

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
November 10, 2022**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair; Adrienne Woods; Randy Henderson; Steve Sutton, Kathy McFetridge; Jeff Wood, Lisa Hunter; Dr. Fitz Hill; Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

Absent: Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, November 10, 2022, Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

**III.1. R.I.S.E. Community Award 2021-2022**

Item III.1. Reading Initiative for Student Excellence (R.I.S.E.) Community Award 2021-2022 was presented by Ms. Amy Counts, DESE Director of Curriculum Projects and Mr. Brandon Waddell, Arkansas Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Public Relations Advisor.

The R.I.S.E. Community Award Program was launched in 2021 and recognizes school districts and communities that work collaboratively to build a culture of reading by capitalizing on available resources. The R.I.S.E. Community Award Program focuses on infusing literacy, literacy awareness, and a love for reading into the community.

Several communities made commitments to work towards this goal and the communities of Batesville, Greenbrier, and Magnolia achieved the R.I.S.E. Community Award status of Gold. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) staff respectfully request the State Board of Education to recognize their achievements and impact made on the lives of students, families, and members of their communities.

### **III.2. Military Family Appreciation Month**

The resolution for Military Family Appreciation Month was presented by Ms. Jessica Saum, military wife and 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Each year the month of November is recognized as Military Family Appreciation Month. More than 13,000 Arkansans currently serve in our nation's Armed Forces, with more than 6,000 children of military families attending school in Arkansas. The State Board of Education is requested to adopt a resolution recognizing November 2022 as Military Family Appreciation Month and expressing appreciation for military families throughout Arkansas, the United States, and overseas.

A motion to recognize the month of November 2022 as Military Family Appreciation Month was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

### **III.3. Ebony Mitchell, Miss Arkansas 2022**

Introduced by Mr. Ray Girdler, DESE Director of Data Use & Privacy, the State Board welcomed Ebony Mitchell, Miss Arkansas 2022.

The division of research and technology is partnering with Miss Arkansas 2022 Ebony Mitchell. Ebony will be participating in a SMACTalk parent webinar on Monday, November 14th at 6:30 and will share her platform focused on online safety. Registration is located at [smactalk.info/parent-webinars](https://smactalk.info/parent-webinars).

## **Changes to the Agenda**

### **Added**

#### **Recognition**

Recognition of Computer Science Education Week December 5-11, 2022.

A motion to add recognition of Computer Science Education Week, December 5-11, 2022, to the agenda was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **Public Comments**

A motion to accept public comments was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

## **Resolution**

Ms. Kelly Griffin, Director, DESE Computer Science Education presented the annual Arkansas Computer Science Education Week Resolution. 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 science, 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 that laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science, and whose birthday is December 9, the week of December 5-11, 2022, is nationally dedicated as Computer Science Education Week.

A motion to recognize the week of December 5-11, 2022, in honor of Dr. Raye Montague and Dr. Grace Murray Hopper, as Arkansas Computer Science Education Week was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

1. Minutes 10-13-22
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. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-009 Robert Pruitt
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-006 Casey Buck
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-013 Christa Ermert
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-026 Caleb Johnson
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 22-087 Tyler Welch

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

## **Action Agenda**

### **VI.1. Request for Waiver- LA-23-001; Genese Obiaga**

Item VI.1. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Ms. Amy Douglas, DESE Managing Attorney. Also present was Ms. Genese Obiaga.

The Arkansas Department of Education received information that the educator has a true finding. This true finding is a disqualifying offense pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. The educator is requesting a waiver.

A motion to deny the waiver request and allow licensure reinstatement upon Ms. Genese Obiaga's removal from the Child Maltreatment registry was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. After roll call and vote of 5 Yes, and 2 No, the motion passed.

#### Roll Call: 5 Yes / 2 No

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|----------------------|-----|
| Mr. Steve Sutton     | Yes |
| Ms. Lisa Hunter      | Yes |
| Mr. Jeff Wood        | Yes |
| Ms. Kathy McFetridge | Yes |
| Ms. Adrienne Woods   | Yes |
| Dr. Fitz Hill        | No  |
| Mr. Randy Henderson  | No  |

### **VI.2. Consideration of Standards for Accreditation Waivers**

Item VI.2. was presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems of Support/Charter.

#### **VI.2.a. Standards for Accreditation Waiver for Ouachita School District**

Presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems of Support/Charter. Present via ZOOM was Ms. Ellen Coleman, Curriculum Director.

Ouachita School District is requesting a Standards for Accreditation Waiver for 1-A.5 Class Size for a kindergarten class that is one student over the maximum class size with a half-time paraprofessional in the classroom.

A motion to approve the Standards for Accreditation waiver for Ouachita School District was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill.

### **VI.3. Consideration of Requests of Act 1240 Waivers**

Ms. Lori Freno, DESE Attorney presented Item VI.2.a. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-103 (Act 1240 of 2015), a traditional public school district may petition the State Board for waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school.

#### **VI.3.a. Request for Act 1240 Waiver – Deer-Mt. Judea School District**

Item VI.3.a. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Ms. Lupe Pena de Martinez, Director, Student Support Services. Also present via ZOOM on behalf of Deer-Mt. Judea School District were Ms. Brenda Napier, Superintendent and Ms. Melissa King, Curriculum Coordinator.

The Deer-Mt. Judea School District requests a district-wide waiver of library media specialist licensure for a five-year period.

A motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson to approve the Act 1240 Waiver request for Deer-Mt. Judea School District for five (5) years.

### **VI.4. Educational Service Cooperative Evaluations**

Item VI.4., Educational Service Cooperative (ESC) Evaluations for Northwest Arkansas and Guy Fenter ESCs, was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner. Present via ZOOM on behalf of Northwest Arkansas ESC were Mr. Bryan Law, Director, Dr. Missy Hixson, Assistant Director/Teacher Center Coordinator, and present on behalf of Guy Fenter ESC were Mr. Roy Hester, Director and Ms. Angela Miller, Teacher Center Coordinator.

ESC evaluations occur at least once within a five-year period. Northwest ESC and Guy Fenter ESC evaluations and self-study report are attached for review.

A motion was made Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge to accept the evaluation reports for Northwest Arkansas ESC and Guy Fenter ESC. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.5. Action Item #1 Consideration of District Conversion Public Charter School Application for Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy**

Item VI.5. was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, DESE Director of Public Charter Schools. Also present via ZOOM was Ms. Shantele Raper, Assistant Superintendent.

The Rivercrest Jr. High Prep Academy submitted an application for a District Conversion Public Charter School. The Charter Authorizing Panel voted unanimously to approve the application for a district conversion charter school to open in the Fall of 2023 for Grades 7 and 8.

A motion to not review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.6. Action Item # 3 Voluntary Surrender of IDEA Public School Arkansas Charter**

Item VI.6. was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, DESE Director of Public Charter Schools.

IDEAS Public Schools of Arkansas submitted a letter of voluntary surrender for the Arkansas Charter.

A motion to not review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Public Comments**

The State Board heard public comments from:

Ms. Rosalind Mouser

Ms. Charlene Wright

Mr. Julius Wright

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:40 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

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**Johnny Key, Secretary**  
**Arkansas Department of Education**

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