Minutes
State Board Meeting
October 7, 2026

Present: Randy Henderson, Chair; Ken Bragg; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; David Peacock; Jeff Wood; Dr. Gary Stark; Stephanie Williams, 2026 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary.

Remote Attendance via Livestream: Dr. Aaron Abbott

Absent: Dr. Gary Arnold, Vice Chair

Call to Order

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Wednesday, October 7, 2026**.** Randy Henderson, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Agenda

II.1. Hearing to Consider the Validity of the Pulaski County Special School District Board of Education's Resolution regarding the Detachment of Certain Territory and the Establishment of the Sherwood School District

Item II.1. was presented by Daniel Shults, Chief Counsel. Present from Mitchell-Willaims Law Firm: Devin Bates, Attorney and Michele Allgood, Attorney. Also present were Scott Richardson, Attorney, McDaniel Wolff PLLC for the Sherwood Education Foundation; Jerrod Williams, Consultant – Financial Feasibility Study; and Jeff Senn, Superintendent, Pulaski County Special School District.

The resolution was filed pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-13-1504, which allows the Pulaski County Special School District Board to initiate a process that would create a ballot issue allowing voters to decide whether to establish a new Sherwood School District.

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Public Comments

The State Board heard public comments from:

- Mabel Bynum
- Christina Gully
- Julius Wright
- Charline Wright
- Jacob Lawerence
- Jeff Senn

A motion to find that the resolution is valid, based on requirements set under Arkansas Code § 6-13-1504, was made by Jeff Wood, seconded by Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to find that the resolution and proposal does not hamper, delay or in any manner negligently affect the segregation of the Pulaski County Special School District as required by Arkansas Code § 6-13-1504 (b) was made by Jeff Wood, seconded by Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion for an election on the order for the proposal of detachment to be held on March 2, 2027, at the Annual School Election was made by Jeff Wood, seconded by Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

Adjournment

Randy Henderson, Chair adjourned the State Board meeting at 10:47 AM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Randy Henderson, Chair
State Board of Education

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