

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
August 8, 2024**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods; Beau McCastlain, 2024 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary.

Zoom: Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter

Absent: Ken Bragg

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, August 8, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 8:59 AM. Dr. Moore thanked Dr. Debbie Jones, Superintendent, Bentonville School District for hosting the State Board meeting at Bentonville School District.

Mr. Canaan Johnson, Student, led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

Dr. Jones introduced Ms. Yvonne Mbekenya, Bentonville West High School graduate; Ignite Construction student; and the Co-Founder and President of Girls Who Build Initiative created to address gender disparity in construction. Additionally, Ms. Mbekenya organized a regional conference on construction. She will pursue architecture at the University of Kansas.

**III.1. Master Principal Program Designation Candidate 2023-2024 Presentation**

Item III.1. was presented by Mr. Bradley Webber, Director, Master Principal Program. Ms. Molly Davis, Principal, Elmwood Middle School, Rogers School District was introduced as designated 2023-2024 Arkansas Master Principal.

**Changes to Agenda**

None

## **Action Agenda**

### **V.1. Public School Waiver for the North Little School District**

Item V.1. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner. Present via Zoom was Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure; and Dr. Jacob Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources, North Little Rock School District.

The North Little Rock School District requested a waiver of laws, rules, and standards pertaining to teacher licensure, flexible scheduling and class size, and teaching load.

A motion to approve the North Little Rock School District waiver requests for teacher licensure and flexible scheduling through the 2024-2025 school year, with the provision that the district provide a spring update following the second round of Arkansas Teaching and Learning Assessment System (ATLAS) progress monitoring, was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.2. Request to Release Administrative Rule for Public Comment**

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

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-201 *et. seq.*, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rule Governing Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts was presented for approval to be released for public comment.

A motion to approve the DESE Rule Governing Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts for release for public comment was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Item V.3. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The following administrative rules were presented to the State Board for final approval following a 30-day public comment period.

#### **V.3.a. DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act**

The DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on June 13, 2024. The public comment period began on June 14, 2024, and ended on July 14, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.3.b. DESE Rule Governing Arkansas Governor's School**

The DESE Rule Governing Arkansas Governor's School was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024. The public comment period began on May 10, 2024, and ended on June 10, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.3.c. DESE Rule Governing Community Service and Diploma Requirements**

The DESE Rule Governing Community Service and Diploma Requirements was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on March 14, 2024. The first public comment period began on March 22, 2024, and ended on April 24, 2024. Public comments were received, and substantive changes were made, requiring a second round of public comment. The second public comment period began on June 14, 2024, and ended on July 14, 2024. No substantive changes were made following the second round of public comments.

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA); the DESE Rule Governing Arkansas Governor's School; and the DESE Rule Governing Community Service and Diploma Requirements was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.3.d. DESE Rule Governing Educator Licensure**

The DESE Rule Governing Educator Licensure was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024. The public comment period began on May 10, 2024, and ended on June 10, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.3.e. DESE Rules Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories**

The DESE Rule Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on March 14, 2024. The public comment period began on March 22, 2024, and ended on April 24, 2024. Public comments were received and changes necessitated a second public comment period which ran from May 10, 2024, to June 10, 2024. The Board approved the final rule on July 13, 2024. However, this revised draft of the rule was presented to address concerns raised during the legislative review process.

### **V.3.f. DESE Rule Governing the Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program**

The DESE Rule Governing the Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024. The public comment period began on May 10, 2024, and ended on June 10, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.3.g. DESE Rule Governing Math Intervention**

The DESE Rule Governing Math Intervention was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on June 13, 2024. The public comment period began on June 14, 2024, and ended on July 14, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rule Governing Educator Licensure; the DESE Rule Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories; the DESE Rule Governing the Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories; and the DESE Rule Governing the Fiscal Assessment and Accountability Program was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

**New Business**

None

## Consent Agenda

1. Minutes
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 the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-198 Melissa Strickland
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-152 Tirrell Brown
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-168 Christopher Williams
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-189 Michael Bowman
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-254 Frank Kenney
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-204 Hannah Fulmer
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-186 Courtani Bell
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-169 Tessa Johnson
11. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Who Is Vacating Position - Ms. Kamicka Thompson
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision for Vilonia Pathways Academy Charter School
13. Embedded Courses

Ms. Whitney James, Legal, was present via Zoom.

Items VII.4. and VII.8. were pulled as both educators had previous incidences in which they were either sanctioned or could have been sanctioned. Additionally, more information was requested about professional development provided to teachers. Also, the evidentiary hearing transcript for Item V11.4. was requested.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Items VII.4. and VII.8., was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Jeff Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

## New Business

None

## Public Comments

None

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 10:40 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**

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