

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2010

The State Board of Education met Monday, December 13, 2010, in the auditorium of the Department of Education building. Dr. Naccaman Williams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Present: Dr. Naccaman Williams, Chairman; Sherry Burrow; Sam Ledbetter; Alice Mahony; Toyce Newton; Vicki Saviers; Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner; and Vandy Nash, Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Brenda Gullett participated via conference call.

Absent: Jim Cooper and Dr. Ben Mays, Vice-Chairman

Reports

Chair's Report:

There was no report from the Chairman.

Commissioner's Report:

Dr. Kimbrell reported that he, Dr. Gayle Potter and other assessment staff attended the first governing board meeting of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers held December 8-10 in Washington, DC. He said Dr. Potter and her staff worked with other member states the first two days on the development of a common assessment, and it was evident that Dr. Potter had the respect of her colleagues across the nation. Dr. Kimbrell said he hoped to present an implementation timeline for the common core state standards at the January or February board meeting.

Recognition of 2010 Milken Educators

Tamika Jordan, Avondale Elementary teacher in the Marion School District, and Tracy Valentine, Bragg Elementary teacher in the West Memphis School District, were recognized as Arkansas's 2010 Milken Educators.

Coordinated School Health Report

Laura McDowell, Coordinated School Health Program Coordinator, reported that in addition to the 42 school districts participating in the program, Wellness Centers were being established in nine school districts—Dollarway, Fayetteville, Gurdon, Harrison, Lavaca, Lincoln, Paragould, Paris and Springdale. The program, funded with a grant from Centers for Disease Control, is designed to

improve students' health by building capacity and partnerships at the state level and providing a model for the local level.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Mahony questioned the necessity to adopt English Language Arts textbooks and instructional materials (Consent Agenda C-7) with the transition to the common core state standards in the near future.

Dr. Kimbrell explained that state law mandates the adoption of textbooks and instructional materials; however, school districts are not required to purchase the new books and materials.

Ms. Saviers moved approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Newton. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the November 8, 2010, Board Meeting
- State Board of Education Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2011
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than 30 Days
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Voted Bond Application for Paragould School District in the Amount \$13,320,000
- Adoption of K-12 English Language Arts Textbooks and Instructional Materials
- Extension of Contract for K-12 Mathematics Textbooks and Instructional Materials Effective July 1, 2011 and Ending June 30, 2013
- Sanctions for Teachers as Recommended by the Professional Licensure Standards Board
 - Tommy Broyles
 - Amy Arrington
 - Crystal Dawn Sandage
 - Stephen Andrews
 - Bryan Akines
 - Dan Mouritsen

Action Agenda

(Complete records of the hearings are available in the State Board office.)

Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance Program Recommendations 2010-11

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve a recommendation from the Arkansas Better Chance Program to transfer \$36,450 for direct services/center to the Star City School District from Lil Kim's Playhouse. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Adoption of Resolution: Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month

Ms. Burrow moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, adoption of a resolution designating January 2011, as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request for Open Enrollment Public Charter School Charter Amendment: Osceola Communication Arts Business School, Osceola, Arkansas

Dr. Mary Ann Duncan, Charter School Coordinator, presented a request from the Osceola Communications Arts Business School (OCABS) for the following charter amendments:

- Creation of a single governing board
- Expanding the grade levels served to K-12
- Waiving the requirement for licensed teachers

Dr. Buster Lackey, outgoing director of the school, said OCABS wanted to expand operations to reach younger students at risk of leaving school before graduation.

Board members questioned the school's intent for expansion when the data indicated it attracted a smaller percentage of students from groups at risk of dropping out than the Osceola School District.

Ms. Newton noted the philosophy for change but no clear direction or plan.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to table the item until the school could bring enrollment data, updated financial information and research to back up its plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Approval: High School Ratings System to Comply with Act 35 of 2003

Dr. Charity Smith, Assistant Commissioner of Accountability, presented a proposal for rating high schools in terms of status and gains. She explained the system was similar to that currently used in elementary and middle schools. Dr.

Smith said the Benchmarks are the Grade 11 Literacy Exam and the end of course exams in Algebra I and Geometry. The Grade 11 Literacy Exam will be replaced with the Grade 10 English end of course beginning the 2013-14 school year.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Burrow, approval of the proposed method for rating high schools in terms of status and gains. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade

Jeremy Lasiter, General Counsel, explained that in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, the ADE requested the State Board to amend its existing concurrent credit rules to allow for a one-year pilot project.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, final approval of Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Final Approval: Rules Governing the Non-Traditional Licensure Program

Dr. Mitch Holifield, chairman of the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB), spoke against the revision of the rule. He said reducing the number of required hours in reading for Teach for America candidates was an equity issue. Dr. Holifield said the PLSB was in the process of seating a licensure task force to look at licensure in general.

Ms. Gullett said she was concerned the changes might not be best for education.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, final approval of Rules Governing the Non-Traditional Licensure Program. The motion carried. Ms. Gullett voted no.

Hearing on Revocation of Teacher's Licensure—Kendall Jackson

PLSB Attorney Katherine Donovan reported that when Kendall Jackson applied for renewal of his teacher license it was discovered his license had been revoked in Utah based upon misdemeanor criminal charges. Subsequently, his license in Georgia was revoked by reciprocity.

Clayton Blackstock, counsel for Mr. Jackson, explained his client left Utah to accept a job in Georgia. He said Mr. Jackson was offered a job in Arkansas and did not take the position in Georgia. Mr. Blackstock said his client never received notice his Utah license was under review and, therefore, never appealed.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Burrow, to deny the revocation of Kendall Jackson's license and to place him on two years probation. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

These minutes were recorded by Phyllis Stewart.