

**ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MAY 10, 1999**

**WORK SESSION---8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

- 8:30-9:30 Act 890 of 1999 - Charter Schools----Dr. Kevin Penix, Dr. Gayle Potter and Ms. Theresa Wallent
- 9:30-10:15 Act 1549 of 1999 Funding of Public Education ----Ms. Patricia Martin Discussion of Appropriations and Budget Process ----Mr. John Kunkel
- 10:15-10:30 Break (Move to 301A)
- 10:30-11:00 Technology Report---Mr. Jim Boardman
- 11:00-11:30 1999 Final Summary of Enactments 82<sup>nd</sup> Arkansas General Assembly ----Ms. Brenda Matthews

**REGULAR AGENDA MEETING----12:00 p.m.**

Chair's Report---Ms. Betty Pickett

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes (April, 1999)
- 2. Newly Employed, Promotion and Separations-----Ms. Clemetta Hood.....C-2
- 3. Personnel Recommendation---Ms. Clemetta Hood .....C-3

Director's Report---Mr. Ray Simon

**ACTION AGENDA**

- 1. Arkansas Better Chance Grant Recommendations ---Ms. Janie Fletcher.....A-1
- 2. Recommendations for Funding Summer ABC Transition Programs -----Ms. Janie Fletcher .....A-2
- 3. Request for Approval for Public Comment of Proposed Rules and Regulations on Professional Development-----Dr. Gayle Potter .....A-3
- 4. Report: Office of Research, Measurement and Evaluation---Dr. Woody Cummins, Dr. Sean Mulvenon and Dr. Rona Turner.....A-4
- 5. Federal Programs Review (report) ----Dr. Bobbie Davis and Dr. Kevin Penix.....A-5

6. Smart Start
  - A. Repeal of Rules and Regulations Governing Early Childhood Curriculum Specialists---Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney.....A-6A
  - B. Mathematics Specialists---Dr. Kevin Penix and Dr. Dave Westmoreland .....A-6B
  - C. Approval of the FY 2000 Budget for Smart Start -----Mr. John Kunkel.....A-6C
7. Waiver Request: Newark School District---Dr. Charity Smith .....A-7
8. Approve for Public Comment Proposed Rules and Regulation to Implement the Appropriation for Community Based Pilot Grants ---Ms. Karen Ghidotti.....A-8
9. Approval of Emergency Rules and Regulations which Revise the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Appropriation for Special Education Catastrophic Occurrences ----Dr. Diane Sydoriak.....A-9
10. Report: State Board of Education Nominating Committee---Mr. Jim McLarty.....A-10
11. NASBE Election---Ms. Betty Pickett.....A-11
12. Legal Update---Ms. Theresa Wallent .....A-12
13. Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan --- Dr. Charity Smith.....A-13

# State Board of Education

Minutes  
May 10, 1999

The State Board of Education met on Monday, April 12, 1999 in the Auditorium of the State Education Building. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Betty Pickett, Chair.

The following members were present: Betty Pickett, Chair; JoNell Caldwell, Vice Chair; Edwin Alderson; Carl Baggett; Martha Dixon; Bill Fisher; Luke Gordy; Robert Hackler; James McLarty; Richard Smith.

The following members were absent: Lewis Thompson, Jr. and Anita Yates.

Ms. Pickett reported the following change to the April 12, 1999 minutes. In paragraph one, page four, delete reference to North Little Rock School District and Pulaski County Special School District in the composition of the test committee.

Mr. Alderson moved the approval of the Consent Agenda with the reported change in the April 12, 1999 Minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes April 12, 1999
- Newly Employed, Promotion and Separations
- Personnel Recommendation

### Director's Report

Mr. Simon reported the publication and distribution of the Smart Start Newsletter. He also referred to newspaper reports of actions in school districts throughout the state highlighting school security issues. Mr. Simon invited Board members to attend one of the two scheduled sessions of the Getting Smarter Conference on July 28-29 or July 30-31 which will "kick off" Year-Two Smart Start Activities. Board members are to contact Janinne Riggs to be scheduled into one of the sessions. Mr. Simon also reported that districts are beginning to focus school and community activities around Character Centered Teaching. One such example is in Corning where the theme for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade is "Corning: A Character Centered Community."

## ACTION AGENDA

Ms. Pickett announced the following sequence changes in the Action Agenda items to accommodate individuals who have additional commitments. Action Agenda Item #3 (Request for Approval for Public Comment of Proposed Rules and Regulations on

Professional Development) will be discussed first, then Item #6 (Smart Start) will be second on the Agenda.

Mr. Gordy moved the addition of an Action Item to consider rules and regulations for public comment in the following areas: Rules and Regulations Governing New Debt Service Fund Supplement; revisions to Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Isolated Funding; and revisions to Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Student Growth Funding. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fisher moved the addition of an Action Item to discuss school bus insurance pursuant to Act 1123. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Request for Approval for Public Comment of Proposed Rules and Regulations on Professional Development

Dr. Gayle Potter was recognized to make this report. Dr. Potter summarized the work of the Task Force and provided an update of the work accomplished since the March meeting. Mr. Fisher moved that the rules and regulations be approved for public comment. Mr. Hackler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Smart Start

##### Repeal of Rules and Regulations Governing Early Childhood Curriculum Specialists

Mary K. McKinney was recognized to present this issue. Ms. McKinney informed the Board that since the last meeting a public hearing was held on April 23 with only two individuals attending to comment. Public notices were included in the state newspaper with other information on the ADE Web site and special notification to the regional service cooperatives, UALR and others who are directly effected by the changes. She reported no dissenting comments.

Ms. Pickett requested information as to why the qualifications of the literacy specialists positions and the literacy coach positions were different. Ms. McKinney noted that the specialists serve a wide area and work in many schools. They are expected to have a broader background and preparation. The literacy coaches work directly in one school and are not expected to deal with as many diverse situations.

Mr. Simon advised that a final vote on this issue was not appropriate at this time because of the time requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. The Board will be asked for a special meeting via conference call after the 30 day posting has expired.

## Mathematics Specialists

Dr. David Westmoreland summarized the role of the mathematics specialists positions proposed under Smart Start Initiative. He emphasized that primary duty of these new staff members would be to work in the schools and support improved teaching and learning in mathematics. In response to questions from Board members, he noted that the secondary specialists who would be housed on college/university campuses would support school improvement planning and assist with professional development for public school teachers. He indicated that specific details of the grant arrangements with the institutions may vary from site to site, but each position will have the same job description.

Mr. Simon stated that the mathematics specialists would work under a contractual agreement with the cooperatives under guidelines established by the Department.

Mr. Gordy asked about the method of compensation. Dr. Westmoreland responded that a grant agreement would be made with each cooperative who would, in turn, seek applicant and fill the positions. Exact salaries may vary depending on experience and current contractual salary. Payment of salary, expenses, etc. will come from the grant agreement with the cooperatives/universities.

Mr. McLarty asked about experience. Dr. Westmoreland indicated that there would be an expectation of at least five years experience, but that was not stipulated.

Mr. Hackler moved approval of the mathematics positions as outlined. Mr. Alderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of the FY 2000 Budget for Smart Start

John Kunkel was recognized for this presentation. Mr. Kunkel indicated the staff was seeking approval of this part of the budget due to the time needed to advertise positions, hire and train staff so they can be in place in time to assist with the pre school training workshops generally held in early August each year. He stated that each cooperative would receive a grant in the amount of \$68,850 to support the salary, fixed charges, expenses, etc. for the specialists. A like agreement will be issued to participating college/university campuses.

Mr. Smith asked about the difference in proposed staff salaries and the requested \$8.5 million for Smart Start. Mr. Kunkel responded that there were funds for supplies, instructional materials, books, etc. used in the literacy professional development activities.

Mr. McLarty asked about any research evidence of the effectiveness of the literacy program that have been developed by the staff. Ms. McKinney indicated that the ultimate measure of success would be performance on the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Benchmark exam. She also indicated that the McRat program had been evaluated and validated for inclusion in the National Diffusion Network sponsored by the U.S. Department of education.

Dr. Penix stated that the Department is seeking help in evaluating the literacy programs. He indicated that the staff is aware of the need for greater emphasis on evaluation.

Mr. Fisher moved approval of the staff budget recommendations for Smart Start activities. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Arkansas Better Chance Grant Recommendations

Mr. Smith excused himself from deliberation on this item.

Janie Fletcher was recognized to make this presentation. Ms Fletcher informed the Board that her staff had completed the review process of each of the applications. She requested a deferral of the request from Earle and Mississippi County EOC until the June meeting. She also reported that EDA-Lonoke County was not being recommended for funding.

Mr. Hackler moved the adoption of staff recommendations to fund all listed projects with the exception of Earle, Mississippi county EOC and EDA-Lonoke County. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Recommendations for Funding Summer ABC Transition Programs

Mr. Smith excused himself from deliberation of this item.

Janie Fletcher requested Board approval for proposals as listed in the Agenda. Mr. Fisher moved adoption of staff recommendations. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### Report: Office of Research, Measurement and Evaluation

Dr. Woodrow Cummins was recognized for this report. Dr. Cummins informed the Board that the staff from the Office of Research, Measurement and Evaluation from the College of Education at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville continues to work on a statistically sound structure for reporting school accountability results. He introduced Dr. Sean Mulvenon and Dr. Rona Turner to present the report. Dr. Mulvenon described work in progress and provided the Board an update. ([Attachment #1](#))

#### Federal Programs Review (Report)

Drs. Bobbie Davis and Kevin Penix informed the Board that on May 17-21, 1999, the Department would be engaged in a monitoring review by the U.S. Department of Education. The team will visit selected schools as well as conduct interviews with staff who manage federal funded programs. Dr. Davis reviewed the federal funds distributed through the Department to schools.

Mr. Fisher asked if there were any school districts that did not receive any federal funds. Dr. Davis responded that all districts receive some federal funds.

#### Waiver Request: Newark School District

Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to present this item. Dr. Smith referred to the request for waiver of 175 days of instruction as included in the Board Book due to storm damage in the community. Mr. Alderson moved adoption of the waiver request. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approve for Public Comment Proposed Rules and Regulations to Implement the Appropriation for Community Based Pilot Grants

Ms. Ghidotti requested approval of these rules and regulations for public comment to expedite the grant application process for the 1999-2000 year. Mr. McLarty moved approval of the rules and regulations for public comment. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Approval of Emergency Rules and Regulations which Revise the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Appropriation for Special Education Catastrophic Occurrences

Mr. Smith moved adoption of these rules and regulations with the emergency provision. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Report: State Board of Education Nominating Committee Report

Mr. McLarty was recognized for this report. Mr. McLarty reported that the Nominating Committee has met and makes the following nominations for officers of the Board for 1999-2000. Vice Chair – Martha Dixon and Chair – Luke Gordy. Mr. McLarty moved that the Board accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Alderson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### NASBE Election

Mr. McLarty moved that the Board cast its vote for Cleo Mathews for NASBE President. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith moved that the Board cast its vote for Corine Hadley for NASBE Vice-President. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith moved the Board cast it vote for Rosie Sorrells for Southern Area Director. Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Legal Update

Ms. Pickett noted that a copy of the legal update was distributed earlier during the work session. She asked if there were questions. There were none. ([Attachment #2](#))

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

Dr. Charity Smith was recognized for this presentation. Dr. Smith indicated that the staff was at the final stages of preparing the plan for desegregation. She reported that staff anticipates an agreement in approximately two weeks. She will present the recommendations at the June meeting.

Mr. McLarty asked Dr. Smith about an Arkansas Democrat/Gazette newspaper report written by Cynthia Howell on the Little Rock settlement which implied that Little Rock believes it has met its achievement goal, but that agreement has not been accepted by the state. He inquired as to what data were they using and how do they know if there has been no agreement on the instrument.

Dr. Smith replied that the Department has not seen any data, but staff has agreed to meet with the Little Rock District.

Mr. Fisher moved acceptance of the report. Mr. Gordy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Added Agenda Items

Mr. Gordy moved the adoption of the following rules and regulations for public comment:

- Rules and Regulations Governing School District New Debt Service Funding Supplement ([Attachment #3](#))
- Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Isolated Funding ([Attachment #4](#))
- Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Student Growth Funding ([Attachment #5](#))

Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

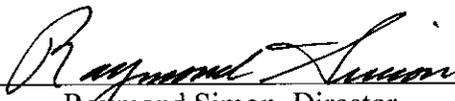
Mr. Fisher moved that the Board adopt a policy requiring all districts to provide the following information by June 1, 1999, pertaining to Act 1123.

- The current limits of existing liability insurance coverage on the school buses operated by the district.
- The number of buses and the capacity of each bus operated by the district.
- The number and amount of bodily injury claims resulting from accidents over the past three years.

Mr. McLarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Alderson moved adjournment. Mr. Gordy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson.

  
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Raymond Simon, Director

  
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Betty Pickett, Chair