

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
November 9, 2023**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Steve Sutton; Jeff Wood, Capri Salaam, 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio Secretary.

Attending via ZOOM: Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Adrienne Woods

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, November 11, 2023. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

Presented by Mr. Darrell Farmer, Public School Program Advisor, Office of Student Support Services, the State Board of Education (State Board) recognized Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) staff who have served in the military, as well as spouses of those who have served.

Next, Mr. Adam Musto, ADE Computer Science Director, read the annual Computer Science Education Week resolution. Mr. Musto stated that December 4-10, 2023, is nationally designated as Computer Science Education Week. In honor of both Dr. Raye Montague, an Arkansas native who was a national pioneer for women and women of color in engineering and computer sciences and who created the first design of a U.S. naval ship using a computer, and Dr. Grace Murray Hopper, one of the first females in the field of computer science, who engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science, and whose birthday is December 9, the State Board recognized the week of December 4-10, 2023, as Arkansas Computer Science Education Week.

Changes to Agenda

None

Action Agenda

V.1. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Requests

V.1.a. Malvern School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation Waiver for Class Size

Item V.1.a. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public School Accountability.

The Malvern School District (District) originally submitted a waiver request for Class Size and Teaching Load Reduction; however, the District revised their submission to seek a one-year waiver of only Standard 1-A.5, which establishes maximum class size. The District has two (2) third-grade classes that are over by one (1) student for a total of 26 in each class and three (3) fifth-grade classes that are over by one (1) for a total of 26 in each fifth-grade class.

V.1.b. Guy-Perkins School District is requesting a one (1) year Standards for Accreditation Waier for Class Size

Item V.1.b. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public School Accountability. Present via ZOOM was Dr. Joe Fisher, Guy Perkins School District Superintendent.

The Guy-Perkins School District (District) seeks a one-year waiver of Standard 1-A.5, which establishes maximum class size. The District has a second-grade class that is over by one (1) student for a total of 26 students and a first-grade class that is one (1) student away from the maximum of 25 students.

V.1.c. Concord School District is requesting a one (1) year Standards for Accreditation Waiver for Class Size.

Item V.1.c. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public School Accountability. Present via ZOOM was Ms. Stephanie Langley, Principal, Concord Elementary School.

The Concord School District (District) seeks a one-year waiver of Standard 1-A.5, which establishes maximum class size. The District has a third-grade class that is over the student maximum by one (1) student for a total of 26 students.

V.1.d. Magnet Cove School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation Waiver for Class Size

Item V.1.d. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public School Accountability.

The Magnet Cove School District (District) seeks a one-year waiver of Standard 1-A.5, which establishes maximum class size. The District has one first-grade class that is over the maximum number of students by one (1) student for a total of 26 students.

V.1.e. Poyen School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation Waiver for Class Size

Item V.1.e. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Public School Accountability.

The Poyen School District (District) seeks a one-year waiver of Standard 1-A.5, which establishes maximum class size. The district has 23 students in one (1) kindergarten class that has a half-time paraprofessional in the classroom.

A motion to approve waiver requests of Standard 1-A.5 for one year for each of Items V.1.a. through V.1.e. was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2. Consideration for Request for Act 1240 Waivers for the Bauxite School District

Item V.2. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Mr. Stephen Reynolds, Attorney Specialist. Also present from Bauxite School District: Mr. Matt Donaghy, Superintendent; Mr. Doug Quinn, Deputy Superintendent; Ms. Kimberly Arnold, Principal, Bauxite Middle School; and Ms. Becky Reynolds, Principal, Pine Haven Elementary School.

The Bauxite School District is requesting a one-year waiver of Standard 6-17-812, Teaching Load, to allow two student teachers to teach under mentors.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 waiver request for Bauxite Elementary School and Bauxite Middle School for only the current 2023 Fall Semester was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. Consideration of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel.

The DESE Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program establishes a process by which the ADE can process payments under the Educational Freedom Account Program for approved participating schools or service providers. An emergency rule was approved by the State Board at its September meeting. These rules provided at this meeting differ from the rules approved previously by including the requirement that these funds must be requested after other available scholarships and grants are used. The ADE recommends that the State Board approve this rule for public comment.

A motion to approve the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program for public comment was made by Ms. Adrienne Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

V.4. Consideration of Appeal of Legal Transfer under Ark. Code 6-18-316

Item V.4. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel. Also present were: Hensley family

Resident school district – Shirley School District: Mr. Aaron Williams, Superintendent

Non-Resident school district – West Side School District: Ms. Brandi Wallace, Superintendent

The parent is appealing a denial of a legal transfer under Arkansas Code 6-18-316 by the Shirley School District, the resident school district. The receiving school district is the West Side School District.

A motion to overturn the denial by the Shirley School District and approve the appeal for the student to transfer to the West Side School District was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Kenn Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – State Board Regular Meeting Minutes, 10-23-2023
2. Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
3. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-105 Jean Bormann Herald
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-006 Jami Eubanks
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-115 Rebecca Webb
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-119 Alisha Guyton
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-157 Stephanie Fritts
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-154 Nevada Mills
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-001 Kaylee Nelson
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-019 Susan Brock
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-150 Crystal Tiarks
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-057 Labrada Vann
13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-158 Emily McDowell
14. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision for Cross County Elementary Technology Academy Amendment Request
15. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on Garfield Scholars' Academy New Open Enrollment Charter School Application

A motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Comments

Ms. Charlene Wright

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:18 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

**Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education**

**Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education**

DRAFT