of Little Rock School District Report of Progress**

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said the LRSD has prepared for online testing. He said elementary students (scoring below proficiency levels) will have an opportunity for summer school. He said the district was improving the gifted and talented program. He said the Community Advisory Committee was finalizing their reports.

Mr. Kurrus said the southwest building project was progressing with much input from the stakeholders. He said the west Little Rock school was also progressing. He said the district prevailed in a recent hearing and moved forward with the purchase of the west campus. He said the west campus will open this fall with 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Mr. Kurrus said the district was working to be more efficient with resources and finances. He said the district celebrated two Dell Scholarship winners. He said there will be at least 18 new principals during his tenure.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the Little Rock School District report of progress. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-5 Consideration of Dermott School District Academic Distress Progress**

Dermott School District Superintendent Ms. Kristi Ridgell thanked the Board for their support this year. She said the district has faced staff turnover, declining enrollment, and curriculum issues. She said the district was also implementing a recruitment and retention program. She said the district was showing improvement in academic areas as evidenced by interim assessments. She said educators worked on curriculum revision. She said summer school and health services are provided. She said the Dermott School District would be presenting at summer conferences to share their progress. She said the Dermott School District would continue to collaborate with ADE to ensure school improvement. She said 372 students were currently enrolled in the Dermott School District.

School Improvement Director Dr. Richard Wilde said the Dermott School District has significantly embraced the school improvement process. He said the team was a shining star in terms of progress. He recommended the district move to quarterly reports before the Special Committee on Academic Distress.

Commissioner Key said Ms. Ridgell and her team members have embraced the collaboration with ADE. He said as a result, the district has shown great improvement and is working together to improve education for students.

Mr. Tommie Robinson, Dermott School Board President and Ms. Heather Hardin, Locally Hired School Improvement Specialist reported given concerns related to Academic Distress and previous standards violations, the district has been asked to provide quarterly progress reports to the State Board of Education.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Dermott School District Academic Distress progress report and refer the quarterly reports to the Special Committee on Academic Distress. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-6 Consideration of Classification of District in Fiscal Distress - Dollarway**

Fiscal Services Director Ms. Cindy Smith said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §6-20-1905, the Dollarway School District received notice by certified mail as being identified by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for Fiscal Distress status. She said the District was informed in the March 7, 2016 identification letter that they could not incur any future debt obligations without prior written approval from ADE. She recommended that Dollarway School District be classified as being in Fiscal Distress as of April 14, 2016.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve classification of the Dollarway District in Fiscal Distress as of April 14, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-7 Consideration of Dollarway School District Report of Progress**

Dollarway School District Superintendent Ms. Barbara Warren said the State Board requested a bi-monthly report of progress from the Dollarway School District. She said she was assessing the fiscal and facility needs of the district. She said she was working to improve inefficiencies. She said meetings were being conducted with the district staff to communicate the current status and vision for the district. She said the team was working to rebuild relationships with students, parents, staff, and community leaders.

Ms. Warren said the district would offer summer school. She said 1,221 students were currently enrolled in the Dollarway School District. She said 140 students were served in the ABC Pre-School Program. She said the district would take this opportunity to be better stewards of public dollars and resources. She said staff turnover has had impact on the district. She said the discipline data indicated many minor infractions that may be addressed with a behavioral plan.

Ms. Warren said the district was partnering with the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative to build capacity within the district. She said each building collaborates and communicates with parents differently. She said the parent engagement process needed better structuring. She said the district was considering a district parent center.

Commissioner Key requested the Board consider adjusting the Dollarway School District reporting from bi-monthly to quarterly reporting to the Board.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Dollarway School District Report of Progress and require quarterly reports. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** Parent Ms. Annie Bryant said Ms. Barbara Warren was doing an outstanding job as superintendent. She said the parents are supportive of the progress and vision of the Dollarway School District. She encouraged more communication with the public.

#### **A-8 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Hope High School**

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said the Hope School District filed an appeal of the identification of Hope High

School as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress. Pursuant to Section 3.02.2.1 of the ACTAAP Rules, a school may be identified as being in academic distress if 49.5%, or less, of its students achieve proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated criterion referenced assessments administered for the most recent three (3) year period.

General Counsel Ms. Kendra Clay said the ACTAAP Rules were followed for the identification of schools for academic distress.

Office of Innovation for Education Director Dr. Denise Airola said the concordance process were followed to determine academic distress. She said the concordance score for Hope High School was 47.362.

Hope School District Superintendent Mr. Bobby Hart said the district had previously scored above the cut score. He outlined a timeline of changes in testing and accountability. He said the district has a 78% graduation rate and 83% free and reduced lunch rate. He said he welcomed assistance from ADE.

Arkansas Public School Resource Center Staff Attorney Mr. Tripp Walter said the district was appealing the classification not the assistance. He said he did have issue with compliance of the ACTAAP Rules. He said the rules should have been changed to mirror the assessment changes.

Ms. Barnes said the state did not receive a pause from state accountability. She said an appropriate timeline was followed for reporting and notifications.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to deny the Academic Distress appeal for Hope High School. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-9 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal of Little Rock Preparatory Academy Elementary**

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said the Little Rock Preparatory Academy Charter School filed an appeal of the identification of the Little Rock Preparatory Academy Elementary as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress. According to Section 3.02.2.1 of the ACTAAP Rules, a school may be identified as being in academic distress if 49.5%, or less, of its students achieve proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated criterion referenced assessments administered for the most recent three (3) year period.

Office of Innovation for Education Director Dr. Denise Airola said the concordance score was 47.992 for the Little Rock Preparatory Academy Elementary.

General Counsel Ms. Kendra Clay said rules are being developed for Act 1272.

Chief Academic Officer for Exalt Education Ms. Tina Long said the Little Rock Preparatory Academy Charter School served students from across Pulaski County. She said 100% of students receive free or reduced lunch. She requested the appeal because of the changes in academic standards, state assessments, and the reporting scale. She outlined the current interventions being implemented for school improvement.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the Academic Distress appeal of Little Rock Preparatory Academy Elementary. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-10 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Marvell-Elaine High School**

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said the Marvell-Elaine School District filed an appeal of the identification of Marvell-Elaine High School as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress. According to Section 3.02.2.1 of the ACTAAP Rules, a school may be identified as being in academic distress if 49.5%, or less, of its students achieve proficient or advanced in math and literacy on the state-mandated criterion referenced assessments administered for the most recent three (3) year period.

Office of Innovation for Education Director Dr. Denise Airola said the concordance score was 45.932 for the Marvell-Elaine School District.

General Counsel Ms. Kendra Clay said the previous argument remained the same as above. The ADE followed the ACTAAP Rules.

Marvell-Elaine School District Superintendent Ms. Joyce Cottoms said the district has not requested assistance from the ADE. She said she is requesting assistance at this time. She requested the appeal because of the changes in academic standards and state assessments. She said the communication from the Department regarding the timeline was not clear.

Marvell-Elaine High School Site-Based School Improvement Specialist Dr. Ronald Laurent said the school has made every effort to align instruction with the state assessments.

Ms. Barnes said the state received a pause from federal accountability. She said the state did not receive a pause from state accountability. She said the ADE School Improvement Unit made an on-site visit to the Marvell-Elaine High School in March 2016. She said timelines and information were provided in Commissioner's Memos.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to deny the Academic Distress Appeal for Marvell-Elaine High School. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-11 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for Mineral Springs High School**

Action Item 11 was removed from the April agenda and will be rescheduled at a later date. Attorney/Representative John Walker is representing Mineral Springs School District and under A.C.A. § 25-15-103 has requested a stay of proceedings.

#### **A-12 Consideration of Academic Distress Appeal for SIATech Charter High School**

Commissioner Key asked the Board to table action for SIATech Charter High School for the reasons provided last month regarding Alternative Learning Environments (ALE).

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to table action regarding the Academic Distress Appeal for SIA Tech Charter High School until rules are approved for Act 1272. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-13 Consideration of Schools Identified as Meeting the Criteria to be Designated as Being in Academic Distress**

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said consideration of schools identified as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program, the ADE has identified 26 schools as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress. This identification is based on having 49.5%, or less, of their students achieving proficient or advanced in math and literacy for the most recent three (3) year period. She said SIATech Charter High School would not be included. She said Mineral Springs High School would be considered at a later date. She requested 24 schools be classified in Academic Distress.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to classify 24 schools in Academic Distress. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-14 Consideration of Districts Identified as Meeting the Criteria to be Designated as Being in Academic Distress**

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said consideration of school districts identified as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education's Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program, the ADE has identified four (4) districts as meeting the criteria for Academic Distress. She said this identification is based on having 49.5%, or less, of their students achieving proficient or advanced in math and literacy for the most recent three (3) year period. She said SIATech Little Rock Charter would not be included in the designation. She requested the Dollarway School District, Blytheville School District, and Covenant Keepers Charter School be designated in Academic Distress.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to designate the Dollarway School District, the Blytheville School District, and the Covenant Keepers Charter School in Academic Distress. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-15 Consideration of Appeal from Denial of School Choice Application – Sowell**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq. and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015; the Sowell family appealed the decision of the Cabot School District to deny a school choice application for the 2016-2017 school year. She said the family resides in the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District (JNPSD). She said the JNPSD provided a letter outlining the conflict.

Cabot School District Superintendent Dr. Tony Thurman said the Cabot School District denied the school choice application because the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District was a party in an active desegregation lawsuit.

Parent Ms. Megan Sowell requested her child be permitted to attend the Cabot School District.

Jacksonville North Pulaski School District Attorney Scott Richardson said the JNPSD was not opposed to school choice but under the current desegregation lawsuit and final settlement agreement with PCSSD there are limitations to the number of seats allowable for student transfer. He said JNPSD was committed to becoming unitary as soon as possible.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the appeal from denial of School Choice Application for the Sowell family. Ms. Zook and Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

#### **A-16 Consideration of Appeal from Denial of School Choice Application - Bridges**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq. and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015; the Bridges family appealed the decision of the Cabot School District to deny a school choice application for the children for the 2016-2017 school year. She said the family resides in the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District (JNPSD).

Cabot School District Superintendent Dr. Tony Thurman said the Cabot School District denied the school choice application because the JNPSD is a party in an active desegregation lawsuit.

Parent Ms. Jennifer Bridges requested her children be permitted to attend the Cabot School District.

Jacksonville North Pulaski School District Attorney Scott Richardson said the JNPSD was not opposed to school choice but under the current desegregation lawsuit and final settlement agreement with PCSSD there are limitations to the number of seats allowable for student transfer. He said JNPSD was committed to becoming unitary as soon as possible.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to deny consideration of appeal from denial of School Choice Application for the Bridges family. Ms. Zook and Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

#### **A-17 Consideration of Appeal from Denial of School Choice Application – Nunez Arreola**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-1901 et seq. and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015; the Nunez Arreola family appealed the decision of the Cabot School District to deny a school choice application for the 2016-2017 school year. The family resides in the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District. She said the family was not in attendance.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to deny consideration of appeal from denial of School Choice Application for the Nunez Arreola family. Ms. Zook and Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.

**A-18 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters:  
Bryant School District**

Bryant School District Superintendent Dr. Tom Kimbrell said Act 1240 of 2015 provided opportunity to redefine educational opportunities for students.

Bryant School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Karen Walters said the high school has a 7-period day. She said the waivers would allow seniors, who are on target to graduate, to participate in internships, community service, attend post-secondary classes, or work. She shared student vignettes related to these opportunities. She said the program was modeled after a successful Arkansas Career Education work based learning program and would develop students' soft skills. She said students will complete a capstone presentation and exit survey. She said the Bryant Chamber of Commerce is a partner.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to grant the requested waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charters for the Bryant School District. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-19 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters:  
Lincoln Consolidated School District**

Lincoln Consolidated School District Superintendent Ms. Mary Ann Spears said the district has a district conversion charter. She said the requested waivers would expand the opportunities for students to have a personalized learning plan. She said the district wanted to redesign education so the district becomes a choice for students and parents. She requested the waivers for five (5) years. She said the waivers were requested because it extended to Grades 5-8, which is outside of the district conversion charter.

Lincoln High School Principal Ms. Courtney Jones said she needed to hire experts that may not be licensed to teach specific courses. She said the waivers would provide flexibility to expand learning experiences for students.

Lincoln Elementary School Principal Ms. Melody Sebastian said the focus in Grades K-3 was reading. She said the waivers would allow the third grade to have flexible time to provide more personalized learning.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to grant the requested waiver granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Lincoln Consolidated School District for five (5) years. Ms. Reith, Dr. Barth, Ms. Zook, and Ms. Chambers voted no. The final vote was 5-4, with Chair Newton breaking the tie by voting yes. The

motion carried.

**A-20 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Nettleton School District**

Nettleton School District Superintendent Mr. James Dunivan said the requested waivers would allow the district to better serve students that choose a career pathway, supported by technical certificates, vocational courses, and job experience. He said the waivers were requested for three (3) years.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to grant the requested waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Nettleton School District for three (3) years. The motion carried unanimously.

A-21 – A-42 were considered together.

**A-21 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Ashdown School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-22 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Atkins School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-23 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Clinton School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-24 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Conway School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-25 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Dover School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-26 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
East End School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-27 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:  
Greenbrier School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative  
Consortium Participant**

**A-28 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter:**

**Guy-Perkins School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-29 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Hector School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-30 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Mayflower School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-31 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Mena School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-32 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Mount Ida School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-33 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Mount Vernon/Enola School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-34 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Nemo Vista School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-35 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Perryville School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-36 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Pottsville School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-37 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Quitman School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-38 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Rose Bud School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-39 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: South Conway County School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-40 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: South Side School District (Van Buren County) as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-41 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Vilonia School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

**A-42 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Wonderview School District as an Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participant**

Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Director Mr. Phillip Young said the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participants said the waivers would decrease the number of students that drop out of school. He said there would be nine (9) campuses within the co-op region and four (4) districts outside of the co-op region. He said the students would remain enrolled in the local district. He said the nine centers were placed geographically to limit travel time.

Crossroads Alternative Learning Center K-12 Instructional Supervisor Ms. Keri Burkman shared a video that highlighted student experiences. She said the Hub plan is a five (5) year request that provides flexibility to meet the needs of the students. She said students would be identified for placement in the Hub by their local district. She said the Hub would focus on flexibility, responsiveness, and personalized learning for the associates (students). She said a certified JAG specialist at each location documents student data and generates reports.

Conway Program Supervisor Mr. Rafeal Marlow said data from the Conway JAG Program indicated that 100% of students graduated and most are employed or enrolled in post-secondary education. He said the students were enrolled as bronze, silver, or gold associates and are evaluated every two (2) weeks.

Director of Alternative Learning Mr. Jason Burkman said the collaboration would allow for more support across the various hubs. He said the JAG competencies include parental and community involvement. He said the districts have been collaborating, so increasing the scale of the project would allow the consortium to monitor the implementation, manage issues, and measure the progress more efficiently.

Vilonia School District Assistant Superintendent Ms. Cathy Riggins said the district goal was to make alternative learning a personalized learning experience. She said parents and educators were involved in the planning. She said the district was not sending students to another site so someone can educate them, instead the districts are collaborating to provide more services and experiences

for students. She said the districts contract with the Arch Ford Co-op to support the consortium.

Mena School District Superintendent Mr. Benny Weston said the district wanted to participate in this consortium.

Greenbrier School District Superintendent Mr. Scott Spainhour said the waivers were restricted to the students in the program.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said each district would need to complete an ALE application. The ALE Office would monitor each district.

Alternative Learning Environment Coordinator Ms. Lori Lamb said all districts, except for Hector, Foreman and Dover, have submitted ALE applications. She said the ALE Office is currently reviewing each application. She said JAG and ALE have partnered since 2006 and demonstrated success.

Chair Newton called each district for affirmation that the waivers would apply to ALE only. All affirmed.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to grant the requested waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Charter for the Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Consortium Participants for five (5) years. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment from Elected Official:** Senator Blake Johnson spoke on behalf of the Imboden Area Charter School. He asked the Board to support the renewal of application.

#### **A-43 Hearing on Open-Enrollment Renewal Application: Imboden Area Charter School**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on February 17, 2016, representatives of Imboden Area Charter School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of their charter. She said by a unanimous vote the Panel approved the request granting the charter a 5-year renewal with a required annual report of enrollment, legal fund balance, minus categorical funding, and minus federal funding. She said on March 10, 2016, the State Board of Education voted to review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel.

Imboden Area Charter School Director Ms. Judy Warren said the school was one of the oldest charters and the smallest. She said approximately 90% of students are transported by bus to the school. She said many students have had limited learning experiences. She said many students are gifted and talented and some

students require special education services. She said the students have a variety of concerns including homelessness, being highly mobile, and lacking social skills.

Educator Mr. Matthew Wells said the curriculum was aligned to the Common Core Standards. He said instruction was provided in whole group, small group, and individualized.

Ms. Warren said the school was small but has always provided needed resources for the students. She said there has only been one minor audit finding, segregation of duties. She said with new businesses coming into the area, the school expected an increase in enrollment.

School Counselor Mr. James McLeod said the school was a model of student focused services.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to uphold the Charter Authorizing Panel action on Open-Enrollment Renewal Application for the Imboden Area Charter School including the annual reports. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-44 End-of-Semester Reviews of Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools in the Initial Year of Operation: Capital City Lighthouse, Haas Hall (Bentonville), Ozark Montessori, and Rockbridge Montessori**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-406 requires the Department of Education to conduct an end-of-semester review of each open-enrollment public charter school in its initial school year of operation and report to the State Board of Education on the charter school's overall financial condition and condition of student enrollment.

Capital City Lighthouse Charter School Regional Operations Manager LaShawnDa Noel said the student enrollment fluctuated early on but has now stabilized.

Haas Hall Academy (Bentonville) Founder Dr. Martin Schoppmeyer said the school has a new online lottery process.

Ozark Montessori Charter School Executive Director Ms. Christine Silano said the budget was a challenge but the Montessori learning experiences of the students were a huge success. She said the Montessori network has been very supportive. She said the Montessori training and certification process was lengthy and expensive.

Rockbridge Montessori Charter School Leader Ms. Shannon Kuckols said teachers were involved in Montessori training.

Rockbridge Montessori Charter School Board President Ms. Sarah Gober said a process is in place to hear any grievances from parents.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to uphold the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment End-of-Semester Reviews in the initial year of operation for Capital City Lighthouse, Haas Hall (Bentonville), Ozark Montessori, and Rockbridge Montessori. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-45 Consideration for Final Approval: 2016 Open Enrollment Charter School Application**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said the 2016 Open Enrollment Charter School Application included additional prompts suggested by the Charter Authorizing Panel and updated the submission deadline for the 2016 application cycle. She said on February 11, 2016, the Board approved this application for public comment. A public comment hearing was held on March 1, 2016, and public comments were received, but no changes were made. She said the Governor's approval was received on March 18, 2016. She requested the Board give final approval for this application pending Legislative Council approval.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the 2016 Open Enrollment Charter School Application. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-46 Consideration for Final Approval: 2016 District Conversion Charter School Application**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said the 2016 District Conversion Charter School Application included additional prompts suggested by the Charter Authorizing Panel and updated the submission deadline for the 2016 application cycle. She said on February 11, 2016, the Board approved this application for public comment. A public comment hearing was held on March 1, 2016, and public comments were received, but no changes were made. She said the Governor's approval was received on March 18, 2016. She requested the Board give final approval for this application pending Legislative Council approval.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the 2016 District Conversion Charter School Application. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-47 Consideration of Recommendation to Adopt the Praxis™ Early Childhood Education (5025) for Early Childhood (P-4) Licensure**

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer

said Educational Testing Service (ETS) was replacing the Praxis™ Early Childhood: Content Knowledge (5022) with the Praxis™ Early Childhood Education (5025). She said the 5022 is currently required for candidates who are matriculating through Early Childhood (P-4) licensure programs. She said the Early Childhood (P-4) license has been replaced by the Elementary Education (K-6) license. ETS research staff designed and conducted a 5025 multistate standard-setting study during February 2015 in Princeton, New Jersey. She said the study panel was comprised of elementary education practitioners and higher education faculty, including three Arkansas representatives. She said the study recommended passing score is 156 on a 100-200 scale. In addition to the multistate standard setting study, ETS and the Department facilitated a state review of the 5025 on March 9, 2016, in Little Rock. Arkansas higher education faculty reviewed the test and the multistate study Technical Report. She said the consensus was to follow the study recommendation. The 5025 is a two-hour assessment that contains 120 selected-response items covering five content areas: Language and Literacy (approximately 36 items), Mathematics (approximately 30 items), Social Studies (approximately 17 items), Science (approximately 17 items), and Health and Physical Education, Creative and Performing Arts (approximately 20 items). She said for candidates matriculating through Early Childhood (P-4) licensure programs, the ADE recommended adopting the Praxis™ Early Childhood Education (5025) with a cut score of 156 replacing the Praxis™ Early Childhood: Content Knowledge (5022) effective September 1, 2016.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adopt the Praxis™ Early Childhood Education (5025) for Early Childhood (P-4) Licensure with a cut score of 156 effective September 1, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-48 Consideration of Recommendation to Adopt the Praxis™ English to Speakers of Other Languages (5362) for English as a Second Language (K-12) Licensure**

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said Educational Testing Service (ETS) was replacing the Praxis™ English to Speakers of Other Languages (0361) with the Praxis™ English to Speakers of Other Languages (5362). The 0361 is currently the licensure test for the Arkansas Educator License in English as a Second Language (K-12). ETS research staff designed and conducted a 5362 multistate standard-setting study during December 2015 in Princeton, New Jersey. She said the study panel was comprised of ESOL practitioners and higher education faculty, including one Arkansas representative. She said the study recommended passing score is 155 on a 100-200 scale. In addition to the multistate standard setting study, ETS and the Department facilitated a state review of the 5362 on March 9, 2016, in Little Rock. Arkansas higher education faculty reviewed the test and the multistate study Technical Report. She said the consensus was to follow the study

recommendation. The 5362 is a two-hour assessment that contains 120 selected-response items covering six content areas: Foundations of Linguistics (approximately 22 items), Foundations of Language Learning (approximately 26 items), Planning and Implementing Instruction (approximately 28 items), Assessment and Evaluation (approximately 18 items), Culture (approximately 13 items), and Professionalism and Advocacy (approximately 13 items). She said the ADE recommended adopting the Praxis™ English to Speakers of Other Languages (5362) with a cut score of 155 replacing the Praxis™ English to Speakers of Other Languages (0361) effective September 1, 2016.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to adopt the Praxis™ English Speakers of Other Languages (5362) for English as a Second Language (K-12) Licensure with a cut score of 155 effective September 1, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-49 Consideration for Final Approval: Section 9.13.1 of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program**

General Counsel Ms. Kendra Clay said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2107 was modified by Act 854 of 2015 to reward schools with high student performance and high student growth. Changes to the rules are necessary to implement the legislative changes. She said the State Board released these rules for public comment on February 11, 2016. A public hearing was held on March 1, 2016 and the public comment period expired on March 15, 2016. She said written comments were received during the public comment period and a typographical change was made to the rules as a result of public comment. She said the rules have been approved by the Governor's Office, and requested the State Board give final approval to the rule pending Legislative Council review.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve Section 9.13.1 of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-50 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of Those Funds**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Acts 841, 846, 994, and 1115 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to student special needs funding. The State Board first approved these rules for public comment on December 10, 2015. He said two rounds of public comment ensued, with public hearings held on January 4, 2016

and on February 22, 2016. He said public comments were received and responses were drafted. He said no substantive changes were made between the second round of public comment and the submission of these rules for final approval. He requested the State Board give final approval for these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of Those Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-51 Consideration for Final Approval: Repeal of ADE Rules Governing Distance Learning**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Act 1159 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to distance learning. In revising the rules for distance learning, ADE staff combined the current ADE Rules Governing Distance Learning and the current ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. He said this precipitates the repeal of these rules. He said on March 10, 2016, the State Board approved for public comment the proposed repeal of these rules. A public hearing was held on March 22, 2016, and no comments were received. He requested the State Board give final approval for repeal of these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to repeal the ADE Rules Governing Distance Learning. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-52 Consideration for Final Approval: Repeal of ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Act 1159 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to distance learning. He said in revising the rules for distance learning, ADE staff combined the current ADE Rules Governing Distance Learning and the current ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. This precipitates the repeal of these rules. He said on March 10, 2016, the State Board approved for public comment the proposed repeal of these rules. A public hearing was held on March 22, 2016, and no comments were received. He requested the State Board give final approval for repeal of these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to repeal the ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-53 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Act 1159 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to distance learning. He said in revising the rules for distance learning, ADE staff combined the current ADE Rules Governing Distance Learning and the current ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. He said on February 11, 2016, the State Board approved these rules for public comment and a public hearing was held on March 1, 2016. He said public comments were received, but no substantive changes to the rules were made. He requested the State Board give final approval for these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the ADE Rules Governing the Digital Learning Act of 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-54 Consideration for Emergency Approval: ADE Rules Governing the Creation of School Districts by Detachment**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said Acts 372 and 947 of 2015 amended Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1501 et seq. regarding the creation of school districts by detachment. She said changes to these rules were necessary to implement these changes. She requested the State Board give emergency approval to these rules.

Commissioner Key said these rules apply to any detachment. He said the Pulaski County Special School District and the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District might come before the Board with modifications or additional components at a later date.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the ADE Rules Governing the Creation of School Districts by Detachment. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-55 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools**

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said Acts 846 and 1079 of 2015 revised Arkansas laws pertaining to nutrition and physical activity standards in Arkansas public schools. He said the State Board first approved these rules for public comment

on December 10, 2015. He said two rounds of public comment ensued, with public hearings held on January 4, 2016 and on February 22, 2016. He said public comments were received and responses were drafted. No substantive changes were made between the second round of public comment and the submission of these rules for final approval. He requested the State Board give final approval for these rules pending Legislative Council approval.

**Public Comment:** Malvern School District K-12 School Improvement Director and Dropout Prevention Specialist Ms. Terri Bryant said the students are moving more in her school. She said the implementation of the fresh fruit and vegetable program has been successful. She said the lunch program has improved because of the salad bar. She requested that all schools have the same opportunities.

**Public Comment:** Student Mr. Tyler Francis said the fresh fruit and vegetables has been a great addition at his school. He said the students are working to improve snacks in the district. He said the students want to be healthy and inspire others.

**Public Comment:** Student Mr. Hayden Woods said the students are involved in the fresh fruit and vegetable program. He said the program was impacting students at school and at home. He encouraged other schools to try the fresh fruit and vegetable program.

**Public Comment:** Student Mr. Matt Keenan said the teenagers are also involved in healthy eating and exercise. He said the food was very important for learning.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools. Dr. Barth abstained. The motion carried.

#### **A-56 Consideration of Motion for Strategic Plan Regarding the Collaboration of Traditional Public Schools and Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools in Pulaski County**

Commissioner Key said on March 31, 2016, the State Board of Education expressed its desire for ADE to work with an outside consulting firm to develop a plan for public education in Pulaski County to guide the evaluation of future charter schools. He said there are many organizations that may be interested in assisting with this work.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, that the ADE will facilitate the engagement of a research facilitator to review the issues below, with the goal of producing non-binding recommendations that aid the board's decision-making,

inform communication among all stakeholders, and identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination among charter schools and traditional schools. The recommendations should lay the groundwork for a multi-function model that can be adapted for use in other areas of the state.

Before selecting a facilitator, a small (5-7 person) stakeholder group of individuals that represent traditional public schools, open-enrollment charter schools, and the Little Rock community, as a whole shall be formed. The group shall be selected by the Chair of the State Board of Education and the Commissioner based upon recommendations from charter leaders in Pulaski County south of the river, superintendents of the Pulaski County school districts south of the river, State Board of Education members, members of the General Assembly representing Pulaski County south of the river, and city officials south of the river. The stakeholder group should 1) identify data questions; 2) define key terms; and 3) set measurement parameters that must be addressed by the research facilitator in addressing the issues below. The stakeholder group, in collaboration with ADE, should select the research group. The ADE should engage the Office of Innovation for Education to act as a liaison between the research facilitator and the stakeholder group to provide data-informed recommendations. The recommendations shall be non-binding.

The issues to be addressed by the research facilitators are the following:

- How every student can have access to a school that is achieving;
- How schools can best meet the educational needs of a student population markedly diverse in terms of income levels, achievement levels, English-language learners, and students with disabilities;
- How to be most cost effective and fiscally efficient in the delivery of education;
- How to respond to patterns that students with certain characteristics (in terms of achievement levels, demographics, etc.) are more likely, at present, to seek out open-enrollment charter options;
- How facilities should be modernized and spread across the area based on the current demographics of the area with an eye to future demographic patterns;
- How collaboration between traditional public schools and open-enrollment charter educational offerings can maximize the achievement of students and fiscal efficient of the system of public education south of the river.

A quarterly report should be provided to the State Board regarding the status of the efforts outlined in this motion. The first quarterly report should reflect the ADE and Office of Innovation for Education's recommendations on how to proceed with the study outlined above, including a projected timeline for completion.

Ms. Zook, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Dean voted no. The final vote was 5-3. The motion carried.

## Reports

### Report-1 Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said the National Association of State Boards of Education would convene in Little Rock on June 24-25, 2016. He said he met with U.S. Senators during a recent NASBE event.

### Report-2 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key asked the Board members to participate in the Arkansas Teacher Impact Celebration. Ms. Ouida Newton asked the Board to take a video or picture and send to ADE or post to social media using the hashtag #ARTeacherImpact. More information is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-impact-celebration>.

Commissioner Key said the Pea Ridge Manufacturing and Business Academy video was posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services>.

Ms. Pfeffer invited the Board to the 2016 Spring Career Job Fair scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2016, at Heifer Village Pavilion in Little Rock.

### Report-3 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton said she was very proud of the Arkansas Academic Standards.

Ms. Newton encouraged districts to submit an application for the 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. More information is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

### Report-4 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said a report was submitted.

Commissioner Key said much work is being done in the Little Rock School District as part of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG).

### **Report-5 Computer Science Report**

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said the computer science report was submitted.

Commissioner Key said USDOE Secretary John King would be in Springdale Friday, April 8, 2016, to learn about the Arkansas Computer Science Initiative.

### **Report-6 My Child/My Student Quarterly Report**

Director of Communications Ms. Kimberly Friedman, said the ADE Communications Unit provided a quarterly report about the My Child/My Student public awareness campaign. The latest campaign resources are available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>.

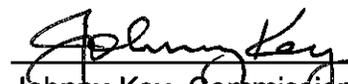
### **Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*

  
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Toyce Newton, Chair

  
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Johnny Key, Commissioner of Ed.