

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

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Ken Bragg; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Capri Salaam, 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary

Present via ZOOM: Adrienne Woods; Randy Henderson

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, February 8, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

Mallory Stuckey, Miss Natural State's Teen

Mallory Stuckey, Miss Natural State's Teen, was presented by Secretary Jacob Oliva, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE).

Mallory Stuckey, a sophomore at Rison High School, has been named Miss Natural State's Teen. For the past three years, Mallory has been working on her Community Service Initiative, Love the Skin You're In: Melanoma Prevention & Awareness. Her goal is to educate Arkansans, specifically Arkansas students, on sun safety and skin cancer prevention. In June 2024, Ms. Stuckey will compete for the title of Miss Arkansas' Teen.

Changes to Agenda

None

Action Agenda

V.1. One-year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Requests

V.1.a. Alpena Public School District's One Year Standards for Accreditation Request

Item V.1.a. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner – Public School Accountability. Also present via ZOOM from Alpena School District were Mr. Michael Smith, Elementary Principal and Ms. Sara Curry, Teacher – Literacy, Grade 4, and Grade 6.

Alpena Public School District requested a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of 1-A.5 Class Size for one (1) grade 6 class that is four (4) students over the maximum number of students. The waiver was requested for the remainder of the year, expiring June 30, 2024.

A motion to grant the waiver through June 30, 2024, was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2. Consideration of DESE Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program

Item V.2. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel.

The DESE Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program were approved for public comment in October. No substantive changes were made to the rules, and it was presented for final approval.

A motion to approve the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Payments Under the Educational Freedom Account Program was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. Consideration of DESE Rules Governing Tutoring Grants

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel. Also present were Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff and Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The DESE Rules Governing Tutoring Grants were approved for public comment in November. No substantive changes were made to the rules, and it was presented for final approval.

A motion to approve the DESE Rules Governing Tutoring Grants was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

New Business

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 2:30 PM:

- 1) Reconvene work session to continue conversation around support for persistent low-performing schools.
- 2) Business meeting regarding waiver requests on school calendar/inclement weather and school start dates.
- 3) Share rules with the State Board around the adult high school diploma.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes
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 24-097 Jaymie Walker
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-041 Mary Susan Stephenson
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-049 Deidre Channing
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-057 Alexis Rheinhardt
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-074 Raychel Miller
8. 2024 State Board of Education Stipends

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

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 10:37 AM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education