

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, March 28, 2014**

The State Board of Education met Friday, March 28, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building and via conference call. Chair Brenda Gullett called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Present: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner

Present via conference call: Brenda Gullett, Chair; Sam Ledbetter, Vice-Chairman; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Vicki Saviers; Toyce Newton; Mireya Reith; and Diane Zook.

Absent: Joe Black

**Consent Agenda**

**Consideration for Awarding Waiver Days - Bay School District**

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the inclement weather waiver request for Bay School District. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration for Awarding Waiver Days - Newport School District**

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the inclement weather waiver request for Newport School District. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Agenda**

**Status of Pulaski County Special School District**

Commissioner Kimbrell said under Act 600 of 2013, the Department is required to bring information to the Board regarding districts under state takeover. The Department requested the Board approve the continued Community Advisory Board and the Department overview and governance of the Pulaski County Special School District.

Commissioner Kimbrell said the district has made progress toward fiscal distress but continues to work to achieve unitary status, detachment of the Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District, and some audit issues. He said the Community Advisory Board has been working diligently.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to approve the continued Department governance of the Pulaski County Special School District. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Status of Helena-West Helena School District**

Commissioner Kimbrell said under Act 600 of 2013, the Department is required to bring information to the Board regarding districts under state takeover. The Department requested the Board approve the continued Community Advisory Board and the Department overview and governance of the Helena-West Helena School District.

Commissioner Kimbrell said the Helena-West Helena School District has made progress toward fiscal distress but there are still issues regarding the fiscal audit and expenditures. He said the Community Advisory Board is in place, with one position still vacant.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Ledbetter, to approve the continued Department governance of the Helena-West Helena School District. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Special Committee to Review Chronically Underperforming Districts**

Chair Gullett appointed a special committee to study chronically underperforming school districts. She requested Ms. Saviers, Ms. Newton, and Mr. Ledbetter serve on the special committee, with Ms. Saviers serving as chair of the committee. Dr. Kimbrell requested the committee initially focus on the academic distress districts.

The special committee will bring a report to the Board meeting in April regarding Lee County School District and Strong-Huttig School District.

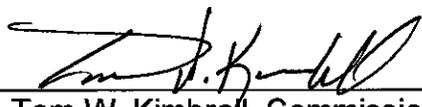
Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the appointment of a special committee to review chronically underperforming districts. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*

  
Brenda Gullett, Chair

  
Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner