Minutes
State Board Meeting
October 8, 2026

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

Present by Zoom: Jeff Wood; Lisa Hunter

Absent: Dr. Aaron Abbott

Call to Order

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, October 8, 2026 in Springdale, AR at Bernice Young Elementary School Library**.** Randy Henderson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM, followed by a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem. The National Anthem was sung by Springdale High School students Allison Bravo, Aliana Ramirez, Jael Maqueda-Medina, Tony Reyes, and Dylan Eggart under the direction of Millie Peters.

Dr. Jared Cleveland extended his welcome to the board and thanked them for their service.

Recognition

V.1. School of Conservation Leadership Projects by Bernice Young Elementary Students

Item V.1. was presented by Principal Christy Norwood, who was introduced by Secretary Jacob Oliva. Milo (3rd Grade), Micah (4th Grade), and Hannah (5th Grade) from Bernice Young Elementary shared their experiences with projects they have participated in as a designated School of Conservation Leadership by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

V.2. America's Youth AI Festival and STUDENTS FIRST Act Presentation

Item V.2. was presented by Don Tyson School of Innovation sophomores Ramey Jones and Danielle Robertson. They discussed both their experience at America's Youth AI Festival and their role in the STUDENTS FIRST Act.

Changes to the Agenda

None

Action Agenda

None

DRAFT

New Business

None

Consent Agenda

1. PLSB Case 25-121 Danny Marrs - Written Reflections

   Jeff Wood made a motion to hold these reflections until the November meeting where they can be discussed as an Action item, and it was seconded by David Peacock. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes

A motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Lisa Hunter, seconded by Dr. Gary Stark, and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Randy Henderson, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 11:45 AM.

Minutes recorded by Melody Pettit.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Randy Henderson, Chair
State Board of Education

DRAFT