

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2015

The State Board of Education met Thursday, January 8, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Present: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Mireya Reith; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Tony Wood, Commissioner.

Absent: none

Chairman Ledbetter recognized Representative Randy Lawson, Representative John Walker, and Senator Joyce Elliott for their attendance at the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Zook requested to pull C-16 - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-014 – Sarah Elizabeth Bayer

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the consent agenda less C-16. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - December 11, 2014
- Minutes - December 12, 2014
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #13-148 – Chadwick Lance Martin
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #T14-005 –Andrea Raye Day
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-055 – Elizabeth Hillary Millward
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-096 – Thelton Wray Hughes
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-119 – Darcy Leigh Benham
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-132 – Robert Boaz Cotton

- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-142 – Terri L. Redman
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-183 – Jeffrey Carter James
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-186 – Chadwick Lance Martin
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-189 –Theresa Annette Diemer
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #14-197 – Amy Renee Milliken
- Interim Report Fiscal Year 2014-15 Summary of Activities for the Standards Assurance Unit

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve C-16 - Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-014 – Sarah Elizabeth Baver. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Agenda

Chairman Ledbetter requested the Board add an action item to the agenda. Ms. Zook moved, seconded Dr. Barth, to add an action item to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Post Creation Agreement between PCSSD and J/NPSD

Chairman Ledbetter said the court has given approval to move forward with the post creation agreement between Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) and the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District (J/NPSD).

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the agreement between Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) and the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School District (J/NPSD). The motion carried unanimously.

A-1 Arkansas Better Chance Recommendation to Discontinue Funding

Department of Human Services Representatives Mr. Mark Speight and Ms. Susan Underwood requested approval to terminate two grantees from the Arkansas Better Chance 2014-15 year: Rosie and Jackie's Preschool Kids and ABC Preparatory Academy. Ms. Underwood said the office is seeking to relocate the students.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Arkansas Better Chance recommendation to discontinue funding for Rosie and Jackie's Preschool Kids and ABC Preparatory Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Progress Report on the Fiscal Distress Status of Helena-West Helena School District

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders and Fiscal Distress Coordinator Ms. Hazel Burnett said the Helena-West Helena School District was classified in fiscal distress on September 13, 2010.

Ms. Burnett said the district is making adjustments due to the declining enrollment. She said the district is making progress on audit findings.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the progress report on the fiscal distress status of the Helena-West Helena School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Progress Report on the Fiscal Distress Status of Pulaski County Special School District

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders and Fiscal Distress Coordinator Ms. Hazel Burnett said the Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) was classified on May 16, 2011 as being in fiscal distress.

PCSSD Chief Financial Officer Mr. Bill Goff explained that some of the objectives in the fiscal distress report have been revised. He said objective #37 is the only objective not met at this time.

PCSSD Superintendent Dr. Jerry Guess said the community advisory board process is working appropriately. He said the members have gained insight into the financial responsibilities of the district.

Commissioner Wood said the only outstanding issue for PCSSD regarding the fiscal distress plan is how the district will handle the loss of revenue with the detachment of J/NPSD. He said PCSSD would submit a plan and discussion would follow about releasing the district from state authority.

Mr. Goff said PCSSD would submit a plan of how PCSSD will function fiscally with the loss of desegregation funding and the detachment of J/NPSD. He said it would be a challenge to implement the plan.

Dr. Guess said these funding losses for PCSSD have exposed the district to a great risk. He said the J/NPSD would also face risks.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the progress report on the fiscal distress status of the Pulaski County Special School District. The motion

carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Academic Distress Report – Little Rock School District

Special Committee on Academic Distress Chair Ms. Vicki Saviers said on January 7, 2015, the committee held a meeting to review the progress of the Little Rock School District related to the district's schools that are classified as being in academic distress.

Chair Saviers said the minutes of the meeting from the January 7, 2015 meeting would be used as the report to the State Board. She recommended the State Board of Education hold a special meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 to determine whether to, at that time, invoke any of the actions listed in Arkansas Code Annotated 6-15-430. She said the Department and the Little Rock School District should provide any written materials for consideration by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, to Ms. Deborah Coffman, State Board Liaison.

Chairman Ledbetter encouraged all persons who wanted to speak to be prepared to speak on January 28.

Representative Walker continued to read a prepared statement in opposition to state oversight of the Little Rock schools and/or district.

Little Rock School Board Member Ms. Dianne Curry said she felt compelled to speak. She has served since 2006. She said the crisis today takes her back to the 1957 crisis at Central High School. She said the city has a concentration of poverty. This environment affects how the students achieve. She said the segregation of economics is an issue. She said the LRSD Board has not received requested information from the LRSD Administration. She said she was Board Chair when Dr. Dexter Suggs was hired. She said there is a racial issue. She said there was no movement to take over the district when there was a majority white school board. She said the board now has a chance to see the district succeed.

Ms. Zook said she had a vested interest in the LRSD. She said 25,000 students who deserve a quality education. She said that she heard concerned stakeholders. She requested Board members be prepared to make a bold decision on January 28. She said the Board was not asking one single thing from LRSD School Board that the Board was not asking of other school districts.

Board members requested to have additional information regarding the options available pursuant to Ark. Ann. Code §6-15-430.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the academic distress

report for the Little Rock School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ledbetter said there are schools in LRSD that are high performing and many teachers are doing a remarkable job. He said the special State Board Meeting would be held January 28 at 10:00 a.m.

A-5 Progress Report on the Fiscal Distress Status of Lee County School District

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Eric Saunders and Fiscal Distress Coordinator Ms. Hazel Burnett said on May 8, 2014, the State Board of Education classified the Lee County School District as being in fiscal distress. Dr. Saunders said the report is the original plan submitted to ADE.

Lee County School District Superintendent Ms. Willie Murdock said the district had requested a waiver to take the PARCC exam by paper.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the progress report on the fiscal distress status of Lee County School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 Consideration of Academic Distress Report - Lee County School District

Office of Intensive Support Superintendent Mr. Andrew Tolbert said the Lee County School District was classified by the State Board of Education as being in Academic Distress on April 8, 2013. The State assumed authority for the Lee County School District on April 10, 2014. He said the submitted report is a collaborative report from the Office of Intensive Support, ADE and the external provider.

Office of Intensive Support Learning Services Director Ms. Janice Streeter said Ms. Peggy Woosley, consultant, worked with the district last year to design a K-8 curriculum. She said the district is currently working with the external provider to design the high school curriculum based on LDC and MDC. She said the district is on a six-month plan to align the curriculum with the academic standards. She said the district would request a scholastic audit to evaluate the work. She said the district was also utilizing the plan to address student interventions and educator professional development. She said a collaborative meeting is planned for January to address any issues regarding classroom lab improvements and expansion. She said the Lee County administration, ADE staff and the external provider (Fetterman and Associates) met January 5 and identified next steps and responsibilities.

Mr. Tolbert said the Men of Action, a group of community volunteers, are very active in the district.

Ms. Murdock said the administrative team meets monthly. The administrative cabinet meets daily to work on the items in the plan. Mr. Tolbert said the principals are attending the Arkansas Leadership Academy. He said the leadership meetings are working with a sense of urgency.

Ms. Murdock said teachers are gaining more autonomy in the classroom to sustain the leadership in the district. She said the district is working to recruit more qualified teachers and will host a teacher fair. She said the district continued to have issues with teacher attendance and retention. She said the district continued to have vacant teaching positions. She said the retired teachers group meets monthly at the Lee County School District and the group has been a great resource for temporary substitutes.

Mr. Tolbert said the district is making gradual progress but work is yet to be done. He recognized the success of the students on the Algebra I exam. He said a report from Mr. Ronnie Hughes, consultant, indicated the district made great strides in correcting issues with class scheduling for the second semester.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve the academic distress report for the Lee County School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Probationary Review Report - Lee County School District

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnnie Walters said the report was submitted for compliance with direction of the State Board of Education to review the Lee County School District to ensure compliance with the Standards for Accreditation for the 2014-15 school year. The Lee County School District received a status of Accredited – Probationary for two consecutive years: 2012-13 Lee County High School - Not Teaching the Required 38 Units and Teacher Licensure Violation and 2013-14 Lee County High School – Teacher Licensure Violations. Mr. Walters said the district had three findings at this time.

Ms. Murdock said she was working with the Personnel Policy Committee to revise needed policy. She said she was working to fill the vacant teaching positions.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the probationary review report for the Lee County School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Probationary Review Report - Horatio School District

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said the report was submitted for compliance with direction of the State Board of Education to review the Horatio School District to ensure compliance with the Standards for Accreditation for the 2014-15 school year. The Horatio School District received a status of Accredited – Probationary for two consecutive years: 2012-13 Horatio High School - ALP Waiver Violation and 2013-14 Horatio District Office – Unapproved Gifted and Talented Program (K-12). Mr. Walters said the district was currently in compliance with the standards.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the probationary review report for the Horatio School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-9 Consideration of Report - Helena-West Helena School District

Office of Intensive Support Superintendent Mr. Andrew Tolbert said the Helena-West Helena School District was classified by the State Board of Education as being in Fiscal Distress on September 30, 2010, and the State assumed authority on June 20, 2011.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the report for the Helena-West Helena School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-10 Consideration of request for waiver from required 38 units for the 2014-15 school year - Kirby School District

Standards and Assurance Director Mr. Johnie Walters said Kirby School District requested a waiver from Standards Rule 9.03.4.1 (Journalism – 1 unit). He said the district had a student enrolled in Journalism until October 02, 2014 but the student transferred out of the district. He said the district was requesting a waiver in compliance with the requirements of A.C.A § 6-15-213.

Kirby High School Principal Mr. Jarrod Bray said he does have a student enrolled for the second semester and a certified teacher for the second semester.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the waiver from required 38 units for the 2014-15 school year for the Kirby School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-11 Hearing on District Conversion Public Charter School Application: Fountain Lake Charter High School, Fountain Lake School District

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said on

November 19-20, 2014, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted hearings for charter applicants wanting to open schools in 2015-2016. Representatives of the Fountain Lake School District appeared before the panel on November 20 and requested that Fountain Lake High School be converted to a district conversion charter school to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 800. By a 4-2 vote, the panel approved the application for the Fountain Lake Charter High School with a requirement that Fountain Lake representatives return in the spring with a report to update the Charter Authorizing Panel on the progress of their plans. On December 11, 2014 the State Board of Education voted to review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel. Dr. Jones said there were issues raised by members of the Charter Authorizing Panel. She identified teacher licensure waivers, career pathways, class size waiver, and embedded courses as the topics that needed additional clarification.

Fountain Lake School Superintendent Mr. Darin Beckwith said the district has a district conversion public charter middle school. He said the purpose for this application was to provide more opportunities for students. He said more students will complete high school if they are receiving college credit and/or work certification.

Fountain Lake School Cobra Digital Prep Academy Principal Mr. Frank Janaskie said the middle school students are focused on college and careers.

Fountain Lake High School Principal Mr. Donald Westerman said a personalized success plan, credentials, work based learning, a program of study, and employability skills are the components of the plan focused on every student graduating prepared for college and/or career.

Director of National Park Community College Technology Center Mr. Jason Hudnell said the college was a partner and in support of this district conversion application.

Hot Springs Metro Partnership Economic Development Manager Ms. Megan Greeson said her job focused on business expansion and retention for Hot Springs. She said the organization was invested in support of these students. She said she would be a liaison between Fountain Lake School District and area businesses.

Mr. Westerman said opportunities would exist during and outside of the normal school day. He said work-based internships would be available to students. He said the district was ready to implement three programs of study in Fall 2015.

Fountain Lake School District Curriculum Instruction Director Mr. Brad Sullivan said the high school would embed the oral communication course. He said the health course would be embedded in biology. He said the waivers for school day and class size were requested to meet the individual needs as noted in the

students' personalized success plan. He said the district would need a licensure waiver to employ the most appropriate and well-trained educators. He said documentation would be provided as evidence of meeting the needs of gifted and talented students.

Representative-elect Mickey Gates said he appreciated a school that was willing to find a method to prepare students for careers.

Staff Attorney Ms. Kendra Clay clarified the waivers requested by the charter conversion application.

Dr. Jones said the Department was satisfied with the clarification of the previously identified issues with the application.

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said she was satisfied with the plan for checking the child maltreatment registry for non-licensed employees. She said the district was obligated to ensure the safety of students.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to affirm the Charter Authorizing Panel's approval of the District Conversion Public Charter School Application for the Fountain Lake Charter High School, Fountain Lake School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-12 Fine Arts Curriculum Frameworks

Curriculum and Instruction Director Ms. Stacy Smith and Fine Arts Content Specialist Ms. Lana Hallmark said forty-eight arts educators representing the disciplines of theatre, dance, music, and visual art convened in June and July of 2014 to write or revise curriculum frameworks for their respective disciplines. Ms. Smith said the new framework offered ample opportunity for students to participate in a full range of arts activities. Ms. Hallmark said the 2014 Fine Arts Curriculum Framework was designed to provide Arkansas arts educators with the tools they needed to support student achievement, reinforce a variety of skills, and enrich the lives of young people.

Ms. Mahony moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Fine Arts Curriculum Frameworks. The motion carried unanimously.

A-13 Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks

Curriculum and Instruction Director Ms. Stacy Smith and Social Studies Content Specialist Ms. Margaret Herrick said Arkansas Law and ADE rules required the periodic revision of all curriculum frameworks. Ms. Smith said the group of 55

instructors ranging from K-16 levels revised the current Social Studies Frameworks using various international, national, and other states' standards. She said the Curriculum and Instruction Unit recommended the adoption of the following documents: Revised Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks K-4; 5-6 Social Studies Curriculum Framework; Grade 7 Social Studies Curriculum Framework; Grade 8 Social Studies Curriculum Framework; Grades 7-8 Arkansas History Curriculum Framework, required by Act 787 of 1997; and Revised Grades 9-12 Courses (required for graduation) World History, United States History, and Civics.

Ms. Herrick said the frameworks included embedded Arkansas History for Grades K-6, one course designed for Grades 7-8 and the other course designed for Grades 9-12.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks. The motion carried unanimously.

A-14 State Board Review of PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations – PLSB Case No. 14-060; LeAnna Kelpine (Cook)

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee considered Violation of Standard 7: An educator refrains from using, possessing and/or being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, or unauthorized drugs or substances while on school premises or at school-sponsored activities involving students. She said following an evidentiary hearing on September 5, 2014, the Professional Licensure Standards Board Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board suspend Ms. Kelpine's license for five (5) years with continued counseling with a licensed counselor, random drug testing, and a letter from a licensed counselor that Ms. Kelpine is fit to return to the classroom. Ms. Kelpine made a timely request for a State Board review. Ms. Liwo said Ms. Kelpine's attorney withdrew the appeal. Ms. Liwo requested the Board approve the PLSB recommendation.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the PLSB Evidentiary Hearing Findings and Recommendations for PLSB Case No. 14-060; LeAnna Kelpine (Cook). The motion carried unanimously.

A-15 Hearing on Waiver Request for Teaching License – Gregory Allen Wagster

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said Mr. Wagster had asked to postpone the hearing. The Board agreed to postpone the hearing.

A-16 Consideration of the Revocation of Teaching License – Cody Lee Martin

Ms. Reinhart asked to postpone the hearing based on a communication she had received from Mr. Martin's attorney. The Board agreed to postpone the hearing.

A-17 Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Creation of School Districts by Detachment

Department General Counsel Mr. Jeremy Lasiter said Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1505(e)(3) required the State Board of Education to enact rules and regulations regarding the creation of school districts by detachment. He said on November 13, 2014, the State Board approved the proposed rules for public comment. On December 9, 2014, Arkansas Department of Education staff held a public hearing regarding the proposed rules. The public comment period expired on December 17, 2014. He said the Arkansas Department of Education received no public comments on the proposed rules. Mr. Lasiter requested that the State Board give final approval to these rules pending legislative subcommittee review.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Mahony, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Creation of School Districts by Detachment. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Tony Wood, Commissioner of Education