

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, September 10, 2015, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

Absent: none

Consent Agenda

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - August 6, 2015
- Minutes - August 13, 2015
- Minutes - August 14, 2015
- 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 #15-124 – Demetris Donnell Ford
- Consideration of Voluntary Surrender of Teaching License – Professional Licensure Standards Board Case #15-020 – Mary Faith McCormick
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-102 – Russell Anthony Dupwe
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #15-122 - Darrick Wayne Lowery
- Consideration of Voluntary Surrender of Teaching License – Professional Licensure Standards Board Case #15-156 – Dale Warren Mann
- Education Renewal Zones Program

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration of the ForwARd Vision and Recommendations

Ms. Kathy Smith, Senior Program Officer for the Walton Family Foundation; Dr.

Sherece West-Scantlebury, president and CEO of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation; and Mr. Jared Henderson, managing director of ForwARd Arkansas, requested the Board endorse the vision and recommendations.

Managing Director of ForwARd Arkansas Mr. Jared Henderson reviewed the timeline of events from the partnership creation through the development of a vision and recommendations outlined in the *New Vision for Arkansas Education* available at <http://www.forwardarkansas.org>. Several members of the steering committee were present in support of the work.

Mr. Henderson said the recommendations are grouped into seven focus areas. He said this document was a vision with aspirations and recommendations. He said the plans would be developed in the next stages of the work. He said there would be debate regarding some of the recommendations but the process would engage Arkansans.

Ms. Smith said ForwARd Arkansas would work with the Arkansas Department of Education to consider needs of the agency regarding some of the recommendations.

Chair Newton requested that Dr. Barth serve as the Board representative on the ForwARd committee.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to endorse the vision, process, next steps for ForwARd Arkansas, and the appointment of Dr. Barth to serve as the Board representative on the ForwARd committee. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board and the Commissioner expressed their support of the vision and encouraged all Arkansans to get involved.

A-2 Consideration of the Little Rock School District Report of Progress

Little Rock School District Civic Advisory Committee Co-Chairs Dr. Dionne Jackson and Mr. Greg Adams said the committee met on August 27 and heard a report from the J. A. Fair High School administration regarding the implementation of the 7-period day and the changes in the school culture. She said the committee also heard reports from the district administration. She said the committee has requested that a representative from the Hispanic community be added to the committee. Dr. Jackson said the committee meets once a month for two hours.

Dr. Jackson said the committee has planned a retreat that is scheduled for Saturday, September 19. She said the executive planning committee has requested that the retreat be a closed meeting. She said the Arkansas Public

Policy Panel and the Rockefeller Foundation would sponsor Ms. Jennifer Wilson to serve as the facilitator for the retreat.

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said the schools are following the recommendations for academic distress schools. He said the staff are working hard and collaborating. He said all of the schools are implementing needed improvements. He said he has asked the Civic Advisory Committee to guide him on facilities. He said consideration of charter schools within the boundaries of LRSD is important to the next steps for the district.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the Little Rock School District report. The motion carried unanimously.

Video: Arkansas Education Achieving Excellence

The ADE shared a video available on the ADE website at

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/state-standards-review-for-mathematics-and-english-language-arts>.

Commissioner Key said the video was developed in partnership with CJRW through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to appeal to educators, parents and the community regarding the State Standards.

Chair Newton said she reflected on her own journey. She said she remembered a caring group of teachers and cafeteria ladies who saw a spark in her, supported her and expected great things for her. She said there are children needing that type of support now. She said there are future chairpersons in our classrooms.

Video: Governor's Asa Hutchinson's Computer Science and Coding Initiative

The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnbOhgHU-E>.

Commissioner Key said the video was an example of the expectations for the Computer Science and Coding Initiative.

A-3 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Batesville School District

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allowed a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school that draws students from the school district. She said the district previously submitted a request for waivers at the August 13, 2015, State Board meeting. She said the district had withdrawn a request for a waiver from 15.02.

Batesville School District Deputy Superintendent Mr. Harvey Howard said on

August 13, 2015, the State Board approved the waiver for a planned instructional day for the Batesville School District.

Batesville School District Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Ms. Lisa Huff said the district was requesting two waivers:

1. Class size and teaching load (no more than 165 students total per teacher in Grades 7-12) for five years
2. Licensure for non-core for five years

Ms. Huff said the high school is on a block schedule. She said the intention of the waiver was to provide a 40-minute block of time for interventions, enrichments, mentors, and reading.

Batesville School District Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ms. Jennifer Douglas said the licensure waiver would permit the district to employ experts who may not have an Arkansas teaching license.

Mr. Howard said the district considered these waivers to meet the needs of students. He said the district did consider other alternative pathways. He said the district was only requesting the licensure waiver for educators in the Gateway program.

State Board Actions

1. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the waiver for class size and teaching load for five years. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the waiver for licensure for the non-core classes in the Gateway program for five years. The motion carried unanimously.

Two open-enrollment charter waivers were granted to the Batesville School District.

A-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Gentry School District

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school that draws students from the school district.

Gentry Public School District Superintendent Dr. Randy Barrett said the waivers were a companion to the district conversion charter application that the Board would hear at a later date. He said the district was requesting the following waivers for five years or until their conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first:

1. 6-15-902(a) Grading scale -- Exemptions -- Special education classes.

2. 6-15-1004 Qualified teachers in every public school classroom.
3. 6-16-102 School day.
4. 6-17-908 Teacher's salary fund- Authorized disbursements
5. 6-17-309 Licensure -- Waiver
6. 6-17-401 Teacher's license requirement
7. 6-17-902 Definitions. ("Teacher")
8. 6-17-919 Warrants void without valid license and contract
9. 6-17-1501 et seq. Teacher Fair Dismissal Act
10. 6-18-210. Definitions. (Planned Instructional Time)
11. 6-18-211 Mandatory attendance for students in grades nine through twelve.

Dr. Barrett said the district was working toward a regional technical school experience closer to the district.

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs recommended the Board take the waivers individually.

State Board Actions

1. Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the waiver for 6-15-902(a) Grading scale. Ms. Zook and Mr. Williamson voted no. The final vote was 6-2. The motion carried.
 - a. Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to reconsider the motion above. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the waiver for 6-15-902(a) Grading scale for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the waiver for 6-15-1004 qualified teachers in every public school classroom for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.
3. Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the waiver for 6-16-102 School day for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.
4. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the waiver for 6-17-908 Teacher's salary fund - Authorized disbursements for the diesel mechanics course (paid from fund 1000) for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the waiver for 6-17-309 Licensure for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the waiver for 6-17-401 Teacher's license requirement for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
7. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the waiver for 6-17-902 Definitions. ("Teacher") for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
8. Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the waiver for 6-17-919 warrants void without valid license and contract for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
9. The waiver request for 6-17-1501 et seq. Teacher Fair Dismissal Act was withdrawn from consideration.
10. Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the waiver for 6-18-210 definitions (Planned Instructional Time) for the diesel mechanics course for five years or until the conversion charter is approved, whichever comes first. The motion carried unanimously.
11. The waiver request for 6-18-211 Mandatory attendance for students in grades nine through twelve was determined to be an invalid request.
12. Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to deny the waivers for 10.2; 10.02.5; and the Rules for Mandatory Attendance. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charter: Lee County School District

Division of Learning Services Coordinator Ms. Mary Perry said Action Item #5 was pulled from the agenda.

A-6 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License – Lynn D. Lang

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Jennifer Liwo said Mr. Lynn D. Lang has asked for a continuance until the October State Board meeting.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the continuance until October for Lynn D. Lang. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License – Amanda Leigh Reilly

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart

said Amanda Leigh Reilly holds a standard teaching license (expired August 16, 2015). She said on April 27, 2015, Ms. Reilly pled no contest to two criminal offenses that disqualified her under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 for licensure and employment in a public school. Ms. Reinhart said on July 14, 2015, the Department notified Ms. Reilly's attorney of the disqualification and her right to seek a waiver. Neither Ms. Reilly nor her attorney requested a waiver. The Department recommended permanent revocation of her license.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the revocation of teaching license for Amanda Leigh Reilly. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration for Final Approval – Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Educator Licensure

Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB) Attorney Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said on July 9, 2014, the Board approved for public comment proposed Rules Governing Educator Licensure. She said the Department received and considered public comments and made some changes to the rules.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said there have been many changes to licensure. She said representatives from higher education were partners in this work. She said the ADE was currently operating under emergency rules that would expire mid-November.

Director of Special Education Ms. Lisa Haley clarified questions from the Board regarding Special Education.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to approve the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Educator Licensure. The motion carried unanimously.

Announcement

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said the Arkansas Equitable Assess to Excellent Educators Plan was approved by the USDOE.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to add Action Item 9 to the action agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A-9 Department of Education Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of Those Funds

Staff Attorney Mr. Cory Biggs said the Department submitted these emergency rules that were approved, in part, at the August 13, 2015, State Board meeting. He said an emergency clause had been added, and these rules needed approval so that fiscal year 2015-2016 national school lunch state categorical funds could be disbursed by October 31, 2015, to those school districts that implemented the Community Eligibility Provision during fiscal year 2014-2015.

Ms. Saviers moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve the emergency rule Department of Education Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditures of Those Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Report-7 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said 93 percent of Arkansas seniors participated in the ACT assessment. She said students participating in the Core or more accounted for about a three-point increase in each ACT Benchmark.

Dr. Jones said the Standards Review process and timeline is posted to the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/state-standards-review-for-mathematics-and-english-language-arts>.

Dr. Jones said Arkansas IDEAS launched a new Learning Management System.

Report-8 Education Renewal Zones Report

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said there were currently six (6) Education Renewal Zones (ERZ) in Arkansas. She said the ERZs submitted a strategic plan that was reviewed by ADE.

Report-9 Update on Content Standards and Assessment

Director of Assessment Ms. Hope Allen said the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) met in August to work on standard setting.

Ms. Allen said the ACT Aspire contract was in the final legal review stage. She said she hoped to have a final contract ready for legislative review in October.

Assistant Commissioner for School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said her division was working on calculation methods for determining academic distress.

Ms. Allen and Ms. Barnes said they would be meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to discuss calculation methods.

Report-10 Computer Science Report

Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen said a total of \$1,641,853.74 in computer science initiative grants were granted to Arkansas schools. Mr. Owen said he planned to visit each school. He shared examples of how Hot Springs School District was supporting students.

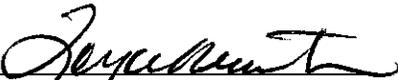
Mr. Owen said the process has started to develop K-8 Computer Science Standards. He said professional development was available through Lynda.com on ArkansasIDEAS.

Adjournment

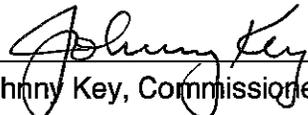
Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education