

Minutes
State Board of Education
May 10, 2004

The State Board of Education met on Monday, May 10, 2004, in the Auditorium of the State Education Building. JoNell Caldwell, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The following board members were present: JoNell Caldwell, Chairman; Shelby Hillman, Vice-Chairman; Sherry Burrow; Luke Gordy; Dr. Calvin King; Randy Lawson; Diane Tatum; and Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland.

The following board member was absent: MaryJane Rebick.

Chair's Report

Ms. Caldwell welcomed Dr. Ken James as Director of the Department of Education.

Director's Report

Dr. James stated that he was excited to be back in Arkansas, which is his home, and to begin the work of serving students in Arkansas.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Dr. Westmoreland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- Minutes – April 12, 2004
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement:
Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations

Action Agenda

Master Principal's Program

Janinne Riggs was recognized to present this report. Ms. Riggs stated that one planning meeting had been conducted since the previous report and that good progress was made toward developing components of the Principal's Academy. She also noted that there is much work yet to be done to fully develop the structure of the program and the guidelines. Ms. Riggs referenced three additional committees that have been established to work on various aspects of

the program. She stated that these committees will begin their work in the very near future.

Mr. Gordy moved approval of the structural work completed to date and that the Department and the Leadership Academy staff be directed to continue the development of the Principal's Academy. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Act 1738 of 2003 Exemptions

Patricia Martin was recognized to present this item. Ms. Martin reported that the requests contained in the prepared materials have been reviewed and meet all requirements of the authorizing legislation and the rules. Mr. Lawson moved approval of the proposals as presented. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Report of Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field for Longer than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days, Act 1623 of 2001

Dr. Charity Smith was recognized to present these requests. Dr. Smith reported that the requests presented met the established criteria and the positions being filled were in areas of identified teacher shortages. Mr. Gordy moved approval of the waiver requests. Dr. Westmoreland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Shelby Hillman reported that the nominating committee's proposed slate for the 2004-2005 year includes JoNell Caldwell, Chairman and Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Vice-Chairman.

Petitions for Administrative Annexation or Consolidation

A complete transcript of each deliberation is contained in a separate document available upon request. Only the final Board actions are reflected in these minutes.

Administrative Annexation of the Bright Star School District to the Fouke School District

Mr. Gordy moved approval of the petition. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted with a vote of 4 yes and 3 no (Burrow, King and Tatum voted no).

Administrative Annexation of the Fountain Hill School District to the Hamburg School District

Mr. Lawson moved that based upon the Attorney General's letter dated May 7, 2004, and the facts, documentation, and testimony presented by the parties, that this Board conditionally approve the petition for annexation of the Fountain Hill School District to the Hamburg School District with regard to all issues, concerns and areas covered under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the 2003 General Assembly except for any and all desegregation issues, concerns or areas involving or related to the petitioning school districts or other affected school districts. The interested parties shall reappear before this Board on Monday, May 24, 2004, and inform whether they have received federal court approval of the proposed annexation or other proper federal court relief before this Board will consider granting final approval of the proposed annexation. Further, if these districts have not obtained adequate approval or relief from the appropriate federal court, this Board may rescind the conditional approval of the proposed annexation and take appropriate action regarding the proposed petition for annexation/consolidation as allowed by Act 60 or other Arkansas law. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Annexation of the Winslow School District to the Greenland School District

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the petition. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a vote of 6 – 0 – 1 abstain (Mr. Lawson abstained).

Administrative Annexation of the Oark School District and the Kingston School District to the Jasper School District

Ms. Hillman moved approval of the petition. Dr. Westmoreland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Administrative Annexation of the McNeil School District to the Stephens School District

Mr. Lawson moved that based upon the Attorney General's letter dated May 7, 2004, and the facts, documentation, and testimony presented by the parties, that this Board conditionally approve the petition for annexation of the McNeil School District to the Stephens School District with regard to all issues, concerns and areas covered under Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the 2003 General Assembly except for any and all desegregation issues, concerns or areas involving or related to the petitioning school districts or other affected school districts. The interested parties shall reappear before this Board on Monday, May 24, 2004 and inform whether they have received federal court approval of the proposed annexation or other proper federal court relief before this Board will consider granting final approval of the proposed annexation. Further, if these districts have not obtained adequate approval or relief from the appropriate federal court, this Board may rescind the conditional approval of the proposed annexation and take appropriate action regarding the proposed petition for annexation/consolidation as allowed by Act 60 or other Arkansas law. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Consolidation of the Union School District and the Norphlet School District to form the Riverside School District

Mr. Gordy moved that the petition be denied. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a vote of 6 – 0 – 1 abstain (Dr. King abstained).

Administrative Consolidation of the Oden School District and the Acorn School District to form the Ouachita River School District

Ms. Burrow moved approval of the petition. Dr. King seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Administrative Consolidation of the Grady School District and the Gould School District to form the Lincoln County Special School District

Mr. Gordy moved that the petition be denied. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a vote 6 – 0 – 1 abstain (Dr. King abstained).

Administrative Annexation of the Mt. Holly School District into the Parkers Chapel School District

Mr. Lawson moved that the petition be denied. Ms. Tatum seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a vote 6 – 0 – 1 abstain (Dr. King abstained).

Administrative Annexation of the Crawfordsville School District into the Earle School District

Dr. King moved that consideration of this petition be continued until a later date. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Gordy moved that the petition be denied. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a vote 6 – 1 (King voted no).

Administrative Annexation of the Altus-Denning School District into the Ozark School District

Ms. Hillman moved that the petition be approved. Ms. Burrow seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Annexation of the Hatfield School District into the Mena School District

Ms. Tatum moved that the petition be approved. Dr. Westmoreland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Consolidation of the Fourche Valley School District, the Plainview-Rover School District and the Ola School District to form a new district (name yet to be determined) (Note: Ola School District Annexed the Perry-Casa School District in 2003)

Scott Smith reported that the new school district would be named Two Rivers School District.

Ms. Hillman moved the petition be approved. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Consolidation of the Bruno-Pyatt School District (Formerly known as Marion County School District), the St. Joe School District and the Western Grove School District to form the Ozark Mountain School District

Mr. Lawson moved the petition be approved. Dr. King seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Consolidation of the Williford School District and the Randolph County School District to form the Twin Rivers School District

Mr. Gordy moved the petition be approved. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Administrative Annexation of the Stone County School District and the Rural Special School District to the Mountain View School District

Mr. Lawson moved the petition be approved. Ms. Hillman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

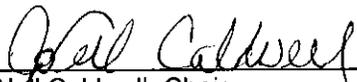
Adjournment

Ms. Hillman moved adjournment. Mr. Gordy seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

These Minutes were recorded and reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson.



Dr. Ken James, Director



JoNeil Caldwell, Chair