

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
January 11, 2024**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods; Capri Salaam, 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio Secretary.

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, January 11, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

**III.1. Mindy Lyle Named 2024 National Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year**

Item III.1. was presented by Mr. Ross White, Director, Career & Technical Education.

Mindy Lyle, Family and Consumer Science and Career Development Teacher at Acorn High School in the Ouachita River School District was named 2024 National Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) New Teacher of the Year. One of five finalists for 2024, Lyle's national title was announced at the Awards Gala held on November 29 in conjunction with the ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2023. Ms. Lyle is the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) advisor at Acorn High School, the President Elect of the Arkansas Association for Family & Consumer Science Teachers, a member of multiple other professional organizations, and an active participant in many other school activities.

**Changes to Agenda**

None

## **Action Agenda**

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

#### **Item V.1.a. Decatur Public School District's One-Year Standards for Accreditation Request**

Item V.1.a. was presented via ZOOM by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability.

Decatur Public School District requested a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of 1-A.5 Class Size for one grade 2 class that is one (1) student over the maximum number of students. The district has provided a paraprofessional for this classroom.

A motion to approve the Standards for Accreditation Waiver request for Decatur Public School District for one year was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.1.b. Pulaski County Special School District's One-Year Standards for Accreditation Request**

Item V.1.b. was presented via ZOOM by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability. Also present via ZOOM was Dr. Yolaundra Williams, Assistant Superintendent, Pulaski County Special School District.

Pulaski County Public School District requested a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of 1-A.5 Class Size for one Pre-Calculus class that is one (1) student over the maximum number of students.

A motion to approve the Standards for Accreditation Waiver request for Pulaski County Special School District for one year was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

### **V.2. Warren School District**

Item V.2. was presented by Ms. Dorie Summons, Public School Program Coordinator, DESE Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment-Education Options. Also present were Mr. Stephen Reynolds, Attorney Specialist; Ms. Karli Saracini, Division of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure; Mr. Bryan Cornish, Superintendent, Warren School District; Ms. Kathy Cornish, Principal, Warren Middle School; and Ms. Rhonda Williams, School Improvement Specialist, Warren School District; Mr. Tripp Walter, Staff Attorney, Arkansas Public School Resource Center.

### **V.2.a. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting Decision for Warren Middle School**

Warren Middle School rescinded the charter in September of 2023. All associated waivers were rescinded at that time. The Charter Authorizing Panel unanimously voted (7-0) to support the district in rescinding the charter and all waivers.

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

### **V.2.b. Consideration of Waiver Requests for the Warren School District**

To align with waivers granted for other schools in the district, the Warren School District sought for its middle school the following three-year waivers:

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1004, Qualified teachers in every public classroom;  
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309, Licensure;  
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-401, Teacher's licensure requirement;  
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-902, Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed);  
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-908, Teacher's salary fund;  
Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-919, Warrants void without valid license and contract;  
Standard 4-D.1 Teacher Licensure requirement;  
Standard 4-F.1 Library Media Specialist licensure requirement; and,  
Section 7 of DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure.

A motion to grant a one-year waiver to the Warren School District through the 2024-2025 school year was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. After roll call the motion failed with a vote of 2 Yes to 5 No.

#### **Roll Call – Item V.2.b. Consideration of Waiver Request for the Warren School District:**

Leigh Keener	Yes
Jeff Wood	No
Lisa Hunter	No
Kathy Rollins	Yes
Randy Henderson	No
Ken Bragg	No
Adrienne Woods	No

Next, a motion to grant a three-year waiver with an annual reporting requirement to the Warren School District was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. After roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes to 2 No.

Roll Call:

Leigh Keener	No
Jeff Wood	Yes
Lisa Hunter	Yes
Kathy Rollins	No
Randy Henderson	Yes
Ken Bragg	Yes
Adrienne Woods	Yes

**V.3. Rules for Special Education and Related Services, Section 10 Mediation and Hearing**

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Stephen Reynolds, DESE Attorney Specialist. Also present was Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

Section 10 Mediation and Hearings of the Rules for Special Education and Related Services was presented for review and final approval.

A motion to approve the Rules for Special Education and Related Services, Section 10 Mediation and Hearing was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.4. Request for Waiver - LA-24-001 - Joseph E. Smith**

Item V.4. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini; also present were Ms. Whitney James, DESE Managing Attorney, Office of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure; Mr. Cody Kees, Partner, Bequette, Billingsley & Kees, representing Mr. Joseph Smith and the Flippin School District; Mr. Joseph Smith, Educator Applicant, Flippin School District; Mr. Kelvin Hudson, Superintendent, Flippin School District; and Mr. Dale Horn, Principal, Flippin High School Principal.

The Arkansas Department of Education received information that the educator has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. Per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410, the State Board shall not issue a first-time license nor renew an existing license and shall revoke any existing license not up for renewal of any person who has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. The educator requested a waiver.

A motion to grant the waiver request for LA-24-001 - Joseph E. Smith was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. After roll call, the motion passed with a vote of 6 Yes to 1 No.

Roll Call:

Leigh Keener	Yes
Jeff Wood	No
Lisa Hunter	Yes
Kathy Rollins	Yes
Randy Henderson	Yes
Ken Bragg	Yes
Adrienne Woods	Yes

## **V.5. Formation of State Board of Education Committees**

Item V.5. was presented by Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair.

State Board of Education Operating Procedures allow for the creation of a committee or task force, established for a specific purpose, by majority vote. Then, for each committee, the State Board Chair can delegate authority to a State Board member to chair and select committee members for the respective committee.

### **Academic Accountability Committee**

Presented by Mr. Jeff Wood. The Academic Accountability Committee would be members of the State Board, while non-board members may attend to answer questions.

### **Early Learning Committee**

Presented by Ms. Leigh Keener. The membership of the Early Learning Committee will be comprised of stakeholders in early learning, which includes individuals from Headstart programs; private child care providers; school-based pre-kindergarten providers; family members with children receiving early care; experts in early childhood care and education; experts in early literacy and early numeracy; business and industry representatives; leaders from the Arkansas Department of Education, expert Ms. Tonya Williams; representatives from relevant advocacy organizations; and a single member of the State Board to serve as the committee facilitator and the liaison between the committee and the State Board. The Early Childhood Committee should represent all areas of the State.

A motion to establish the Academic Accountability Committee and to establish the Early Learning Committee was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, delegated the authority to Mr. Jeff Wood to chair and appoint the members of the Academic Accountability Committee and delegated the authority to Ms. Leigh Keener to chair and appoint members to the Early Learning Committee.

## **New Business**

None

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes – to be amended
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 Recommendation for Accredited – Cited Status for 1-C.1.1 Testing at Least 95% of All Students
  - 3.a. Graduate Arkansas Charter High
  - 3.b. Little Rock Southwest High School
  - 3.c. Sylvan Hills High School
  - 3.d. Founders Classical Academy High School Online
  - 3.e. Premier High School of Fort Smith
  - 3.f. Premier High School of Texarkana
  - 3.g. Premier High School Online
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-153 Shirley Carr
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-092 Charlene Cooper
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-048 Jacob Shafer
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 20-152 Keith Smith
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-069 Dr. Karen Curtner
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-070 David Shipman
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-076 Jenece Clark
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-047 Alicia Haney
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-077 Casandra Welch
13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-144 Carrie Roff
14. Consideration of the 2024 Proposed Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting Dates
15. Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for District Conversion Public Charter School Application - Mountainburg High School
16. Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for Haas Hall Academy Amendment Request
17. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for Academies of West Memphis District Conversion Charter Application

A motion to approve the Consent agenda, with amended Minutes of December 15, 2023, to reflect Ms. Lisa Hunter's early departure from the State Board meeting, was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments from Ms. Audie Alumbaugh were submitted in writing to Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed. Dr. Sara Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:25 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

---

**Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio Secretary**  
**Arkansas Department of Education**

---

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