

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
December 15, 2023**

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; Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary.

Attending via ZOOM: Steve Sutton

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, December 15, 2023. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

III.1. Proclamation for Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month

Item III.1. was presented by Ms. Sherri Fite, Director-Communications & Technology, Arkansas School Boards Association.

Arkansas School Board Association representatives appeared before the State Board of Education requesting approval of a resolution proclaiming January 2024 as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

The State Board recognized and saluted members of local boards of education by proclaiming January 2024 as Arkansas School Board Recognition Month.

III.2. Leslee Ann Tell, Participant in the U.S. Fulbright Teacher Exchanges Project

Item III.2. was presented by Mr. Ross White, Director, Career and Technical Education. Also present were Dr. Kate Worley, Principal, Conway High School; Ms. Carrie Smith, Career & Technical Director; and Ms. Leslee Ann Tell, Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient.

Leslee Ann Tell, current culinary arts teacher at Conway High School, received the Fulbright U.S. Distinguished Teaching Award. Ms. Tell appeared before the State Board of Education to share her experiences in Vietnam, where she participated in the Fulbright Teacher Exchanges Project.

III.3. Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher of the Year Award

III.3. was presented by Dr. Kiffany Pride, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Assistant Commissioner - Learning Services. Also present were Ms. Ronda Smith, acting Social Studies Specialist; Mr. Curt Barger, Principal, Benton High School; and Ms. Pamela Cummings, 2023 Arkansas History Teacher of the Year, Benton High School.

Pamela Cummings, a history teacher at Benton High School, has been named the 2023 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. Cummings' district held a local ceremony in her honor. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education presented Ms. Cummings with a certificate.

Changes to Agenda

None

Action Agenda

V.1. Consideration of the Request from the Cossatot River School District

Item V.1. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel. Also present were Ms. Stacy Smith, ADE Deputy Commissioner; Dr. Eric Saunders, Associate Deputy Commissioner, ADE District Operations; Representative DeAnn Vaught; Dr. Tyler Broyles, Superintendent, Cossatot River School District; Mr. Norman Hill, Financial Consultant; and Sharon Streett, Attorney.

Cossatot River School District appeared before the State Board with a petition to close an isolated school in the district.

Public Comments – Opposition

Ms. Linda Kitchens, Spokesperson, Umpire Community

A motion to table Item V.1. was made by Mr. Ken Bragg. After discussion, Mr. Bragg withdrew the motion. Subsequently, a motion to deny the Cossatot River School District petition was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2. One-year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Requests

V.2.a. Augusta Public School District One-Year Standards for Accreditation Request

Item V.2.a. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, ADE Assistant Commissioner – Public School Accountability.

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

A motion to approve the Standards of Accreditation waiver request for Augusta School District for one year was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2.b. Cossatot River Public School District One-Year Standards for Accreditation Request

Item V.2.b. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, ADE Assistant Commissioner – Public School Accountability. Also present was Dr. Tyler Broyles, Superintendent, Cossatot River School District.

The Cossatot River School District requested a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver for class size. The district has one third-grade classroom that is one (1) student over the maximum of 25 students.

A motion to approve the Standards of Accreditation waiver request for Cossatot River School District for one year was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2.c. Earle Public School District One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request for Library Media Specialist

Item V.2.b. was presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, ADE Assistant Commissioner – Public School Accountability. Also present via ZOOM was Mr. Ryan Burgess, Superintendent, Earle School District.

Earle Public School District requested a one-year waiver of Standard 4-F.1 Library Media Specialist. The district has had difficulty hiring a licensed Library Media Specialist. Students will continue to receive library access through their classroom teachers.

A motion to approve the Standards of Accreditation waiver request for Earle School District for Library Media Specialist for one year was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. Consideration of School District Waivers

V.3.a. Marvell-Elaine School District

Item V.3.a. was presented by Mr. Stephen Reynolds, ADE Attorney Specialist. Also present was Ms. Stacy Smith, ADE Deputy Commissioner. Present via ZOOM was Dr. Phong Tran, Superintendent, Marvell-Elaine School District.

The Marvell-Elaine School District requested waivers for one (1) year to implement an innovative learning program. A motion to grant the waivers was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

V.4. Consideration of Request to Release for Public Comment: DESE Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring

Item V.4. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel. Also present was Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The Department of Education requested that the State Board approve the release of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring for public comment.

A motion to approve release of the DESE Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring for public comment was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

Item V.5. Consideration of Request to Approve Emergency Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring

Item V.5. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel.

The Department of Education requested that the State Board approve the Emergency Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring.

A motion to approve the Emergency Rules Governing Literacy and High-Impact Tutoring was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

V.6. Consideration of Request to Release for Public Comment: DESE Rules Governing Professional Development

Item V.6. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, ADE Chief Legal Counsel.

The Department of Education requested that the State Board approve the release of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Professional Development for public comment.

A motion to approve release of the DESE Rules Governing Professional Development for public comment was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

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Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – Regular State Board Meeting, 11-09-23
2. Annual Statistical Report
3. 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. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-038 Emily Abram
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-012 Madison Pittman
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-015 Bobby Hogan
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-003 Chandler Weber
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-061 Jerrad Jones
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-005 Ryan LaFleur
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-090 Meredith Hill
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-046 Brennen Kotoucek
13. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on Institute for the Creative Arts New Open Enrollment Public School Charter Application
14. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Responsive Ed Arkansas Districts: Premier High School of Arkansas Amendment Requests
15. Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for District Conversion Public Charter School Application-The Academies at Newport High School
16. State Board of Education 2024 Meeting Calendar

The State Board heard comments on Item 13 of the Consent Agenda from Dr. Rosilee Russell, Founder/Executive Director of Institute for the Creative Arts New Open Enrollment Public Charter School.

Item 16 of the Consent Agenda was pulled for discussion.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except Item 16, was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

After discussion, a motion to hold 2024 State Board meetings every second Thursday of each month (listed below) was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

2024 State Board Calendar of Meetings

- January 11
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- October 10
- November 14
- December 12

New Business

None

Public Comments

- Julius Wright
- Charlene Wright

Adjournment

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 3:50 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education