

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2015

The State Board of Education met Thursday, November 12, 2015, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Present: Toyce Newton, Chair; Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; Vicki Saviers; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Dr. Jay Barth; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: none

Reports

Report-1 Recognition of the 2016 Superintendent of the Year - Dale Query

Commissioner Key recognized the leadership of Mr. Dale Query, Superintendent of the Flippin School District. He said the district has been a leader in the dyslexia work. Mr. Key also introduced Mrs. Kay Query, Mr. Query's wife.

Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) Executive Director Dr. Richard Abernathy said the AAEA's Superintendent of the Year program pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead Arkansas's public schools. He said candidates are judged on the following criteria: leadership for learning, communication, professionalism, and community involvement. Mr. Query is in the running for National Superintendent of the Year and will be recognized and honored at the American Association of School Administrators National Conference on Education in February 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Query said it was an honor to represent his profession and the state. He said he was humbled to be recognized by his peers. He said the administrators appreciated the support from the Commissioner and the State Board of Education.

Report-2 ForwARd Report

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Vice President Mr. Cory S. Anderson said ForwARd Arkansas is a strategic partnership of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Walton Family Foundation and Arkansas Board of Education that

aims to prepare all Arkansas students for success in college and the workplace. To accomplish its vision, ForwARd has created a holistic guide for P-16 education in Arkansas, with specific recommendations for academically distressed schools and school districts.

Mr. Anderson said ForwARd Arkansas is making progress. He said the vision is for every student to graduate ready for college and career. He said the vision would not be realized unless communities believe in and work toward the vision. He said they are working on the details to announce opportunities for ForwARd Communities. He outlined short-term and long-term objectives for this approach. He said the ForwARd group wanted communities to get excited about the changes and become engaged.

Mr. Anderson said successful applicants would engage their community to develop a three-year strategic plan to execute a locally selected subset of ForwARd's recommendations. The recommendations are available at <http://www.forwardarkansas.org>.

Mr. Anderson said the ForwARd team has selected 4 of the 93 recommendations to focus on during the next nine months. The four quick wins are:

- O4. Encourage all eligible schools to sign-up for Community Eligibility Program, which provides free breakfast and lunch in school.
- C6. Introduce more flexibility at state and district levels for what can count toward professional development hours.
- T12. Recognize, celebrate, and systematically learn from excellent teaching and excellent teachers (e.g., Arkansas-wide teaching and learning summit, public marketing campaign showcasing excellent teachers and their impact).
- SP11: Identify and streamline regulations controlled entirely by ADE.

Mr. Anderson said ForwARd Arkansas has three goals for strategic outreach and communication that will build statewide *awareness*, *aspiration* and *action* in support of the ForwARd Arkansas vision.

- Goal 1: Build awareness of the ForwARd vision by engaging, educating and exciting Arkansas residents.
- Goal 2: Increase aspiration for the state's public education system by building a statewide network of local ambassadors to carry the ForwARd message.
- Goal 3: Strengthen the internal capacity of ForwARd to manage contacts and campaign activities through community organizing tools that will drive future strategies.

Dr. Barth, State Board representative on the ForwARd internal working group, said as progress is made, there would be an opportunity to have a Board work

session regarding the changes that can be made by the ADE and the State Board.

Board members expressed support for communities establishing grass root efforts at the local level.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the consent agenda less C-5: Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309 and C-12: Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-127 – Emory Lee Atkins. Ms. Zook voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the consent item C-5: Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board recommended a future work session with the PLSB Ethics Committee.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to assign probation of the teaching license, \$75 fine, and appropriate professional development for Emory Lee Atkins.

Dr. Barth made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to table consent item C-12: Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-127 – Emory Lee Atkins. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - October 8, 2015
- Minutes - October 9, 2015
- Progress Report on the Status of Districts Classified in Fiscal Distress
- 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 #15-159 – Toya Marie Graves
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-154 – Lindsey Marie Box
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-144 – Debra Kim Helm

- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-140 – Terri Deniese Hatfield
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-135 – James Wesley Mode
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-132 – James Gregory Presley
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-121 – Nancy Ann Stillman
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-125 – Sherry Sue Barefield
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-118 – Dale Christopher Horine
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-069 – Denan Elaine Cagle
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-026 – Mary Ellen Sneed
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-119 – Joy A. Holt

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance One Time Cost of Living Increase

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said \$1.5 million was appropriated to provide a one-time cost of living increase. This increase will be equally distributed across all ABC programs according to the number of children each program serves. The Board is requested to approve the payments for a total of \$1,491,906.00.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Arkansas Better Chance one-time cost of living increase for a total of \$1,491,906.00. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance Funding Request for the Mulberry School District

Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney, representing the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, said the Mulberry School District was approved in August 2015 to provide services for 15 children. The Mulberry School District was also serving five additional children via another funding source provided by the Division of Human Services Preschool Development Funds through a private entity. The private entity moved the funding and the Mulberry School District was not clear at the time regarding this change. She said these five children have

been receiving services with the Mulberry School District since their approval for the 15 children in August. Ms. McKinney recommended the Board increase the Mulberry School District total number of ABC children to 20 and allow for retroactive payment for these five children back to the beginning of the school year. She said the previous approved payment of \$72,900.00 (for 15 students) plus \$24,300.00 (for 5 additional students) would give a total payment of \$97,200.00 for the Mulberry School District.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Arkansas Better Chance Funding Request of a total payment of \$97,200.00 for the Mulberry School District. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of the Little Rock School District Report of Progress

Little Rock School District Civic Advisory Committee Co-Chair Mr. Greg Adams said the subcommittees have met, and he provided a brief report of progress from each subcommittee. He said the committee was responsible for providing feedback to the superintendent.

Ms. Zook recommended the Community Advisory Committee invite the ForwARd Arkansas team to speak to the group.

Commissioner Key said one of the charges to the committee was to identify the reasons that schools were in academic distress.

Mr. Adams said the committee and subcommittees have spent more time looking forward and maximizing the current efforts.

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said the teacher contract had been finalized. He said the first nine weeks interim data have been analyzed using a systematic method.

Little Rock School District Chief Academic Officer Dr. Veronica Perkins said her department was responsible for aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment systems. She said the team was reflecting on the assessment results to create an intentional teaching model.

Little Rock School District Associate Superintendent Dr. Sadie Mitchell shared data and explained the improvements being made in the district. She said the schools are working beside the ADE to focus the work on the items that would make changes that can be measured.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Little Rock School District Report of Progress. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consider Removal of Hector School District from Fiscal Distress Classification effective November 12, 2015

Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal and Administrative Services Mr. Greg Rogers said the Hector School District was classified in Fiscal Distress on May 8, 2014. He said the Department has conducted on-site technical evaluations and assistance, off-site assistance, and analysis of the financial status of the Hector School District. He said the Hector School District has currently corrected all criteria for being removed from Fiscal Distress and recommended that the Hector School District be removed from Fiscal Distress effective November 12, 2015.

Hector School District Superintendent Mr. Walt Davis expressed his appreciation for the support of ADE, Mr. Norman Hill, and the district staff.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the removal of Hector School District from Fiscal Distress classification effective November 12, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of Pine Bluff School District Academic Distress Progress Report

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said given concerns identified by the State Board Subcommittee for Academic Distress, Pine Bluff School District was asked to provide quarterly reports to the State Board of Education.

Pine Bluff School Board President Mr. Henry Dabner said the school board received training from the Arkansas School Boards Association. He said the board decided to have two meetings monthly, with one as a work session. He said the district would advertise for a superintendent in January. He said the district had discontinued the contract with *From the Heart*. He said the superintendent has completed requirements for licensure.

Pine Bluff School District Superintendent Dr. T.C. Wallace said the district conducted a successful community forum and the communication was very helpful in determining the next steps. He said a second forum would be held in January. Dr. Wallace said he now has a five-year license in Arkansas. He said the district has applied and been accepted in the Community Eligibility Program. The band has been invited to participate in a London celebration. He said progress was being made. He said the challenges have been prioritized. He said the systems need to be restructured – finance, human resources, and exceptional education.

Chief School Reform Officer Ms. Alesia Smith said the fall site visit from the

University of Virginia included positive comments on the restructuring of the master schedule, involvement of community regarding the reconfiguration of schools, being fully staffed for the school year, principals having autonomy for site based management, the culture shifting to data-driven conversations about students, a school improvement specialist will begin December 1, and weekly professional learning communities better aligned for response to intervention. She said the next steps include becoming more systematic in the approach for each child.

School Improvement Director Dr. Richard Wilde said the local school board actions are not distracting the administrative actions in the district. He said the district was not distracting the building efforts to improve. He was also encouraged about the change in the culture of the schools. He said there is still much work to be done. He said the directors needed to continue to examine the impact of decisions. He said the UVA work is funded through the school year.

Dr. Wallace said the district has resolved several of the issues by working together as a leader cabinet.

Dr. Wilde recommended the State Board continue to monitor the district's progress on a quarterly basis during this school year. He recommended the Special Committee on Academic Distress hear the report.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the Pine Bluff School District Academic Distress Progress Report and to require the Pine Bluff School District to provide a quarterly progress report to the Special Committee on Academic Distress. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 Consideration to approve an agreement for a Teacher Residency nontraditional pathway to licensure

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said the University of Arkansas at Monticello approached the ADE with a proposal to implement a UAM Teacher Residency Program, a post-baccalaureate, non-traditional teacher licensure route for public school paraprofessionals. This non-traditional route to teacher licensure will provide an additional pathway for K-6, Middle Childhood, and 7-12 teacher licensure in high poverty schools and high minority schools, increase the Arkansas teacher pipeline through a "grow your own" program, provide an additional pathway to attract a diverse population of teachers, and address the need for highly qualified teachers in critical shortage areas. She said the approval for the degree program is pending; however, the ADE asked the Board for approval to pursue the concept and to develop an agreement with UAM once approval is received and the rules for Educator Preparation Programs receive full approval for pending revisions. She said the agreement would allow the ADE to provide a one-year

provisional license for the degreed candidate to complete a residency program while serving as a teacher of record in a public school, receiving support from university and school district personnel. She said if approved, the University hopes to begin the program in the Fall of 2016, and it is anticipated that the first candidates could begin a residency within two years.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve an agreement for a Teacher Residency nontraditional pathway to licensure. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of 3-8 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Cut Scores

Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen requested approval from the State Board of Education of the 3-8 PARCC cut scores for Arkansas as presented.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the 3-8 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) cut scores. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Requisite Scale Score of Student Performance

Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen said pursuant to A.C.A. §§ 6-15-433 and 6-15-2009, the Arkansas Department of Education requested approval of the requisite scale score of student performance on the PARCC exams.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the requisite scale score of student performance at 749 on the PARCC assessment for which a student would be assigned an Academic Improvement Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

A-9 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Melanie J. Williams

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Ms. Melanie J. Williams is a licensed educator. She said on August 17, 2015, the Department was informed that Ms. Williams' name appeared on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. She said on August 19, 2015, the Department notified Ms. Williams that she is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Ms. Liwo said Ms. Williams requested a waiver from the State Board but did not attend the Board meeting.

The Board agreed to move forward with the hearing. Ms. Liwo recommended a

three-year suspension of teaching license.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve a three-year suspension of license for Melanie J. Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

A-10 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Danna M. Strozyk

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Ms. Danna M. Strozyk was seeking the renewal of her teaching license. She said on August 26, 2015, the Department notified Ms. Strozyk that she was ineligible for licensure and employment in an Arkansas public school based on a disqualifying offense enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. She said Ms. Strozyk initially requested a waiver of the disqualifying offense, but later declined the waiver hearing. Ms. Liwo further stated that the ADE Rules Governing Background Checks and Licensure Revocation required that the matter be treated as if Ms. Strozyk declined the notice.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the Waiver Request for Teaching License for Danna M. Strozyk. The motion carried unanimously.

A-11 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License - Sharon Davis-Williams

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Ms. Sharon Davis-Williams is a licensed educator. She said on July 14, 2015, the Department notified Ms. Davis-Williams that she was ineligible for licensure and employment in an Arkansas public school based on a disqualifying offense enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. She said Ms. Davis-Williams requested a waiver of the disqualifying offense. Ms. Davis-Williams was represented by Attorney Ms. Valerie Bailey.

The Department recommended suspension of Ms. Davis-Williams' license pending appeal of her conviction.

Ms. Bailey said the Board lacked the authority to take action against Ms. Davis-Williams.

Ms. Liwo said the disqualifying offense is within the authority of the Board pursuant to A.C. A. § 6-17-410.

Ms. Bailey said Ms. Davis-Williams was acquitted of the counts listed in Section C of A.C. A. § 6-17-410. She said at this time, Ms. Davis-Williams has not been fully adjudicated.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to suspend the teaching license pending the outcome of the appeal of conviction for Sharon Davis-Williams. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried .

A-12 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License - Kerri Williams

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said Ms. Kerri Eugenia (Hendrix) Williams is a licensed educator. She said on August 28, 2015, the Department notified Ms. Williams that she was ineligible for licensure for failing to establish or maintain the necessary requirements and standards set forth in Arkansas law or State Board rules and regulations for teacher licensure under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. She said Ms. Williams requested a waiver of the disqualification for licensure.

Ms. Reinhart recommended probation of license until Georgia has reinstated the license.

Ms. Williams said she left Georgia in 2012. She said the incident occurred in 2008. She was licensed in 2014 by reciprocity.

Watson-Chapel School District Superintendent Dr. Connie Hathorn said he needed Ms. Williams' expertise in his district.

Watson-Chapel School District Assistant Superintendent Ms. Julie Sheppard said Ms. Williams was an asset to the district.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers , to approve the waiver request for teaching license for Kerri Williams with probation until the Georgia license is reinstated. The motion carried unanimously.

A-13 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Bruce A. Maddox

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Mr. Bruce A. Maddox is a licensed educator seeking the renewal of his teaching license. She said on August 26, 2015, the Department notified Mr. Maddox that he was ineligible for licensure and employment in an Arkansas public school based on a disqualifying offense enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. She said Mr. Maddox requested a waiver of the disqualifying offense.

Ms. Liwo recommended approval of the waiver.

Attorney Mr. Greg Alagood said the North Little Rock School District wanted Mr. Maddox back in the classroom tomorrow.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the waiver request for teaching license for Bruce A. Maddox. The motion carried unanimously.

A-14 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Future School of Fort Smith, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said on October 14, 2015, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted open-enrollment charter applicant hearings. She said representatives of Future School of Fort Smith appeared before the Panel and requested that Future School, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter school in Fort Smith to serve students in grades 10-12 with a maximum enrollment of 450. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application for the Future School of Fort Smith, Fort Smith, Arkansas. The motion carried unanimously.

A-15 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Application: Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said on October 14, 2015, the Charter Authorizing Panel conducted open-enrollment charter applicant hearings. She said representatives of Redfield Tri-County Charter School appeared before the Panel and requested that Redfield Tri-County Charter School, the sponsoring entity, be allowed to open a charter school in Redfield to serve students in grades 5-12 with a maximum enrollment of 400. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel denied the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School application for the Redfield Tri-County Charter School, Redfield, Arkansas. The motion carried unanimously.

A-16 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request: Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said the State Board of Education approved the application for Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy on November 1, 2012. She said the charter is approved to serve students in grades K-12 with a maximum enrollment of 685. She said on October 15, 2015, representatives of Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the current charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel denied the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School amendment request for the Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

A-17 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request: Quest Middle School of West Little Rock

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said the State Board of Education approved the application for Quest Middle School of West Little Rock on January 10, 2014. She said the charter is approved to serve students in grades 6-12 with a maximum enrollment of 490. She said on October 15, 2015, representatives of Quest Middle School of West Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the current charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on Open-Enrollment Public Charter School amendment request for the Quest Middle School of West Little Rock. The motion carried unanimously.

A-18 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Amendment Request: Bauxite Miner Academy

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said the State Board of Education approved the application for the Bauxite School District to operate Bauxite Miner Academy on March 11, 2013. She said the charter is approved to serve students in grades 6-12 with a maximum enrollment of 200. She said on October 15, 2015, representatives of the Bauxite School District appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the current charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the

Panel was submitted.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School amendment request for the Bauxite Miner Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

A-19 Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School Amendment Request: Rogers New Technology High School

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said the State Board of Education approved the application for the Rogers School District to operate Rogers New Technology High School on January 14, 2013. She said the charter is approved to serve students in grades 9-12 with a maximum enrollment of 600. She said on October 15, 2015, representatives of the Rogers School District appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel to request an amendment to the current charter. She said by a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. She said no request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Action on District Conversion Public Charter School amendment request for the Rogers New Technology High School. The motion carried unanimously.

A-20 Consideration of Final Rule – Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Background Checks

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said on August 13, 2015, the State Board authorized the Department to publish for public comment the proposed Rules Governing Background Checks that contained changes to the rules based on recent legislation and for other updates. She said public comment was received on the proposed rules, but no changes were made.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Background Checks. The motion carried unanimously.

A-21 Consideration of Final Rule – Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Teacher Excellence and Support Program

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said on August 13, 2015, the State Board authorized the Department to publish

for public comment the proposed Rules Governing the Teacher Excellence and Support System that contained changes to the rules based on recent legislation and for other updates. She said public comment was received on the proposed rules, but no changes were made.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Teacher Excellence and Support Program. The motion carried unanimously.

A-22 Consideration of Final Rule – Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said on August 13, 2015, the State Board authorized the Department to publish for public comment the proposed Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System that contained changes to the rules based on recent legislation and for other updates. She said public comment was received on the proposed rules, but no changes were made.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Leader Excellence and Development System. The motion carried unanimously.

A-23 Consideration of Resolution for Arkansas Computer Science Week

Computer Science Director Mr. Anthony Owen said Arkansas Computer Science week would be observed December 7-13, 2015. He asked the Board to adopt an Arkansas Computer Science Week resolution.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adopt the resolution for Arkansas Computer Science Week. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Chair Newton said Dr. Jay Barth, a member of the Arkansas State Board of Education, was elected president-elect of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) at the organization's annual conference in Baltimore. His term starts in January, and he will serve as president in 2017.

Ms. Newton said Ms. Reith, vice chair of the Arkansas State Board of Education, was appointed southern area director of the National Association of State Boards

of Education.

Dr. Barth said Ms. Reith chaired a NASBE study group "The Second C: Ensuring All Students Graduate College and Career Ready," and she did a great job of facilitating the team. More information is available at <http://www.nasbe.org/study-group/the-second-c-ensuring-all-students-graduate-college-and-career-ready-2015/>.

Ms. Zook gave a brief summary of recent education announcements and educator recognition. She said she visited Martin Luther King Elementary to see the Breakfast in the Classroom program. She attended the task force meeting for Special Education and commended Ms. Lisa Haley for her report.

Ms. Reith said she would be accompanying a group from Northwest Arkansas on a World Class Tour for Career Education with the first stop in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She said a group of Northwest Arkansas superintendents recently published a white paper and convened a meeting to discuss agencies collaborating to resolve barriers in order to move education forward with college and careers.

Report-2 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said he has been participating in regional Career Technical Education meetings.

He shared the Warren School District video from the Innovation Collection available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/schools-of-innovation>.

Commissioner Key recognized the great work by the Communications Team.

Report-3 Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) Report

Ms. Ouida Newton, the 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, presented a component of her professional development project. Ms. Newton is writing a monthly educator's blog. Her post on dyslexia is available on the ADE website at <http://arkansased.edublogs.org/2015/10/27/dyslexia/>.

Ms. Newton is participating in the Arkansas Leadership Academy and is required to develop an action plan. She said her ATOY platform is teacher recruitment and retention. She has been working with Mr. Jeff Dyer and has attended multiple teacher fairs. In her efforts to recognize educators, she is continuing the Profile of Teacher Leadership video series, started by 2014 Teacher of the Year

Mr. Jonathan Crossley. Ms. Newton recently visited a Teacher Cadets Program in the Marion School District. Marion School District Teacher Cadets/Instructional Facilitator Ms. Shannon Ginn is featured in the profile series. The video is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

Report-4 EdTPA Pilot Summary Report

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said this report was an update on the state's pilot of EdTPA, a performance based teaching assessment. The pilot began in March 2014 and will conclude in the spring of 2016. She said cut scores are now available. She said all Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL) candidates are using EdTPA.

Report-5 Update on Equitable Access Strategies

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said this report was provided to update the State Board on the implementation of strategies identified in Arkansas' Equitable Access Plan. She highlighted three strategies from the plan.

Report-6 Computer Science Report

Computer Science Director Mr. Anthony Owen said a monthly report was provided to update the State Board on the progress of Governor Asa Hutchinson's Computer Science Initiative. He said 1,104 students were enrolled in computer science courses in 2014-2015. He said 3,973 students enrolled in 2015-2016.

Report-7 Priority School First Quarter Progress Reports

School Improvement Director Dr. Richard Wilde said the ESEA Flexibility Waiver established that the State Board would receive quarterly progress reports related to schools in Priority Status. He said the intent was to put all priority school reports into a similar format. He said this reporting structure assists the schools in moving toward a system of data analysis. He said this report is the baseline by which progress will be measured.

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said the ADE and district staffs are looking carefully at how these schools are progressing.

Public Comment: Ms. Dorothy Singleton said she would be back next month to speak regarding the Dollarway School District.

Public Comment: Ms. Annie Bryant said there should be a sense of urgency for the schools in academic distress. She said in her district there is a reluctance to seek clarification for accuracy.

Report-8 2015 NAEP Scores Update

State National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Coordinator Dr. Pamela A. Byrd updated the Board on the release of the 2015 NAEP scores. The report included data from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense school system. More information about the NAEP report is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/naeptools.aspx>.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the state has been making progress on NAEP over time, however; the 2015 NAEP did report a drop in scores overall. She said NAEP was conducting a study to examine this drop in scores.

Report-9 Assessment Update

Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen said the ACT and ACT Aspire contracts are finalized and approved. She said interim assessments would be available December 1, 2015.

Report-10 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the public comments regarding the Standards Review were included in the State Board packet. She said the standards review committees are back at work this month.

Dr. Jones shared an innovation video to represent how district's can consider innovative ways to meet the needs of their students. The West Memphis Academies video is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/schools-of-innovation>.

Adjournment

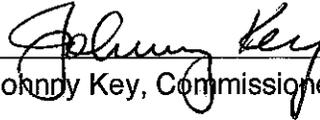
Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education