

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
September 12, 2024**

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

Zoom: Randy Henderson

Absent: Leigh Keener

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, September 12, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

III.1. Russellville High School National Championship Quiz Bowl Team

Item III.1. was presented by Secretary Jacob Oliva and Quiz Bowl Head Coach Steven Quoss. Present with the Russellville Quiz Bowl team were assistant coaches, former head coach, Dr. Paul Gray, and Senator Breanne Davis.

In June, the Russellville High School Quiz Bowl team outscored 70 other teams to claim the national championship. Team members Alyx Dunaway, Matthew Fox, Gidian Fuller, Keegan Fuller, Logan Greggs, Will Stump, and Ian Warnick won the championship, and it is the first time in 42 years that an Arkansas team has held the title.

III.2. Jackson Jones, Central High School Senior and Founder of Fostering Friendships

Item III.2. was presented by Secretary Jacob Oliva. Present were Mr. Jackson Jones, founder of Fostering Friendships and Dr. Nancy Rousseau, Principal, Little Rock Central High School.

Little Rock Central High School senior Jackson Jones began Fostering Friendships, a non-profit organization, to connect with foster children and teens. Mr. Jones uses a method he calls "commonplace" to create "peer-to-peer connections" that may include playing card games, board games, and participating in sports. Jones says that many of his peers are joining him as volunteers for the program. More about Jackson and Fostering Friendship can be found on the non-profit's website at fosteringfriendship.org.

Changes to Agenda

A change to the order of the agenda was made to hear Action Item V.7. Request for Waiver - LA-25-001 – Brandon Marks and Report Item VIII.2. Blytheville School District prior to breaking for lunch.

Action Agenda

V.1. Consideration of a Public School Waiver Request by the Osceola School District

Item V.1. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner. Also present was Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, and via Zoom was Osceola School District Mr. Charles Webster, Superintendent, and Ms. Pamala Senter, APSCN.

The district requests, for a period of three (3) years, waivers of the following laws, rules, and standards, pertaining to teacher licensure, class size, and teaching load:

Teacher Licensure:

Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-15-1004, 6-17-309, 6-17-401, 6-17-418, 6-17-902, 6-17-908, 6-17-919
DESE Rule Governing Educator Licensure - Section 7
Standard for Accreditation 4-D.1

Class Size and Teaching Load:

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-812
DESE Rule Governing Class Size and Teaching Load
Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5, 1-A.6

A motion to table the waiver requests for the Osceola School District was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2. Consideration of Request for Final Approval of Administrative Rules

Items V.2.a. – V.2.b. were presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner. The following administrative rules were presented for final approval following a 30-day public comment period.

V.2.a. DESE Rule Governing Braille and Large Textbook Appropriation

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rule Governing the Implementation of the Braille and Large Print Textbook Appropriation was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on July 11, 2024. The public comment period began on July 20, 2024, and ended on August 20, 2024. No public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rule Governing Braille and Large Textbook Appropriation was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2.b. DESE Rule Governing Public School Choice

The DESE Rule Governing Public School Choice 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 no substantive changes were made.

A motion for final approval of the DESE Rule Governing Public School Choice was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-113 – Dexter Dumas

Item V.3. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present was Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel, Mr. Dexter Dumas, Educator, and Mr. Greg Alagood, Attorney, Little Rock, AR.

The educator objected to the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee's evidentiary hearing findings and recommendation of July 17, 2024, and requested a review by the State Board.

A motion to find that Mr. Dexter Dumas violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the recommendations of the Hearing Panel was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the rationale of the Hearing Panel was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

V.4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-111 – Chase Utley

Item V.4. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present was Mr. Greg Alagood, Attorney, Little Rock, AR.

At its regularly-scheduled meeting on June 13, 2024, the State Board of Education requested the PLSB recommendation for Case 24-111, Chase Utley, be moved from the consent agenda to the next available action agenda. Today's hearing was scheduled, and Chase Utley's attorney was notified of the hearing date.

A motion to find that Mr. Chase Utley violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the recommendations of the Hearing Panel to one year suspension of license ending June 30, 2025, with two years of probation after all requirements recommended by the Hearing Panel during the period of suspension have been met, was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion failed with a vote of 3 Yes, 4 No.

Roll Call1 – Sanction: Case 24-111 – Chase Utley

Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	No
Ms. Kathy Rollins	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No
Dr. Sarah Moore	No

A motion to modify the recommendations of the Hearing Panel to state revocation of teaching license with \$500 fine was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion passed with a vote of 4 Yes, 3 No.

Roll Call2 – Sanction: Case 24-111 – Chase Utley

Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	No
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	No
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Dr. Sarah Moore	Yes

A motion to modify the rationale of the Ethics Subcommittee removing the statement that the educator took no accountability for his actions was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes, 1 No.

Roll Call3 – Rationale: Case 24-111 – Chase Utley

Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	No
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Absent
Dr. Sarah Moore	Yes

As approved earlier by motion, made by Ms. Lisa Hunter and seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood, Action Item V.7. was moved up on the agenda and considered after Action Item V.4.

V.7. Request for Waiver - LA-25-001 – Brandon Marks

Item V.7. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure and Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present was Mr. Brandon Marks, educator.

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 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 is requesting a waiver.

A motion to deny the request for waiver - LA-25-001 – Brandon Marks was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion passed with a vote of 4 Yes, 2 No.

Roll Call4 – V.7. Request for Waiver - LA-25-001 – Brandon Marks

Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	No

Mr. Randy Henderson absent.

V.5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-204 – Hannah Fulmer

Item V.5. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 8, 2024, the State Board of Education requested the PLSB recommendation for Case 24-204, Hannah Fulmer, be moved from the consent agenda to the next available action agenda. Today's hearing was scheduled, and Hannah Fulmer was notified of the hearing date.

A motion to find that Ms. Hannah Fulmer violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the recommendation of the PLSB to revocation of teaching license with a \$500 fine was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the rationale of the PLSB was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Adreinne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

V.6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-152 – Tirrell Brown

Item V.6. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present was Mr. Tirrell Brown, Educator.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 8, 2024, the State Board of Education requested the PLSB recommendation for Case 24-152, Tirrell Brown, be moved from the consent agenda to the next available action agenda. Today's hearing was scheduled, and Tirrell Brown was notified of the hearing date.

A motion to find that Mr. Tirrell Brown violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the recommendation of the Evidentiary Hearing Panel to revocation of teaching license with a \$500 fine was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the rationale of the Evidentiary Hearing Panel to include the statement that the educator acknowledged that the student spent the night at his home alone was made by Ms. Adreinne Woods, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

V.8. Education Service Cooperative Annual Reports

Item V.8. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1020 requires Education Service Cooperatives (ESCs) to submit an annual report to the State Board of Education and outline the content that must be included in each report. Attached is Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1020 and 15 reports, one from each cooperative.

A motion to accept the 15 ESC annual reports listed below was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

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| 1. Arch Ford ESC | 9. Northeast Arkansas ESC |
| 2. Arkansas River ESC | 10. Northwest Arkansas ESC |
| 3. Crowley's Ridge ESC | 11. Ozarks Unlimited Resources ESC |
| 4. Dawson ESC | 12. South Central Service Cooperative |
| 5. DeQueen-Mena ESC | 13. Southeast Arkansas ESC |
| 6. Great Rivers ESC | 14. Southwest Arkansas ESC |
| 7. Guy Fenter ESC | 15. Wilbur D. Mills ESC |
| 8. Northcentral Arkansas ESC | |

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – Draft 08-08-24
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 Garfield Scholars' Academy's Amendment Request
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-199 James Wilson
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-197 Adrienne Durham
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-213 Jimmy Wilkett
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-205 Dennis Sanders
9. PLSB Case 24-075 Tyler Scott - Written Reflections
10. Request for Approval of an Association to Accredite Private Schools Participating in the Educational Freedom Account Program
11. Embedded Courses

Item VI.5. was pulled to review the case as an action item.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except Item VI.5. was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

New Business

None

Public Comments

- Gracie Edwards, Quitman School District
- Stephanie White, Quitman School District
- Audie Alumbaugh, Quitman School District
- Melanie Box, Quitman School District
- Julius Wright, Pine Bluff School District
- Charline Wright, Pine Bluff School District

Adjournment

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 3:41 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education