

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
November 7, 2024**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Dr. Gary Arnold; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods; Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary.

Present via Zoom: Lisa Hunter

Absent: Beau McCastlain, 2024 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, November 7, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

Dr. Sarah Moore welcomed new State Board member, Dr. Arnold Gary.

**III.1. 2024 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year - Jessica Culver**

Item III.1. was presented by Dr. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner – Office of Learning Services. Also present was Ms. Jessica Culver, 2024 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year, Ozark High School.

Ms. Jessica Culver, a secondary social studies teacher at Ozark High School, was named the 2024 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year. Inaugurated in 2004, the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the crucial importance of history education by honoring exceptional American history teachers from elementary school through high school. In addition to receiving a \$1,000 honorarium from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Ms. Culver will also receive a collection of books and educational materials.

**III.2. Computer Science Education Week, December 6-12, 2024**

Item III.2. was presented by Dr. Adam Musto, Director, Office of Computer Science.

A resolution, recognizing December 6-12, 2024, as Arkansas Computer Science Education Week, or CSEd Week, was presented for review by the State Board of Education.

**III.3. Honoring Arkansas Department of Education Veterans and Their Spouses**

Item III.3. was presented by Ms. Alisha Price, Attorney Specialist (Retired Army).

Recognizing Veterans' Day on Monday, November 11, 2024, and appreciating the many sacrifices made by veterans and their families on behalf of all Americans, the State Board of Education proudly honored Arkansas Department of Education veterans and their spouses.

**Changes to Agenda**

Pulled: Consent Agenda

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

VII.13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-166 Abigail Jones

**Action Agenda**

**V.1. Lead Hill Class Size Waiver Request**

Item V.1. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner – Office of Public School Accountability. Also present via Zoom was Ms. Tami Richey, Superintendent, Lead Hill School District.

Lead Hill School District requested a waiver of Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5, pertaining to class size and teaching load.

A motion to grant the Lead Hill School District waiver request for one year was made by Mr. Ken Bragg and seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion passed with a vote of 8 Yes, 1 No – Mr. Jeff Wood.

**V.2. Consideration of a Public School Waiver Request by the Osceola School District**

Item V.2. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner - Office of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, and Ms. Melissa Jacks, ADE Assistant to the Director. Also present was Mr. Charles Webster, Interim Superintendent, Osceola School Board and Ms. Toshiba Pugh, Assistant Superintendent, Osceola School District.

The district requested, for the remainder of this school year, a waiver of the following laws, rules, and standard pertaining to teacher licensure: Standard for Accreditation 4-D.1.

A motion to grant the Osceola School District waiver request through June 30, 2025, was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins and seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.3. KIPP Delta Accreditation-Probation Status Recommendation**

Item V.3. was presented by Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner – Office of Public School Accountability, Matt Sewell, Assistant Commissioner – Office of Federal Programs. Also present was Dr. James Boyd, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools.

The Division recommended that the State Board of Education place KIPP Delta in Accredited-Probation status under the standards listed below:

Standards 2-F.1 All public school district personnel, teachers, and administrators must comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*, its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 300, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-101 *et seq.*, the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Department. (D/P) (SOA).

Standard 2-F.2 Each public school district shall offer a full continuum of special education services as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*, its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 300, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-41-101 *et seq.*, the laws of the State of Arkansas and the rules of the Department. (D/P) (SOA).

A motion to place KIPP Delta on accreditation-probation status with a monitoring report and reevaluation to be presented at the December 2024 State Board meeting was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Dr. Gary Arnold. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.4. Consideration of Boundary Change Petition by the Prairie Grove School District**

Item V.4. was presented by Daniel Shults, Interim Chief Legal Counsel. Also present was Dr. Lance Campbell, Superintendent, Prairie Grove School District and Dr. Mary Ann Spears, Superintendent, Lincoln Consolidated School District.

The Prairie Grove School District filed a petition to change its school district boundary pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1414. The affected school district, Lincoln School District, objected to the petition. Attached to the agenda were the petition by the Prairie Grove School District, the Lincoln School District response, as well as maps prepared by the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office detailing the affected area.

A motion to approve the Prairie Grove School District petition was made by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

A motion to deny the Prairie Grove School District petition was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion passed with a vote of 8 Yes, 1 No – Jeff Wood.

### **V.5. Request to Release Administrative Rules for Public Comment**

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, Arkansas Code 25-15-201 *et seq.*, the following four (4) administrative rules were presented to the State Board for approval to be released for public comment.

**V.5.a. DESE Rule Governing Grading and Course Credit**

Item V.5.a. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

A motion for the DESE Rule Governing Grading and Course Credit to be released for public comment was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.5.b. DESE Rule Governing Distance and Digital Learning**

Item V.5.b. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

A motion for the DESE Rule Governing Distance and Digital Learning to be released for public comment was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.5.c. DESE Rule Governing the First Connections Program Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act**

Item V.5.c. was presented by Ms. Leigh Keener, State Board member. Also present was Mr. Matt Sewell, Assistant Commissioner - Office of Federal Programs.

A motion for the DESE Rule Governing the First Connections Program Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to be released for public comment was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Dr. Gary Arnold. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.5.d. DESE Rule Governing Special Education (Section 18.00 -- Residential Placement)**

Item V.5.c. was presented by Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff. Also present was Mr. Matt Sewell, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Federal Programs.

A motion for the DESE Rule Governing Special Education (Section 18.00 -- Residential Placement) to be released for public comment was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

**New Business**

None

## Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – Draft 10-10-24
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. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-221 Kimberly Rodriguez
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-265 LaDonna Oates
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-135 Candace Roberson
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-257 Ashley Pickering
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-258 Chelsea Lehman
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-270 Dean Livingston
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-274 Jason Moix
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-283 Hannah Cantrell
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-273 Jackson Poe
13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-166 Abigail Jones
14. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-215 Octavis Mitchell
15. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-032 Jace Bradley
16. Consideration of Iota Leadership Academy's Open Enrollment Charter School Application Requests
17. Consideration of Unbound Academy's Open Enrollment Charter School Application Request
18. Consideration of Newman Virtual Academy Arkansas's Open Enrollment Charter School Application Request

Pulled: VII.6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-135 Candace Roberson

Rationale: Ms. Roberson has requested State Board review.

Pulled: VII.13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-166 Abigail Jones

Rationale: Sanction did not match the matrix.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except Items VII.6. and VII.13., was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

## **Adjournment**

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:05 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

---

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

---

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

DRAFT