

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Thursday, May 13, 2021**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, May 13, 2021, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Vice Chair Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Newton welcomed new State Board member Dr. Beth Anne Rankin. Ms. Newton led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Ouida Newton, Vice Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Steve Sutton; Dr. Beth Anne Rankin; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Ms. Charisse Cooksey, Chair

Changes to Agenda

Public Comments were moved to the beginning of the action agenda due to the length of the day's agenda

Recognitions

IV. Opportunity Culture Model School Recognition

Presenter: Karli Saracini
Kelly McLaughlin

Description: The Opportunity Culture rubric was used to determine the model schools, measuring the five principles and other key areas: Reach, Pay, Time, and Accountability as well as Professional Learning, Communication, Instructional, Planning, Instructional Delivery, and Instructional Improvement.

- Lincoln Middle School
- Forrest City Junior High School

Consent Agenda

Presenter: Ouida Newton

Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, 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. 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

Public Comments

Lt. Colonel Jim Parsons, Chairman of the Bella Vista Patriots, addressed the State Board. He would like a school district in Bella Vista and asked the SBE to help make that happen. Ms. Newton thanked him for coming to the meeting and lifting his voice.

Action Agenda A

VI.1. State Board Hearing - Request for Waiver- LA-21-002; Steven Shook

Presenter: Jennifer Link

Description: The Arkansas Department of Education received information that educator has a true finding for Sexual Abuse in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. A true finding in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry is disqualifying pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. The educator is requesting a waiver.

*This item was removed from the agenda

A-2. State Board Hearing - Request for Waiver- LA-21-001; Katherine Hoyt

Presenter: Jennifer Link

Description: The Arkansas Department of Education received information that educator has a true finding for Abuse in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. A true finding in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry is disqualifying pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. The educator is requesting a waiver.

Ms. Hoyt was represented by attorney Jeff Rosensweig. Chair. Newton swore in Ms. Hoyt.

Mr. Rosensweig asserted in his opening statement that Ms. Hoyt is appealing her placement on the Child Maltreatment Registry. Ms. Link noted that Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410 (c) states that the SBE “shall” revoke any existing license up for renewal for any person who has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Registry.

Mr. Rosensweig conducted a direct examination of Ms. Hoyt. State board members asked clarifying questions of Mr. Rosensweig, Ms. Holt, and ADE attorneys.

Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved to grant a waiver. A roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Rosensweig stated that he would report the circuit court resolution to Ms. Freno and Ms. Link.

A-3. Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Waivers

Presenter: Dr. Kiffany Pride, Stacy Smith, Don Benton, Deborah Coffman, and Tally Harp

Ms. Smith began by introducing the application process for waivers related to digital learning. She talked about the difference in this year and last, when all schools sought waivers due to COVID. Dr. Pride made a presentation about the Digital Guidebook and other supports ADE has given to schools as they design their digital programs for their stakeholders. She outlined the major components schools need to consider: Interaction (synchronous or asynchronous), delivery, and platform. ADE utilized the Digital Guidebook in multiple trainings across the state, including strategic planning sessions with individual school districts. They communicated expectations with districts. Districts submitted applications, and ADE gave them feedback on the

components that did not meet digital program expectations. An ADE review team thoroughly checked submitted applications. Once an application met all digital learning expectations they were recommended by ADE staff to be submitted to the SBE for expedited approval. Ten district digital learning applications and requests for Act 1240 waivers under consideration this meeting: Trumann, Pea Ridge, Springdale, Bergman, Fort Smith, Rogers, Russellville, Harrison, Texarkana, and Westside (Johnson Co.)

State Board members asked multiple clarifying questions. A lengthy discussion took place about many components of the digital learning applications. It was agreed a work session would be set up to go through the applications and process more thoroughly. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to table Action Item 3 until the next meeting on May 27. The motion passed unanimously.

A-4. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver Request for a Digital Learning Program and Additional Waivers

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Description: The Siloam Springs School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program application for students in grades K-8. The program will offer asynchronous learning through an approved digital learning provider. Synchronous instruction will be available for students in need of additional interventions. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-26 school year.

The Siloam Springs School District is requesting a waiver of teacher licensure for art and music classes in their virtual program. The art curriculum will be provided by an approved digital provider and delivered by a licensed elementary teacher. The music curriculum will be developed by Siloam Springs music teachers and delivered by a licensed elementary teacher. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-26 school year.

State Board members asked clarifying questions of superintendent Jody Wiggins. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to approve the waiver for one year. A roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

A-5. Consideration of District Waiver Extension Request - Lincoln School District

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Description: The Lincoln School District is requesting an extension of waiver for class size and teaching load, library media specialist time requirements and daily planning period forty minute increments. The waivers are being requested for an additional five years.

State Board members asked clarifying questions of principal Michele Price. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waivers. The motion passed unanimously.

A-6. Consideration of District Waiver Extension Request – Smackover-Norphlett School District

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Description: The Smackover-Norphlet School District is requesting an extension of their K-12 waiver for teacher licensure. The waiver is being requested for an additional five years

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

A-7. Consideration of District Waiver Extension Request - Helena-West Helena School District

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

Description: The Helena-West Helena School District is requesting an extension of the waiver for K-12 teacher licensure. The waiver is being requested for an additional five years.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to grant the waiver for one year. The motion passed unanimously.

A-8. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request - North Little Rock School District

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The North Little Rock School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver for principal licensure for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year due to a principal resignation that occurred on April 1, 2021.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver. The motion passed unanimously.

A-9. Consideration of Classifying the Lee County School District as in Need of Level 5 -- Intensive Support

Presenter: Stacy Smith/Lori Freno

Description: The Lee County School District, in consultation with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, requested that the Division provide Level 5 -- Intensive support to the District pursuant to the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2901 et seq. and the Division's rules governing that Act. Accordingly, the Division recommends that the State Board classify the District as in need of Level 5 -- Intensive support. If the State Board classifies the District in need of Level 5 -- Intensive support, it may take actions including those set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2916.

State Board members asked clarifying questions of ADE staff and Lee County Superintendent, Ms. Murdoch. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to classify the district in need of Level 5-Intensive Support. A roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

B-1. College and Career Readiness Assessment Request

Presenter: Rachel Horn

Description: The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is requesting approval from the State Board of Education to amend the assessment system to include a career readiness assessment that leads to a nationally-recognized work readiness certificate to each student before he or she graduates from high school. This assessment expansion is being requested to meet Act 319 of 2021 of the 93rd General Assembly.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the request to amend the assessment system. The motion passed unanimously.

B-2. Consideration for Release for Public Comment CTE Policies and Procedures for Career and Technical Education:

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The CTE Policies and Procedures for Career and Technical Education is necessary because of Act 545 of 2021. ADE staff respectfully requests approval to release these rules for public comment, pending review by the Governor's office.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the rules for public comment and repeal current rules, pending Governor's Office approval. The motion passed unanimously.

B-3. Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY22 - Agency Grant Awards

Presenter: Lisa Tyler / Lori Bridges

Description: Pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) - Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) respectfully requests approval of the Arkansas Better Chance Program Renewal Grants for the 2021-2022 school year in the total amount of \$104,245,718.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the grant awards. The motion passed unanimously.

B-3.a. Consideration of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY22 - Professional Service Grant Awards

Presenter: Lisa Tyler / Lori Bridges

Description: Pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) - Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) respectfully requests approval of the Arkansas Better Chance Professional Service Grants for the 2021-2022 school year in the total amount of \$6,504,720.15.

Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the grants. The motion passed unanimously.

B-4. Election of State Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Presenter: Lori Freno

Description: The Nominating Committee will notify all members of its nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair of the State Board for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. After the Committee makes its nominations, the Chair will ask if there are any additional nominations from Board members not serving on the Committee. After the Board has an opportunity to ask any questions to nominees, the election will be held.

Dr. Hill, speaking for the nominating committee, put forth Ouida Newton as Chair and Dr. Sarah Moore as Vice Chair. Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to accept the recommendations of the nominating committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Newton adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid

X _____
Ms. Charisse Dean
Chair

X _____
Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary