

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Friday, February 12, 2021**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, February 12, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2021, was canceled due to inclement weather. The agendas for both the Thursday and Friday meetings were considered at this meeting. Chair Ms. Charisse Dean called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Charisse Dean, Chair; Ms. Ouida Newton, Vice Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Mr. Steve Sutton; Ms. Susan Chambers; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Dr. Fitz Hill

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Presenter: Charisse Dean

Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

1. Minutes
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
4. Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 21-031 Kasey Cathey
6. Consideration of the Consent to Surrender Teaching License of Cheryl Kindervater Professional Licensure Standards Board Case # 21-049
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 21-035 Brittany Peacock
8. Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision to Approve the 2021 Charter School Application Forms and Timeline

Action Agenda A

A-1 Annual Statistical Report

Presenter: Anita Sacrey

Description: In compliance with the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-20-2201 et seq., the Annual Statistical Report of the Public Schools for Arkansas, Open Enrollment Charter Schools, and

Education Service Cooperatives, 2019-2020 Actual and 2020-2021 Budgeted, (ASR) is considered for adoption by the State Board of Education.

Following discussion by State Board members, Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

A-2 State Board Review of PLSB 20-121 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation – Tiffany Gant

Presenter: Amy Douglas

Description: Ms. Gant was employed as a teacher under an ACT 1240 waiver. Ms. Gant has appealed her ethics hearing recommendation and requested a State Board review pursuant to 16.02 of the Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. Ms. Gant is represented by attorney Mr. James Valley.

Ms. Douglas and Mr. Valley requested a continuance until next month in order to hold the hearing in person. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the continuance. The motion passed unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Meeting Decision - Approval of Charter Amendment Request for River Valley Virtual Academy (Van Buren School District)

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: In January 2021, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved an amendment request for the River Valley Virtual Academy to relocate its existing campus. The district conversion charter was approved in 2016 and serves students in grades K-12.

Following discussion by State Board members, Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the CAP decision. The motion passed unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Act 1240 Waiver Extension Request - Bentonville School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Bentonville School District is requesting an extension of previously granted Act 1240 waivers.

Ms. Newton asked Ms. Webb if it is possible to require districts seeking waiver extensions to provide data that reflects the success of the waiver. Ms. Webb affirmed that districts seeking waiver extensions will be asked to do so moving forward.

Following discussion by State Board members, Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the waiver extension. The motion passed unanimously.

A-5 Approval for Reading Specialist (K-12) Licensure Test

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: Reading Specialist (K-12) is an endorsement area added to a standard license by completing graduate-level program of study and passing the state's current licensure assessment, Praxis® Reading Specialist (5301). Education Testing Company (ETS) has updated the 5301 with the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302).

The Department recommends adopting the Praxis® Reading Specialist (5302) with a cut score of 160, effective September 1, 2021.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve adoption of the recommended assessment and cut score. The motion passed unanimously.

A-6 High School Course Requirements

Presenter: Dr. Kiffany Pride / Rachel Horn

Description: The Division of Elementary & Secondary Education presents the following high school course requirements to the State Board of Education for approval: Arkansas Thirty-Eight Required Courses.

Following discussion by State Board members, Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the course requirements. The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:52 a.m. the State Board moved to reports from the Friday, February 12, 2021, agenda:

Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Presenter: Joel Lookadoo

Discussion among State Board members and ADE/DESE staff regarding Standards Based Grading

State Board Member Reports

- Ms. Newton reported on a recent visit to Lisa Academy
- Ms. Dean reported on recent visits to the Pine Bluff School District and Little Rock School District

Commissioner's Report

- Secretary Key provided a legislative session update

- State Board members were updated on the work of various divisions within the Department by staff
- Deb Coffman (Public School Accountability, DESE) provided information previously requested by State Board members about graduation rates

New Business

There were no new business items.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid

X _____
Ms. Charisse Dean
Chair

X _____
Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary