

STATE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Sunday, April 13, 1997, in the Matthews Room of the Holiday Inn West, 201 South Shackleford, Little Rock, AR. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman
James Whitmore, Vice Chairman
Edwin Alderson
Carl Baggett
JoNell Caldwell
Martha Dixon
Bill Fisher
Luke Gordy
Betty Pickett
Elaine Scott
Richard Smith

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Member absent: Sherry Walker

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Director Gene Wilhoit reviewed with the Board the summary of legislative enactments as of April 11, 1997 concerning education (attachment #1). Ms. Brenda Matthews passed out a second copy of Act 703 that pertains to special meetings of the Board (attachment #2).

Mr. Wilhoit introduced Ms. Teresa Dixon, the new staff attorney, to be confirmed by the Board to help with rules and regulations development.

Mr. John Kunkel presented an analysis of the public school fund budget for 1997-1998 and discussed differences in the funding issues being considered by the ADE, the Governor and the legislation (attachment #3).

Ms. JoNell Caldwell reported to the Board about her visit to the Frederick Douglas Academy (a public school producing top notch students in Harlem) while visiting New York City during spring break.

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

Dr. Gayle Potter discussed the following assessment updates with the Board (attachments #4 & #5).

- An assessment update outline
- Curriculum Frameworks
- Curriculum Development in Arkansas
- Assessment
- Goals
- Components of ACTAP
- Development of Criterion-Referenced Test

Ms. Scott passed out additional information on licensure issues to the Board (attachment #6).

Mr. Gordy made the motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1997

MINUTES

The State Board of Education met Monday, April 14, 1997, in the auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building. The meeting of General Education was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members present: James McLarty, Chairman
James Whitmore, Vice Chairman
Edwin Alderson
Carl Baggett
JoNell Caldwell
Martha Dixon
Bill Fisher
Luke Gordy
Betty Pickett
Elaine Scott
Richard Smith

Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary

Member absent: Sherry Walker

Chairman McLarty called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes (March 9 & 10, 1997)
2. Promotions/Newly Employed/Separation ---
Ms. Clemetta Hood C2-1
3. Personnel Recommendation --- Ms. Hood C3-1
4. Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement
Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan ---
Ms. Charity Smith C4-1
5. Minority Recruitment Report --- Ms. Pam Bratton C5-1

- 6. Request Approval of Loans and Bond Applications
Mr. Robert Coleman C6-1
- 7. Proposed Increase in Revolving Loan Interest Rate ---
Mr. Coleman C7-1
- 8. Recommendation of Textbooks/ Instructional Materials Unit ---
Ms. Sue McKenzie C8-1

At the request of Mr. Fisher, Consent agenda item numbers 6 and 7 were placed on the Action agenda.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the amended Consent agenda. Dr. Whitmore seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Wilhoit reported that the Department is in the final stages of planning for the Math Summit which will involve some one 150 educators. This group will convene in May to identify strategies for improvement in math scores.

Director Wilhoit also reported that the results of the second administration of the criteria referenced test will be released in May.

DISCUSSION ON STATE BOARD PRIORITIES

Director Wilhoit reported that teacher licensure and technology will be discussed later in the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF REVOCATION OF TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Mr. Tim Humphries reported no conviction was given in the case of Mr. Hector Randal Sanchez, therefore, the question on the application for his teaching certificate referencing having been convicted was answered correctly. **Mr. Fisher made the motion to remove this item from the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Glenda Bean gave the Board an introduction and made the following recommendations:

1. To withhold ABC funds from the Sparkman Learning Center until a full program audit is conducted.
2. The AECC will contract with an independent auditor to complete the program audit prior to the July 1, 1997 renewal date.
3. Renewal of the ABC grant will be dependent upon satisfactory completion of a valid program and financial audit.

Dr. Whitmore made a motion to approve Ms. Bean's recommendation to withhold funds from Sparkman Learning Center.

Mr. Austin Porter, legal council for the Sparkman Learning Center, made a presentation to the Board with handouts (attachment #7).

The Board requested time to review the information provided by Mr. Porter and will return to this issue later in the meeting.

ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE SUMMER TRANSITION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Bean presented background information and requested funding for ABC summer grants in the amount of \$201,228.50 for the list of programs provided.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve funding. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED K- 3 SUMMER SCHOOL

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney reviewed the rules and regulations adopted by the legislature with changes in summer school services from K-5 to K-3, with grades 4 and 5 being optional for the school districts. Ms. McKinney noted the additions and deletions in the rules and regulations, also pointing out section 8.02 has been changed to strengthen parent involvement.

Mr. Gordy made the motion to approve as emergency rules and regulations and to publish for public comment. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL FUNDS UPDATE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Jim Boardman presented background information referencing the \$2.1 dollars of federal funds to be distributed to school districts on a competitive basis.

Director Wilhoit outlined the following seven initiatives that will be aligned with these federal funds:

1. APSCN's continuing mission is to connect buildings over the state. The Department of Computer Services may assume certain aspects of APSCN as the state moves into a more comprehensive system.
2. The cooperatives technology directors have become a valuable technology resource.
3. Recent legislation has changed the process of funding computer based learning giving that decision to the individual schools through the cooperatives.
4. Every district must include a technology plan in their School Improvement Plan.
5. The Department has its new hardware system in place.
6. The Department has received the resources to put in place the distance learning network which will provide off-site classes, staff development, and communications.
7. Educators will need to monitor the FCC rules and regulations to make sure our schools are getting a good rate.

A PROGRESS REPORT: CONQUERING ACADEMIC DISTRESS

Mr. Frank Anthony presented a very comprehensive report (from Act 915 of 1995) on the 13 districts in Phase I of academic distress and the 7 on the Watch List. He introduced the Standards Support staff and others in the Department who helped with the statistics. Mr. Anthony presented an overview of how schools are identified as academically distressed and the procedures of notifying, assisting, and evaluating those districts (see attachment #8).

The Board recessed at 10:15 a.m. and reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

**ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE PROGRAM
RECOMMENDATION cont.**

This item was moved from the agenda earlier in the meeting until the Board had time to review the information provided by Mr. Porter.

Ms. Dixon made the motion to table this item until the May meeting. The motion died for a lack of a second. After further discussion, Dr. Whitmore withdrew his original motion and **Mr. Fisher made the motion to release funds through June 30, 1997, closely monitor the center through this fiscal year, complete and send the audit to the ABC, and a full report given to the Board regarding the center in enough time to make a decision. Ms. Dixon seconded and the motion carried by majority vote, with Mr. Alderson voting against.**

SPECIAL REQUEST APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL BOND APPLICATIONS

Mr. Robert Coleman presented background information on the North Little Rock School District and the Alma School District requesting commercial bond applications. The Alma School District is paying for 11 classroom additions and a cafeteria in the high school.

Mr. Gordy made the motion to approve. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

North Little School District made a special request due to a loss of accreditation for a non-certified teacher.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF LOANS AND BONDS APPLICATIONS

Mr. Coleman provided the Board clarification on the Emmet School District request. The Emmet gym was destroyed by fire and money above that from the insurance company will be needed because they are building a larger gym that is handicapped accessible.

Mr. Coleman also explained that the Jasper School District is purchasing a house and lot to be used for office space and parking.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve all request for loans and bond applications. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN REVOLVING LOAN INTEREST RATE

Mr. Coleman clarified the statement: Increase the Revolving Loan interest rate from ~~6.34~~ (six and three quarters) 6.75 percent to 7% (seven) percent.

Noted in the Resolution on C7-2, the word ~~decreasing~~ should be changed to increasing in the second paragraph. In the last sentence, ~~decreased~~ should be changed to increased.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve the amended motion. Ms. Pickett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

INITIAL DISCUSSION ON CORE CURRICULUM

Director Wilhoit presented Senate Bill 453 and House Bill 1841 which revised and replaced the previous act which incorporated the two-track system for graduation requirements. These acts removed the previous system and redefined core curriculum. Director Wilhoit provided the Board additional information about core curriculum (see attachment #9). The Board will continue this discussion at the May Board meeting.

TEACHER LICENSURE REPORT

Ms. Janinne Riggs presented background information and two issues for consideration. The first issue is to request the approval of the recommendation of the task force with the addition of aligning grade four with K-3 to make it a K-4 early childhood configuration. Dr. Winston Simpson, Superintendent of Bryant School District, also shared his position with the Board.

Dr. Whitmore made the motion to accept the plan with the K-4 alignment. Mr. Smith seconded and the motion failed by majority vote.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Smith	Pickett	Dixon
Whitmore	Fisher	
Caldwell	Scott	
	Alderson	
	Gordy	
	Baggett	

Ms. Scott's motion to establish an ongoing advisory committee failed by majority vote.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to have the task force make a presentation to the Board and the ADE staff make a presentation to the Board at the May meeting regarding K-3 v. K-4 perspectives. Mr. Alderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The second issue Ms. Riggs presented was a request by the colleges for an extension of one year for the implementation of teacher licensure. This would allow time to align courses for the 1998-99 school year. Mr. Steve Floyd shared with the Board concerns in this area.

Mr. Smith made the motion to allow the extension. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried by majority vote.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Smith	Pickett	Baggett
Fisher	Alderson	
Dixon	Scott	
Caldwell	Gordy	
Whitmore		

FINAL APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING TEACHER EVALUATION

Ms. Riggs presented background information and noted the comments at the public hearings were very positive and in agreement of the flexibility offered to the districts.

Mr. Smith made the motion to approve. Ms. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

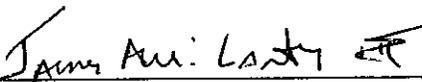
DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE STUDY

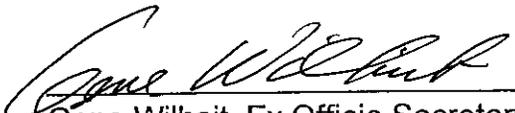
Senator John Brown presented background information and handouts (see attachment #10 & #11) to the Board against maintaining a 2.0 grade point average to participate in interscholastic activities. Mr. Smith shared very strong opposing views.

Mr. Fisher made the motion for Director Wilhoit to appoint a task force with individuals of different views to study this issue and make some detailed recommendations and guidelines to the Board. Mr. Gordy seconded and the motion carried by majority vote, with Mr. Smith voting against.

Mr. Alderson made the motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Fisher seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board met with Dr. Joe Austin the afternoon of April 14, 1997.


James McLarty III, Chairman


Gene Wilhoit, Ex Officio Secretary