

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
October 10, 2024**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Beau McCastlain, 2024 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary.

Absent: Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, October 10, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

**III.1. Carl Smith, Pine Bluff School District Bus Driver Credited with Saving Police Officer's Life**

Item III.1. was presented by Secretary Oliva. Also present from Pine Bluff School District were Mr. Carl Smith, Bus Driver; Ms. Jennifer Barbaree, Superintendent; Mr. Kalan Davis, Transportation Director.

In advance of 2024 National School Bus Safety Week, October 21-25, the State Board of Education was pleased to recognize Mr. Carl Smith, Pine Bluff School District bus driver. On August 26, 2024, Mr. Smith used his bus' fire extinguisher to save the life of Pine Bluff police officer Anthony Kirkpatrick. Mr. Smith, a retired teacher and coach, has been recognized by many, including the Pine Bluff City Council for his heroic actions.

The National Association for Pupil Transportation recognizes the third full week of October as National School Bus Safety Week.

**Changes to Agenda**

**Pulled**

Item V.6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-135 - Candace Roberson

## **Action Agenda**

### **V.1. Request to Approve ATLAS Cut Scores**

Item V.1. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requested State Board approval of the cut scores for the Arkansas Teaching, Learning & Assessment System (ATLAS). The ATLAS cut scores were requested for assessments for grades K-10 in English language arts, math and science and end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, geometry, and biology.

A motion to approve the ATLAS assessment cut scores for grades K-10 in English language arts, math, and science and end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, geometry, and biology was made by Mr. Ken Bragg and seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.2. 2025-2027 Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection Committee Recommendation**

Items V.2. was presented by Dr. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services. Also present via Zoom were co-chairs Summer Williams and Jill Clogston.

Presidents and Chancellors of all four-year colleges and universities were invited to submit proposals to host the 2025-2027 Arkansas Governor's School (AGS). A proposal was received from Arkansas Tech University (ATU). The site selection committee reviewed the proposal and conducted a site visit to the institution. Their recommendation for the proposed site for 2025-2027 was presented to the State Board for approval. A summary of the AGS Site Selection Procedures used to determine the site recommendation and proposal materials submitted by ATU were included in State Board materials.

A motion to approve ATU as the site to host the 2025-2027 Arkansas Governor's School was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.3. Consideration of Requests for Final Approval of Administrative Rules**

Items V.3.a. – V.3.f. were presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner to the State Board for final approval following a 30-day public comment period.

- V.3.a. Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rule Governing Career-Ready Pathways to Diploma
- V.3.b. DESE Rule Governing Consolidations and Annexations of School Districts
- V.3.c. DESE Rule Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites
- V.3.d. DESE Rule Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Public School Districts

V.3.e. Office of Early Childhood Rule Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program  
V.3.f. Office of Early Childhood Rule Governing Better Beginnings, Arkansas's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rule Governing Career-Ready Pathways to Diploma; the DESE Rule Governing Consolidations and Annexations of School Districts; the DESE Rule Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites; the DESE Rule Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Public School Districts; the Office of Early Childhood Rule Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program; and the Office of Early Childhood Rule Governing Better Beginnings, Arkansas's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.4. Consideration of Request to Repeal the DESE Rule Governing Educational Freedom Account Payment Processing**

Item V.4. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The request to repeal the DESE Rule Governing Educational Freedom Account Payment Processing was presented to be released for public comment. The substance of this rule was incorporated into the final DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Accounts Program, which became effective on August 10, 2024. This rule is now unnecessary, and the Division requested that it be repealed.

A motion to approve the repeal of DESE Rule Governing Educational Freedom Account Payment Processing was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.5. Request for Waiver - LA-25-002 - Sheryl Ross**

Item V.5. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure and Ms. Sheryl Ross, educator.

The Arkansas Department of Education received information that the educator has a conviction for a disqualifying offense. Per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410, the State Board shall not issue a first-time license and shall revoke any existing license not up for renewal of any person who has a conviction for a disqualifying offense. The educator requested a waiver.

A motion to grant the waiver request of Ms. Sheryl Ross, educator, was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-135 - Candace Roberson**

**PULLED**

**V.7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-199 - James Wilson**

Item V.7. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present were Mr. Casey Castleberry, Attorney, Little Rock, AR and Mr. James Wilson, educator.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2024, the State Board of Education requested the Professional Licensure Standards Board recommendation for Case 24-199, James Wilson, be moved from the Consent Agenda to the next available Action Agenda. The hearing was scheduled, and James Wilson was notified of the hearing date.

A motion to find that Mr. James Wilson, educator, violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the sanctions of the Ethics Subcommittee was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the rationale of the Ethics Subcommittee was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

## Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – Draft 09-12-24
2. Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Sixty (60) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
3. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term Expires June 30, 2027 - Dr. Alicia Shaw
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-127 and 24-133 Christopher Ferrell
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-288 Clinton Henslee
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-281 Jennifer Barr
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-272 Devanon Fitzgerald
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-249 Aaron Carter
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-238 Bryson Bradley
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-233 Emily Stokes
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-216 Kaylee Dalby (also known as Kaylee Dalby-Riddle)
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-211 Heather Slater
13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-191 Candice Cater
14. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-150 Tremaine Brown
15. Consideration of Somerset Academy Arkansas Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Request

Present were Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney and Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

## New Business

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

The next State Board Meeting is scheduled on November 7, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board Meeting at 11:35 AM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

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**Jacob Oliva, Secretary**  
**Arkansas Department of Education**

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