

**ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOVEMBER 9, 1998**

Arkansas Department of Education  
ADE Auditorium  
1:00 p.m.

Chair's Report---Ms. Betty Pickett  
Awards and Recognition

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Minutes (October )
2. Promotions, Newly Employed and Terminations ---Ms. Clemetta Hood  
.....C-2
3. Final Approval Of Waiver Request: Establishment of a Supplemental  
Support Program within the School Day, Beebe School District---  
Dr. Kevin Penix.....C-3
4. Final Approval of Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of  
Alternative Learning Program Grants --- Dr. Kevin Penix and  
Mr. Richard McDowell.....C-4
5. Personnel Recommendations --- Ms. Clemetta Hood .....C-5

Director's Report---Mr. Ray Simon

**ACTION AGENDA**

1. Reconsideration of a Revocation of a Teaching Certificate---  
Ms. Theresa Wallent .....A-1
2. Reconsideration of Waiver on Denial of Application for a Teaching  
Certificate--- Ms. Theresa Wallent.....A-2

3. Recommendations on Arkansas Alternate Assessment Program ---  
Mr. Bob Watson.....A-3
4. Discussion of the Arkansas Department of Education Audit for Fiscal  
Year Ending June 30, 1997 --- Dr. Bobbie Davis and Mr. John Kunkel  
.....A-4
- 5 Revision of the Arkansas Language Arts and Mathematics Frameworks  
with the Accompanying Grade Level Benchmark Documents for K-4---  
Dr. Kevin Penix and Dr. Gayle Potter.....A-5
6. Proposed Revision to the Public School Fund Budget for 1998-1999---  
Mr. Ray Simon and Mr. John Kunkel.....A-6
7. Approval of Recommendations for Praxis I and Praxis II Teacher Testing  
Requirements--- Ms. Donna Elliott.....A7
7. Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement:  
Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan ---  
Dr. Charity Smith.....A-8
9. Report: Study Circles--- Mr. Dan Farley, Arkansas Friends for Better  
Schools.....A-9
10. Approval for Public Hearing Rules and Regulations Arkansas  
Comprehensive Testing and Assessment Program for Amending the  
October 1998 Reporting Date in Sections 6.06, 7.04 and 10.04. ---  
Dr. Kevin Penix .....A-10
11. Bond Application Correction ---Mr. Kent Douglas.....A-11
- 12 Executive Session: Director Evaluation

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**ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOVEMBER 9, 1998**

**WORKING SESSION**  
Immediately following the regular Board meeting

Discussion:

**1. Teacher Licensure**

Recommendations included in the September Board materials item A-2. \*

**2. Professional Development**

Recommendations included in the September Board materials item A-3. \*

**3. Legislation**

Proposed legislation for the 1999 legislative session included in the October Board work session materials. \*

**\* Please bring these materials.**

# Minutes

## State Board of Education

Monday, November 9, 1998

The State Board of Education met in the Board Room of the Department of Education Building on Monday, November 9, 1998. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chair, Betty Pickett.

Members Present: Betty Pickett, Chair; Edwin Alderson; Carl Baggett; Martha Dixon; Bill Fisher; Luke Gordy; Robert Hackler; James McLarty; Lewis Thompson, Jr. and Anita Yates.

Members Absent: JoNell Caldwell and Richard Smith.

### **Chair's Report**

Ms. Pickett reported that Action Item #3, Recommendations on Arkansas Alternate Assessment Program, would be moved to the top of the Action Agenda to accommodate the presenter.

She reported that Luke Gordy would be presenting certificates of recognition to Toni Lockhart, Cheryl Wagon, and Karen Bradberry, all teachers from Van Buren who were the first in Arkansas to complete the application process for National Board of Teaching Certification. These teachers will be recognized at a meeting of the Van Buren School Board for setting high standards for themselves and for their students.

The Chair recognized Mr. McLarty to report on a meeting of interested parties concerning National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Board committee members, Gordy, Pickett and McLarty, met in Searcy with representatives from higher education, professional associations and others, which included a teacher currently pursuing National Board Certification. From that session the Committee learned that teachers need a lot of support to meet the rigor of the program in working through the certification process. The Committee believes it is important for the Board to continue to support this program and agreed that additional attention must be given to financial rewards beyond the one half of the fees paid by the state – for example a salary supplement. Mr. Gordy suggested that the work session following the regular Board meeting include this issue and consideration of recommendations for the legislative session.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Alderson moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hacker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- ✓ Minutes of October Meeting
- ✓ Promotions, Newly Employed and Terminations
- ✓ Final Approval of Waiver Request: Establishment of a Supplemental Support Program Within the School Day, Beebe School District
- ✓ Final Approval of Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Alternative Learning Program Grants
- ✓ Personnel Recommendations
- ✓ Bond Application Correction

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Simon reported that the Smart Start Initiative began training earlier in the day at the Excelsior Hotel and the Convention Center. One hundred percent (100%) of the school districts in the state have registered over 1600 participants in the training sessions that will continue through Thursday (*November 12, 1998*). He stated that it was remarkable to have 100% representation.

He attended a rural education conference in Jackson, MS, that focused on teaching mathematics and science in small, poverty centered schools. He noted that other states represented experience issues and problems very similar to those in Arkansas. Like Arkansas, surrounding states have begun to focus on the school rather than the district.

Mr. Simon introduced Janie Fletcher, the new director of the early childhood division located in the Department of Human Services.

He report that staff had received a memo from the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) supporting each of the proposed items on the legislative agenda from the Department Administrative Team.

## ACTION AGENDA

### **Recommendations on Arkansas Alternate Assessment Program**

Mr. Bob Watson, Superintendent of Schools at Eldorado was recognized to present this report. Mr. Watson chairs a committee on alternate assessment, which framed the recommendations. He noted that these recommendations are intended to aide in the assessment of students with a variety of handicapping conditions which include students having a language other than English as their primary language (ESL) or students with severe handicapping conditions. These students are ones that cannot perform on the

assessments even with accommodations. Watson reviewed for the Board the recommendations as outlined in the Agenda Book.

Mr. Gordy asked how many students are projected to be affected by these recommendations. Mr. Watson responded up to 15% of those students currently served through the various areas of special education and up to 15,000 ESL students.

Mr. Alderson moved that the Board commend the work of the committee and accept the committee report. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Revocation of a Revocation of a Teaching Certificate**

Theresa Wallent updated the Board on the status of the previous hearing related to Samuel Avery. At the hearing Mr. Avery stated that he would voluntarily surrender his certificate. Wallent reported that the Department has not received this response. She reported that a date would be set for a revocation hearing as soon as possible.

### **Reconsideration of Waiver on Denial of Application for a Teaching Certificate**

Theresa Wallent reported to the Board concerning information received pursuant to the waiver for Roy King. She pointed to documents from Kentucky, the U.S. Army and other information requested pursuant to the Board's request from the initial hearing. Ms. Wallent indicated that in her opinion the Board's conditions had been met and that the Board has the option of awarding a certificate or awarding a provisional certificate.

Mr. Fisher moved that upon consideration of the additional evidence, the board issue a one-year provisional license and request from the district in which Mr. King is employed a copy of his performance evaluations during the year. The motion provides for a review of the evaluations by the July Board meeting at which time the board may recommend full licensure status. Ms. Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 7 to 2 vote. (Voting no – McLarty and Hackler)

### **Discussion of the Arkansas Department of Education Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1997**

Dr. Bobbie Davis was recognized to make this report. Dr. Davis noted the Department receives a complete fiscal audit each year with a review by legislative committee. Last year's audit process was completed in September 1998. Dr. Davis reported a significant decrease in the number of findings in the current audit as compared to one year ago. Last year there were twenty-one findings, this year only eight.

Mr. Fisher commended staff for this fine report and moved acceptance of the audit report. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Revision of the Arkansas Language Arts and Mathematics Frameworks with the Accompanying Grade level Benchmark Documents for K-4.**

Dr. Gayle Potter reported to the Board the framework documents included in the Agenda represent the first frameworks revisions to take place over the next several years. Mathematics and English/Language Arts (including reading) are in this set. Committees of teachers and other educators worked during the summer to prepare these documents. The frameworks include grade-level benchmarks, assessment strategies and suggested teaching/learning options. Plans are to create sample units and lesson plans in the near future.

Mr. Hackler commended the work noting it was more teacher friendly. Mr. Gordy stated the documents were easier to understand than previous editions. He thanked teachers and staff who worked on the frameworks on behalf of the Board.

### **Proposed Revision to the Public School Fund Budget for 1998-99**

Mr. Simon presented this item. He stated it was in response to the Board's request to make a recommendation as to releasing a part of the fund balances. John Kunkel stated the print out in the Agenda Book was a summary of the proposed distribution of the \$12,400,000, which provides an increase of approximately \$27.33 per ADM. Mr. Fisher moved approval of the Department recommendation and that a Director's Memo be prepared to Superintendents encouraging districts to pick up part of the increased insurance cost to teachers and staff. Mr. Alderson seconded the motion.

Mr. McLarty asked about the plans for the approximately \$8 million remaining in the fund balance. Mr. Kunkel stated that part of this may be needed to meet the student growth requirements and that it would be February or March before that amount would be known.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Recommendations for Praxis I and Praxis II Teacher Testing Requirements**

Donna Elliott indicated this item had previously been presented and needed a final approval. Mr. Fisher moved approval of staff recommendations. Mr. Gordy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan**

Dr. Charity Smith reported on events since the October meeting and indicated that Tim Gaugher of the Attorney General's Office has contacted the Little Rock School District to begin the process of documenting testing that will support any loan forgiveness. Also, work is in progress that will bring specialists from the three districts together to complete a revision of the monitoring plan. A first draft of the plan is due November 30, 1998.

## **Report: Study Circles**

Dan Farley, Arkansas School Boards Association and chair Friends for Better Schools, and Judy White, Friends for Better Schools staff made this report. Mr. Farley described Study Circles as a national program designed to engage communities in a process of dialogue and conversation leading to improved support for public schools. The program is operational in six Arkansas communities this school year. The program is structured to bring groups together with a facilitator to discuss educational issues. Study Circles has been viewed as a way to bring divergent opinions together and to raise issues of common concern without attempting to reach a fixed conclusion. Arkansas communities which have engaged in the process have found it to be a very positive experience.

## **Approval for Public Hearing Rules and Regulations Arkansas Comprehensive Testing and assessment Program for Amending the October 1998 Reporting Date in Sections 6.06, 7.04, and 10.04**

Ms. Pickett opened this discussion by stating she believed there was some misunderstanding by Board members about the previous discussion of this issue. The Rules and Regulations address the entire assessment system, not just the Grade 11/12 components. Dr. Kevin Penix indicated the issue of the date does impact all phases of the assessment system and the particular issue is found in the Rules and Regulations, not in the authorizing legislation. Dr. Penix stated that staff recommends changing the date in question from the mandatory reporting time of October 1, 1998, to October 1, 1999. He also stated that the Department would like to amend the legislation to remove the requirement of having a child's test scores reflected in the grading system of the school.

Mr. McLarty asked how much time would be available to meet current legislative requirements if the date were moved to October 1, 1999, and the legislation was not amended to remove the requirement. Penix indicated three months. The Board raised the question as to the adequacy of time to make recommendations on strategies to meet legislative requirements that would also be equitable.

Mr. Alderson observed that by May it will be known if the legislation is amended and suggested that June 1, 1999 would be a better date. Mr. Simon noted if the legislation is not revised, recommendations for implementation of the grading systems will have to be made prior to October 1. He indicated that the accountability in the Smart Start Initiative should help this issue to some extent by proposing an accountability system that is not prescribed by the legislature.

Mr. Gordy moved acceptance of the Department recommendation. Mr. McLarty made a substitute motion to adopt June 1, 1999 rather than October 1, 1999. Mr. Alderson seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 4. (Voting no Baggett, Hackler, Gordy and Yates)

**Executive Session**

Mr. Gordy moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel matter. Ms. Yates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hackler moved that the Board reconvene. Mr. Alderson seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

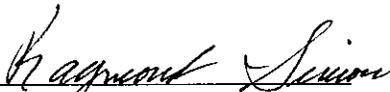
Ms. Pickett stated that no actions were taken during the executive session and there would be no motions pursuant to the discussions.

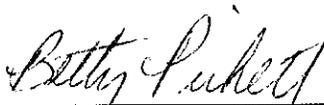
**Other Business**

Mr. McLarty distributed copies of the report submitted pursuant to the study conducted by the University of Arkansas on the level of insurance coverage for school buses in Arkansas. McLarty suggested Board members review the document and be prepared for a discussion at the December meeting.

Mr. Fisher moved adjournment. Mr. Gordy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recorded and submitted by Dr. Charles D. Watson.

  
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Raymond Simon, Director

  
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Betty Pickett, Chair

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION NOTES  
NOVEMBER 9, 1998

Following the Agenda meeting on November 9, 1998, the State Board of Education met in an informal working session.

The following Board members were present: Betty Pickett, Chair; Edwin Alderson; Carl Baggett; Bill Fisher; Luke Gordy; Robert Hackler; James McLarty; Lewis Thompson, Jr. and Anita Yates.

Members absent: JoNell Caldwell; Martha Dixon; and Richard Smith.

Ms. Pickett made the following announcements:

- ✓ NASBE study groups are forming for next year. Board members were asked to inform her of areas of interest. Mr. Thompson has indicated his interest in the group studying school safety.
- ✓ A sample Board Brief from Ohio was circulated that could be a model for a new publication of the Board. Initial reaction – the Ohio Brief was too long and detailed, but the idea would be worth pursuing as a way of communicating with local boards. Requested that the Director work with them on a similar, but scaled back publication.
- ✓ In December, the U.S. Office of Education will conduct a national teleconference to update progress toward meeting the National Education Goals.

**Teacher Licensure**

Board members were given the opportunity to address questions to Donna Elliott concerning the discussion at the October session. Ms. Pickett indicated that the licensure recommendations might be brought to the Board Agenda for a vote in December. She indicated that approval is needed before the request for funding of components of the licensure system can be advanced to the legislative session.

There was discussion concerning the impact of a publication *The Numbers Game* and issues related to licensure especially in content areas like mathematics and science which are experiencing low numbers moving through the licensure process.

Mr. Fisher: one way to help schools, especially small schools, attract qualified applicants would be to examine the awards system. Small districts need teachers certified in more than one area – which is contrary to the direction of the new licensure standards.

Mr. McLarty: financial rewards should be provided for mathematics and science teachers and other critical areas.

Mr. Fisher: National Board Certification is important and we should continue to pursue the program, however, we need teachers with multiple areas of certification. The Legislative Committee should consider this issue.

Pickett: Can the licensure system consider this problem?

Fisher: The Board cannot affect the content areas that students chose to pursue. Students self select and plan their careers around personal interests.

Alderson: We could do something to raise the resources for mathematics and science teachers at the local level. If we need these teachers, we could pay more.

Gordy: This is not just a mathematics and science issue. It impacts areas such as special education, speech therapy and others.

McLarty: Observed that the information provided with Loans and Bonds applications reviewed by the Board shows a large number of teachers with some type certification violation. Do we have a large percentage of teachers not certified?

McLarty: Can we address this issue as a policy matter of getting money to address critical needs areas. This is like rural areas paying salary supplements to acquire medical services in small communities.

Hackler: We need to be cautious that in the process of paying some teachers extra that other teachers don't feel important or needed. For example, we're entering a major initiative that focuses on K-4, what about those teachers?

Alderson: There is indication that some believe that the state should be run like a business and thus become market driven. In that case, if there are market conditions, give financial advantages to equalize the situation.

Pickett: In the state, student learning can be improved only if the quality of instruction is addressed. It is apparent that there is a need to address the shortage of qualified teachers in isolated areas.

Charles Knox – AAEEA: The state cannot address the issues you raise without changing legislation. A poverty index or some other indicator may be needed to allow additional funding to local schools supporting teachers in high needs areas.

Pickett: Requested that the Department take a look at this issue and make recommendations to the Board as to how best to deal with the high needs areas.

### **Professional Development**

Pickett: Questioned the process of rewarding teachers for attending professional development events. She believes that teachers should receive additional rewards if they attend sessions or events that focus on high needs areas. She indicated that professional development was one component of the new licensure system.

Gordy: The Board has not had a table discussion about credit earned for professional development.

Pickett: The point system proposed could be revised around high need areas or around Board priorities.

McLarty: Suggested revising the Rules and Regulations on professional development to reward teachers pursuing National Board Certification. The Board should also consider developing priority areas and increasing the number of points teachers earn from participating in various events. He stated that the required 60 hours in the new licensure standards was a lot of time and there should be some emphasis on quality, not just quantity.

Yates: The 60 hours may be too much to ask of teachers.

### **Legislative Agenda**

Gordy: Presented the draft of proposed legislating related to National Board Certification. He said that there must be an incentive to attract people into the certification process.

McLarty: Other states are putting "serious" money behind National Board Certification.

Fisher: Suggested that research on isolated and small schools was needed. Asked the Department to prepare some data and identify some of the needs of small schools.

Pickett: Little supplements really do not help those schools. She noted the small amounts scheduled for small schools in the new money allocated in the Action Agenda.

Gordy: Earlier the Board awarded \$12 million, Oark, where we visited last month, will get \$4,000. That is not much help.

Brenda Matthews reported on the new make up of the House and Senate Education Committees for the next session of the legislature.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson