

July 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM - State Board of Education

State Board Members present: Ms. Ouida Newton, chair; Dr. Sarah Moore, vice chair; Ms. Charisse Dean; Dr. Fitzgerald Hill; Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Steve Sutton; Dr. Beth Anne Rankin; Ms. Susanna Post (ATOY, non-voting); Mr. Johnny Key (Secretary of Education, non-voting)

I. Call to Order-10:02

Presenter: Ouida Newton

Ms. Newton welcomed Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Ms. Susanna Post

II. Moment of Silence

Presenter: Ouida Newton

III. Changes to Agenda

Presenter: Ouida Newton

PLSB items on consent agenda (Case # 21-073 Morrow and Case # 21-088 Hudson) pulled from agenda for consideration at August meeting

IV. Consent Agenda

Presenter: Ouida Newton

- Minutes
- Community Service Learning Partner Site Applications

Presenter: Rachel Horn

Description: Per Ark. Code Ann. Â§ 6-16-120, Community Service Learning, community-based organizations may apply to their local school board for approval to work with school districts as a community service site provider. These site applications are presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for approval twice a year, July/August and December/January. The attached 12 sites have sent in application for SBE approval.

- Animal Rescue Effort - Harmony Grove SD (Camden)
- East Camden Fire Department - Harmony Grove SD (Camden)
- Fordyce First Assembly God - Harmony Grove SD (Camden)
- Sparkman City Hall - Harmony Grove SD (Camden)
- Cup of Love Ministries - Eureka Springs SD
- ECHO Thrift, Clinic, and Village - Eureka Springs SD
- Eureka Springs City Parks and Recreation - Eureka Springs SD
- Eureka Springs Community Center - Eureka Springs SD
- Good Sheppard Humane Society - Eureka Springs SD
- Logan County Fair Association - County Line SD
- Three Wishes for Ruby - Valley Springs SD
- Share and Care - Valley Springs SD
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
Presenter: Greg Rogers and Clemetta Hood
Description: The applicant data from this information is used to compile the Applicant Flow Chart forms for the Affirmative Action Report, which demonstrates the composition of applicants through the selecting, hiring, promoting and terminating process. The

information is needed to measure the effectiveness of the agency's recruitment, hiring and promotion efforts and is in conformity with federal government guidelines, which require the agency to compile statistical information about applicants for employment.

- Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. Â§6-17-309

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: Arkansas Code Annotated Â§6-17-309 requires local school districts to secure a waiver when classrooms are staffed with unlicensed teachers for longer than 30 days. Requests were received from 22 school districts for a total of 28 waivers. There were also requests for long-term substitutes from 2 school districts requesting a total of 3 waivers for long-term substitutes. These requests have been reviewed, were either approved or denied by Department staff, and are consistent with program guidelines.

- Act 1240 Waiver Report: Southeast Cooperative

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: In 2017, the State Board of Education granted Act 1240 waivers to districts served by the Southeast Cooperative. At the time the waivers were approved, the Board requested that the Cooperative provide a two-year and a four-year report. This report is a four-year report detailing how many Act 1240 teachers obtained licensure, as well as other information.

- Consideration of the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for case # 21-056 Jennifer Wilson

State Board members asked clarifying questions

Motion: Dr. Rankin- *Approve consent agenda, excluding PLSB cases*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

ACTION AGENDA

A-1. State Board Hearing - Request for Waiver- LA-21-003; Ashley Williamson

Presenter: Lori Freno

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. Â§ 6-17-410. The educator is requesting a waiver.

Ms. Williamson and Ms. Saracini were sworn in

Ms. Saracini passed out an infographic about the licensure process and informed state board members this is a licensure action, not a PLSB case.

State board members asked clarifying questions of ADE staff, Ms. Williamson, and her attorney, Aubrey Barr.

Motion: Ms. Dean-Grant *waiver request*

Second: Dr. Hill

The motion passed. Ms. Woods abstained

A-2. Consideration to remove Little Rock School District from Level 5- Intensive Support to Level 4 Direct Support

Presenter: Stacy Smith

Description: Following the Division’s year-end review of the progress of the Little Rock School District, the Division concluded that the District met the criteria to exit Level 5 - Intensive support. For this reason, the Division respectfully requests that the State Board remove the District from the Level 5 - Intensive support, place the district in Level 4 - Direct support for a period of one year in accordance with Section 8.10.4 of the Rules governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, and lift the limitations that the State Board placed upon the District Board of Directors on December 12, 2019.

Ms. Newton noted one person signed up for public comment on this item and invited board members to make a motion on whether to hear it.

Motion: Ms. Woods-*Hear public comment*

Second: Mr. Sutton

Motion passed unanimously

Ms. Smith discussed in depth the methodology behind the Division’s review of the LRSD and the process for making this recommendation to the SBE. Superintendent Mike Poore also made comments on the work and process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Vicki Hatter, LRSD School Board president

State board members asked clarifying questions.

Motion: Dr. Hill-*Remove LRSD from Level 5-Intensive Support and instead place in Level 4-Directed Support for One year, with monitoring by the Division and quarterly reporting to the State Board, pursuant to Section 8.10 of the Rules governing Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act; Lift the limitations placed on LRSD Board of Directors on December 12, 2019*

Second: Ms. Dean

Motion passed unanimously

A-3. Act 1240 Waiver Request: Little Rock School District

Presenter: Lori Freno

Description: The Little Rock School District requests that the State Board of Education approve an Act 1240 waiver related to teacher licensure.

Hope Worsham, former Executive Director of Curriculum Instruction for LRSD and current ESSER Program Director at ADE, explained the reasoning behind the waiver request.

State board members asked clarifying questions.

Motion: Ms. Dean-*Grant 1240 waiver for LRSD*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

A-4. Review of Cutter-Morning Star Second Lien Bond Application

Presenter: Anita Sacrey

Description: The members of the Arkansas State Board of Education are requested to review the following:

Commercial Bond Application - 1 Second Lien

With no recommendation to approve the application from the Loan Committee and additional information provided by the school district in its application package and zoom meeting and: Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated Â§ 6-20-1205 concerning school district bonds, a school district shall not sell bonds until the issue is approved by the State Board of Education. Therefore, the State Board of Education, in its discretion and after considering the merits of the application, may approve a school district bond application for the full amount of the proposed bond issue, approve the application for a lesser amount than requested, or disapprove the application.

State Board members asked clarifying questions of Superintendent Nancy Anderson, Ray Beardsley of First Security-Beardsley Public Finance, and ADE staff.

Motion: Mr. Sutton-*Approve*

Second: Dr. Hill

Motion passed unanimously

A-5. School Choice Appeals

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

A-5.a. Residency Appeal: Teagan Langston and Abel Gonzalez

Description: The Langston family appeals the decision of the Smackover-Norphlet School District to deny a petition for transfer under Ark. Code Ann. Â§ 6-18-307, which allows a parent to request a transfer if they reside within seven miles of a nonresident school and at least fifteen miles from the school within the resident district.

Witnesses sworn in.

State Board members asked clarifying questions of Holly Strickland with the Smackover-Norphlet district and petitioner Ms. Langston.

Motion: Ms. Dean-*Grant residency appeal for Langston/Gonzalez family*

Second: Ms. Woods

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.b. School Choice Appeals: Daisy Robbins

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Malvern School District, has reached its numerical 3% maximum. The Non-Resident District is Glen Rose School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Mr. Sutton-*Grant appeal*

Second: Dr. Rankin

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.c. School Choice Appeal: Luna Marin

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Malvern, has reached its number 3% maximum. The nonresident district is Glen Rose.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Ms. Dean-Grant *appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed, with one opposed (Ms. Woods)

A-5.d. School Choice Appeal: Corey Vines - *Removed from Agenda*

A-5.e. School Choice Appeal: Daniel Pierce Benjamin

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Guy Perkins, has reached its number 3% maximum. The nonresident District is Greenbrier School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Dr. Rankin-Grant *appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.f. School Choice Appeal: Taylor, Hoyt, and Raleigh Vickers

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Guy Perkins School District, denied the application based on reaching its 3% numerical capacity. The nonresident District is the Quitman School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Dr. Moore-Grant *appeal*

Second: Dr. Rankin

Motion passed unanimously

A.5.g. School Choice Appeal: Justice Taylor - *Removed from Agenda*

A-5.h. School Choice Appeal: Keagan, Kamron, and Kennedy Gamel – *Removed from Agenda*

A-5.i. School Choice Appeal: Rowan Williams – *Removed from Agenda*

A-5.j. School Choice Appeal: Aubrey Sanders

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Malvern School District, denied the application based on reaching its 3% numerical capacity. The nonresident District is the Magnet Cove School District

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Ms. Dean-Grant *appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.k. School Choice Appeal: Asia Holt

Presenter: Taylor Dugan

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Guy Perkins, denied the application based on reaching its 3% numerical capacity. The nonresident District is the Quitman School District
Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Dr. Rankin-*Grant appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed, with one opposed (Ms. Woods)

A-5.l. School Choice Appeal: Ava and Tanner Villegas

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Lincoln School District, denied the application based on reaching its 3% numerical capacity. The nonresident District is the Prarie Grove School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Mr. Sutton-*Grant appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.m. School Choice Appeal: Abel Hewitt

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Guy Perkins School District, denied the application based on the district reaching its 3% net capacity. The Nonresident District is Quitman School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Mr. Sutton-*Grant appeal*

Second: Dr. Moore

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.n. School Choice Appeal: Heflin –*Removed from Agenda*

A-5.o. School Choice Appeal: Connor Post

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Resident District, Guy Perkins District, denied the application based on the District reaching its numerical 3% maximum. The Nonresident District is Greenbrier School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Ms. Dean-*Grant appeal*

Second: Ms. Woods

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.p. School Choice Appeal: Lucas Blevins

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Non-Resident District, Batesville School District, denied the application based on a lack of capacity. The Resident District is Midland School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Ms. Woods-Grant appeal

Second: Ms. Dean

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.q. School Choice Appeal: Nickolas Garner

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Nonresident District, White Hall, is over capacity. The Resident District is Watson Chapel School District.

Witnesses sworn in.

State board members asked clarifying questions of the district and petitioning family.

Motion: Ms. Dean-Grant appeal

Second: Dr. Rankin

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.r. School Choice Appeal: William Birdsong

Description: The family appeals the denial of their school choice application. The Nonresident District, Valley Springs School District, has reached its numerical 3% maximum. The Resident District is Ozark Mountain.

Mr. Dugan requested this be tabled until the next SBE meeting in order to wait for a local school board meeting to take place about the matter.

Motion: Dr. Rankin-Table Birdsong Family Appeal

Second: Ms. Dean

Motion passed unanimously

A-5.s. School Choice Appeal: Wyatt Ross – Removed from Agenda

Action agenda concluded at 4:28 p.m.

X _____
Ms. Ouida Newton
Chair

X _____
Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary