

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
July 14, 2022**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair, Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair; Randy Henderson, Kathy McFetridge; Steve Sutton, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

Present via ZOOM: Dr. Fitz Hill; Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Absent: Adrienne Woods

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, July 14, 2022, in the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Auditorium. Chair Ouida Newton, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, led by a moment of silence.

Changes to the Agenda

Removed

VI.1. State Board Hearing – Licensure Action Colburn Clark
VI.6.h. School Choice Appeal - Rauls school appeal resolved – Resolved

Added

VI.4.a.2) Camden-Fairview School District 1240 Waiver Request

A motion was made to add Item VI.4.a.2 to the Action Agenda. The motion was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

Items included for consideration in the Consent Agenda were as follows:

1. Minutes – June 9, 2022, Draft
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
4. Community Service Learning Partner Site Application
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards for 22-056 Jody Wood Whitehead
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards for 22-064 Katherine Weaver

A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

Action Agenda A.

VI.2. Petition of Harmony Grove Close Sparkman Campus Grades 7-12 at its Sparkman Campus

Item VI.2. was presented by Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Also present to present to the State Board were:

- Jay Beckett, Attorney, Bequette & Billingsley, P.A.
Representing Harmony Grove School District
- Dr. Albert Snow, Superintendent, Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County)
- Mr. Jeff Mock, Principal, Harmony Grove High School (Ouachita County)
- Jennifer Page, Teacher-Grade 2/Counselor, Sparkman K-12
- Mr. Jess Askew III, Attorney, Kutak Rock Attorneys at Law
Representing the Sparkman Community

The Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) seeks to close Grades 7-12 at its Sparkman Campus, which is an "isolated school," and transfer students in those grades to Harmony Grove High School. The Harmony Grove Board of Directors voted in favor of moving these grades to the high school, but the vote was not unanimous (5-2 vote). Consequently, the District must petition the State Board to seek approval of the transfer. An opposition to the petition also has been filed.

A motion was made to hear public comments. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Public comments were heard from the following:

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| • Mr. Grady Harmon | Ms. Kathy Wells |
| • Ms. Jamie Martin | Mr. Michael Berry |
| • Ms. Sonya Plyler | Ms. LuAnne Clayton |
| • Ms. Caitlin Allen | Mr. Ken Keith |
| • Ms. Rayanne Thomason | Mr. Roland Womack |
| • Ms. Sammie Bean | Ms. Shannon Owen |
| • Ms. Stephanie Harmon | Mr. Ty Turner |
| • Ms. Barbara Walker | Ms. Thomasina McNutt |
| • Mr. Rickey Craig, Mayor - Sparkman | |
| • Senator Charles Beckham, District 12 | |

A motion was made to deny the petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to close Sparkman campus, Grades 7-12, for two years. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion failed due to tie vote, 2-Yes, 2-No.

ROLL CALL:

(Denial of Petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to Close Sparkman Campus, Grades 7-12, for Two years)

Mr. Steve Sutton	Yes
Ms. Kathy McFetridge	No
Dr. Fitz Hill	Unavailable
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Dr. Sarah Moore	No
Ms. Newton, Chair	The motion died due to request for discussion

The State Board discussed the two-year extension, per motion by Mr. Steve Sutton.

A motion was made to deny the petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to close Sparkman campus, Grades 7-12. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion failed, 3-No, 2-Yes.

ROLL CALL:

(Denial of Petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to Close Sparkman Campus, Grades 7-12)

Dr. Fitz Hill	Unavailable
Mr. Steve Sutton	Yes
Ms. Kathy McFetridge	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Dr. Sarah Moore	No
Newton	No

An Alternative motion was made to approve the petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to close Sparkman campus, Grades 7-12. The motion was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion passed, 3-Yes, 1-No.

ROLL CALL:

(Alternative Motion: Approval of Petition of Harmony Grove School District (Ouachita County) to Close Sparkman Campus, Grades 7-12)

Mr. Steve Sutton	N
Ms. Kathy McFetridge	Y
Mr. Randy Henderson	Y
Dr. Sara Moore	Y

V1.6. School Choice Appeals Under the School Choice Act of 2015

Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney, presented Items VI.6.a. – VI.6.k.

V1.6.a. School Choice Appeal – Buie

Item V1.6.a. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Buie family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Glen Rose School District: Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, denied the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for student to transfer to Glen Rose School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sullivan. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.b. School Choice Appeal – Perry

Item V1.6.b. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Perry family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Glen Rose School District: Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, denied the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Glen Rose School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.c. School Choice Appeal – Hobbs

Item V1.6.c. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Hobbs family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Glen Rose School District: Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, denied the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Glen Rose School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.d. School Choice Appeal – Hughes

Item V1.6.d. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Hughes family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Glen Rose School District: Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, denied the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Glen Rose School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.e. School Choice Appeal – Goyne

Item V1.6.e. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was Mr. Goyne. Additionally, Mr. Goyne submitted a letter to the State Board for his son, Timothy. Present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Glen Rose School District: Mr. Tim Holicer, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals their three children's school choice applications. The resident district, Malvern, denied the transfers based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Glen Rose School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.f. School Choice Appeal – Tullos

Item V1.6.f. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Tullos family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Poyen School District: Mr. Ronnie Kissire, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the denial of their two children's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, rejected the transfers based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Poyen.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Poyen School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.g. School Choice Appeal – Hillman

Item V1.6.g. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Hillman family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Poyen School District: Mr. Ronnie Kissire, Superintendent

Resident school district - Malvern School District: Ms. Lillian Harper, Superintendent

The family appeals the denial of their two children's school choice application. The resident district, Malvern, rejected the transfers based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is Poyen.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Poyen School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.i. School Choice Appeal – Ealy

Item V1.6.i. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Ealy family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Quitman School District: Dennis Truxler, Superintendent

Resident school district – Guy Perkins School District: Dr. Joe Fisher, Superintendent

The family appeals the denial of their two children's school choice applications. The resident district, Guy-Perkins, denied the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap and noted an issue with the bona fide address of the Ealy family. The nonresident district is Quitman.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Quitman School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.j. School Choice Appeal – Swinson

Item V1.6.j. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present via ZOOM were:

Ms. Stormy Swinson family

Nonresident school district – West Fork School District: Mr. John Karnes, Superintendent

Resident school district – Greenland School District: Dr. Andrea Martin, Superintendent

The family appeals the denial of their school choice application for their four children. The resident district, Greenland, rejected the transfer based on reaching its 3% cap. The nonresident district is West Fork.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to West Fork School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.6.k. School Choice Appeal – Golden

Item V1.6.k. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney. Also present was the Golden family and present via ZOOM were:

Nonresident school district – Ouachita School District: Mr. Larry Newson, Superintendent

Resident school district – Arkadelphia School District: Ms. Judy Talley, Director
Special Education

The family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The nonresident district denied the transfer because the school district would have been required to add staff. The resident district is Arkadelphia.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student to transfer to Ouachita School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.3. Consideration of Classifying the Helena-West Helena School district in Need of Level 5 Intensive Support

Item VI.3. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner Present via ZOOM was Mr. Earnest Simpson, Helena-West Helena School Board.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends that the State Board classify the Helena-West Helena School as in need of Level 5 -- Intensive support, pursuant to the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2901 *et seq.*, and the Division's rules governing that Act.

A motion was made to classify Helena-West Helena School District in need of Level 5 intensive support, that the Commissioner of Education provide support to the district to assist in improving its educational systems, including the support identified in the letter dated June 22, 2022, and that the powers and duties of the local board of directors to make all personnel decisions be removed and that the Commissioner of Education make personnel decisions in lieu of the local board, and in doing so, the Commissioner of Education conduct an analysis of the school district's systems and make recommendations to the State Board for any additional actions. The motion was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.4. Consideration of Requests for Act 1240 Waivers

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, DESE Deputy Commissioner presented **two** Act 1240 Waiver requests to the State Board for consideration. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-103 (Act 1240 of 2015), a traditional public school may petition the State Board for waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school.

VI.4.a. Helena-West Helena School District for Act 1240 Waivers

The Helena-West Helena School District (District) seeks an Act 1240 waiver of teacher licensure for both its J.F. Wahl Elementary School (Grades 1-6) and Central High School (Grades 7-12). The District is seeking the waiver for a period of one year.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 Waivers for one year for Helena-West Helena School District for J.F. Wahl Elementary School (Grades 1-6) and Central High School (Grades 7-12) was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.4.b. Camden Fairview School District for Act 1240 Waivers

The Camden Fairview School District seeks an Act 1240 Waiver for class size for five years to implement the Residency Model.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for Camden Fairview School District for five years was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.5. Consideration of a Standards for Accreditation Waiver

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter presented Item V1.5.a.

V1.5.a. Hope Public School District Standards for Accreditation Waiver

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter presented Item V1.5.a. Also present was Mr. Mike Radebaugh, Principal.

The Hope Public School District requests a one-year waiver for Standards for Accreditation standard 1-A.1.2.7 for Yerger Middle School. The waiver is requested in order to embed Career Development for 8th-grade students into the middle school's enrichment period. This is done to ensure that 8th-grade students will receive instruction in Career Development as they move the Career Development course to the 7th-grade rotation.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 Waiver Hope School District for one year was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.7. Embedded Course Approvals 2022-2023

Dr. Kiffany Pride, ADE Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services presented Item V1.7.

Act 421 of 2013 allows curriculum frameworks from two (2) separate courses to be taught in a single course, known as a combined or embedded course. Several school districts made application for approval of the combined or embedded course and assured, in writing, that the curriculum frameworks for both courses will be fully taught in the combined or embedded course. The Division of Elementary & Secondary Education staff respectfully requests the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the embedded courses as linked below, understanding that when the curriculum frameworks for one of the courses are revised, a new course approval request must be submitted to the SBE and approval must be granted before a school would be allowed to offer the embedded courses.

A motion was made to approve the embedded courses for 2022-2023 was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.8. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2022

Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure presented Item V1.8.

Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. The Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education voted to nominate for reappointment Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott from the University of Central Arkansas. On behalf of the Arkansas Education Association, President Carol Fleming nominates for reappointment Ms. Kathy Howell to represent classroom teachers and the AEA membership. The term of these members is to begin immediately upon appointment and end on June 30, 2025.

A motion was made to approve two member Professional Licensure Board reappointments through June 30, 2025: Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, University of Central Arkansas and Ms. Kathy Howell, representing classroom teachers. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.9. New Cut Scores for Praxis Assessments

Dr. Michael Rowland, DESE Public School Program Advisor, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure – Educator Preparation presented Item V1.9.

Educational Testing Service offers two versions of the same content knowledge tests, one all multiple choice and one with short answer. The all-multiple-choice tests are \$26 cheaper, are available more frequently, and provide test takers with an unofficial score at the conclusion of the test. DESE recommends adopting these new Praxis® assessments for Social Studies (7-12), English Language Arts (7-12), Russian: World Language (5671), Coaching (K-12), and Early Childhood Special Education (Pre-K). All test changes will be effective September 1, 2022.

A motion was made to adopt the new Praxis assessments for Social Studies (7-12), English Language Arts (7-12), Russian: World Language (5671), Coaching (K-12), and Early Childhood Special Education (Pre-K). The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.10. Review of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions

Items V1.10.a. – V1.10. was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, DESE Director of Public Charter Schools.

V1.10.a. Consideration of Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy Amendment Request

Item V1.10.a was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, DESE Director of Public Charter Schools. Present via ZOOM was Dr. Don Hall, Project Superintendent.

Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy is requesting to change the opening date from August 2022 to August 2023. The Charter Authorizing Panel reviewed this amendment request and approved it unanimously.

A motion was made to not review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the Arkansas Military and First Responders Academy Amendment Request was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.10.b. Consideration of IDEA Public Schools Arkansas Amendment Request

Item V1.10.b was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, DESE Director of Public Charter Schools. Present via ZOOM was Mr. Sam Gossling, Chief Advancement Officer.

IDEA Public School Arkansas is requesting to change the opening date from 2023 to 2024. The Charter Authorizing Panel reviewed this amendment request and approved it unanimously.

A motion was made to not review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the IDEA Public Schools Arkansas amendment request was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

V1.11. Virtual Arkansas digital Learning Presentation and Q & A

Per the request of the State Board on June 9, a brief report on the Virtual Arkansas digital learning plan was presented by Mr. John Ashworth, Executive Director and Superintendent.

V1.12. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver Requests

Item V1.12. was presented by Ms. Deborah Coffman, ADE Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability and Ms. Talley Harp, DESE Public School Program Advisor, Office of Public School Accountability.

Cedarville School District

The Cedarville School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Guy Fenter Consortium and APEX. Teachers are Arkansas State certified and provided by the consortium and APEX. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the K-6 plan. Grades 7-12 changed from Virtual Arkansas to APEX Learning.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Cedarville School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

County Line School District

The County Line School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Guy Fenter Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made from the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years County Line School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Ozark School District

The Ozark District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Guy Fenter Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made from the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years Ozark School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Magazine School District

The Magazine District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Guy Fenter Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years each for Magazine School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Lakeside (Garland) School District

The Lakeside (Garland) District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Dawson Consortium/FlexPoint and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change K-6 from district to Dawson/FlexPoint and 7-12 from Florida Virtual to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Lakeside (Garland) School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Cotter School District

The Cotter District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by APSRC for K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the APSRC Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made from the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Cotter School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Deer/Mt. Judea

The Deer/Mt Judea District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district for K-6 and Virtual Arkansas or Apex for 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas or Apex. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan that expired in the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change 7-12th from district provided to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Cotter School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Harrison School District

The Harrison District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 3-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district for 3-6 and Virtual Arkansas for 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan in the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change 7-12 to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Harrison School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Nashville School District

The Nashville District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district using EdOptions Academy. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by EdOptions. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan in the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

Nashville School District attended via ZOOM and requested to amend their digital learning application request from one year to two years.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Nashville School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Mountain Pine School District

The Mountain Pine District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan in the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change curriculum from Edgenuity to district created.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Mountain Pine School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Marked Tree School District

The Marked Tree District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan in the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Marked Tree School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Riverside School District

The Riverside School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made from the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Riverside School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Greenbrier School District

The Greenbrier District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. Class Size, Teaching load and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district removed K-6.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Greenbrier School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Whitehall School District

The White Hall School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district removed K-6.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Whitehall School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Gravette School District

The Gravette District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 11-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for one year for Gravette School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Wonderview School District

The Wonderview District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to remove K-6 and to request an additional year.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Wonderview School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Bryant School District

The Bryant District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to change providers from district to Virtual Arkansas and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Bryant School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Farmington School District

The Farmington School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Arkansas River Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to change from Northwest consortium to Arkansas River for K-6.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Farmington School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Clinton School District

The Clinton District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Arkansas River Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Clinton School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Guy-Perkins School District

The Guy Perkins District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-6. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Arkansas River Consortium. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium. Class size, teaching load, and clock hours waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to remove 7-12 and add additional years.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Guy-Perkins School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Bald Knob School District

The Bald Knob District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Apex. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Apex. Teaching load waiver was not requested. The waiver is being requested through the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a 3-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to change from Wilbur D Mills Consortium to Tri-Region Consortium for K-8 and from Virtual Arkansas to Apex for 9-12.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Bald Knob School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Mammoth Spring

The Mammoth Spring District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Edgenuity. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8 and Edgenuity from 7-12 to 9-12 and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Mammoth Spring School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Southside (Independence)

The Southside (Independence) District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-6. The program will offer synchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium. Teaching load and clock hours waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Southside (Independence) School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Lawrence County

The Lawrence County School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. A class size waiver is being requested. A teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8 and Virtual Arkansas from 7-12 to 9-12 and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Lawrence County School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Batesville

The Batesville District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-8. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8 and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Batesville School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Izard County Consolidated

The Izard County Consolidated District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and the district. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and the district. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8 and to add additional years to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Izard County Consolidated School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Wynne

The Wynne District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Virtual Arkansas or Edgenuity. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas or Edgenuity. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8 and to add additional years.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Wynne School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Sloan-Hendrix

The Sloan-Hendrix District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Edgenuity. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Edgenuity. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a two-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2022-2023 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8, Virtual Arkansas from 7-12 to 9-12, and to add an additional year through the 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Sloan-Hendrix School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Calico Rock

The Calico Rock District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change grade levels from Tri-Region K-6 to K-8, Virtual Arkansas 7-12 to 9-12 and to add additional years.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for Calico Rock) School District. The motion was made by Ms. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Fort Smith

The Fort Smith District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in 9-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Pearson Connexus. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Pearson Connexus. Class Size, Teaching load and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district removed K-8 (program now offered through virtual charter) and added 9-12.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Fort Smith School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Vilonia

The Vilonia District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 9-12. The program will offer asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Red Comet. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Red Comet. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year-approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made from the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for one year for Vilonia School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

El Dorado

The El Dorado District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 5-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Flex Point. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Flex Point. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year-approved plan that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to remove K-4, change providers to 5-12 from district to Flex Point and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plans for two years for El Dorado School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.13. Dawson Educational Service Cooperative

Item VI.13. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Director. Also present via ZOOM was Mr. Darin Beckwith, Director, Dawson Educational Service Cooperative.

Educational services cooperative evaluations occur at least once within a five-year period. The Dawson Educational Service Cooperative evaluation and self-study report are attached to the State Board agenda.

A motion was made to approve the evaluation of the Dawson Educational Service Cooperative was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.14. Proposed Rules for Public Comment Release: DESE Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program

Item VI.14. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, DESE Chief Counsel.

The Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program were updated to include the provisions on Act 689 of 2021 and Act 741 2021.

A motion to release for public comment the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program, pending Governor's Office approval, was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.15. Proposed Rules for Public Comment Release: DESE Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services, Section 18.00 Residential Placement

Item VI.14. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, DESE Chief Counsel.

These rules are Section X of the Special Education Rules Governing Mediations and Due Process Hearings. The U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs, monitored and notified the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Special Education of a conflicting provision in the DESE Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services, Section 18.00 Residential Placement. As a result, the expedited due process hearing timelines extension provision, which conflicted with IDEA, was removed.

A motion to release for public comment the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services, Section 18.00 Residential Placement, pending Governor's Office approval, was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Public Comments

Citizens signed up to provide public comments were no longer present, due to the length of the State Board meeting held on July 14; however, they will return to the State Board meeting scheduled on July 15, and provide public comments.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 5:06 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

**Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner
Ex-Officio Secretary**

**Ouida Newton, Chair
State Board of Education**