

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Thursday, June 10, 2021**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, June 10, 2021, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Chair Dean called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Board members thanked departing board member Susan Chambers and Arkansas Teacher of the Year Joel Lookadoo for their service to the state. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

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

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Recognitions**

**IV.1. Recognizing Chelsea Jennings, Assistant Principal at Lakeside Junior High School, as the 2021 NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year**

Presenter: Dr. Mike Hernandez

Description: AAEA and AASSP are proud to recognize Chelsea Jennings, Assistant Principal at Lakeside Junior High School, as the 2021 NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year. Ronn Nozoe, CEO of NASSP, stated, "We are proud to recognize Chelsea Jennings as the 2021 NASSP Assistant Principal of the Year for her tremendous leadership in developing a positive school culture to ensure the well-being and safety of her students, their families, and their community. We salute Ms. Jennings's drive and efforts to prioritize the social-emotional well-being of her students through innovative solutions and continued advocacy. During one of the most challenging years ever faced by the education community, it's inspiring to see how Ms. Jennings has worked to support and empower families to feel safe and connected."

**IV.2. Recognizing Har-Ber High School Television Production for receiving an Emmy for Live Event Sports Broadcasting.**

Presenter: Ross White

Description: The National Student Production Awards recognize outstanding achievement in video production. The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences promotes excellence by showcasing work created by high school students in news, craft and programming categories.

Har-Ber High School Television Productions led by advisor Travis Sherman recently received a National Emmy for Live Event Sports Broadcasting, sealing their position as the top Sports Broadcast team in the entire country. Students competed against thousands of entries across the United States and the pieces were judged by college instructors and industry professionals.

The judges looked at the overall production value and delivery, including: Pre Game Show, Halftime Show, Post Game Show, Live Reporting, Cameras, Audio and Direction.

Congratulations to:

- Nick Luttrell
- Samantha Lewandowski
- Zach Greenwood
- Zack Duplanti
- Victor Cardoza
- Jared Park
- Donald Tucker

### **Consent Agenda**

Presenter: Ms. Charisse Dean

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, 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 # 20-064 Jody Veit Edrington
6. Consideration of the Consent to Surrender Teaching License of Angela Summerford Professional Licensure Standards Board Case # 20-136
7. Consideration of the Consent to Surrender Teaching License of Whitney Evans Professional Licensure Standards Board Case # 21-108
8. Consideration of the Consent to Surrender Teaching License of Ryan Morris Professional Licensure Standards Board Case # 21-114

### **Action Agenda A**

#### **A.1. State Board Review of PLSB 21-050 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation – Lisa Avance**

**Presenter:** Amy Douglas

**Description:** Description: Ms. Avance was employed as a teacher with a five-year standard Arkansas Teaching License. Ms. Avance 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. Avance was not present for the appeal. State Board members asked clarifying questions of ADE staff. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to accept the findings of the Ethics

committee. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Newton, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved that Ms. Avance violated Standards 1 and 2. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sutton, seconded by Dr. Rankin, moved to accept the Ethics committee recommendation of license revocation and a \$500 fine. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A.2. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2021**

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms, and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. Dr. Nita Bohannon is being nominated for a full term after serving in the position recently vacated by Dr. Ellen Treadway. Dr. Bohannon will represent the Arkansas Professors of Educational Leadership (ARPEA) and its members. Dr. Harold Jeffcoat, Superintendent of the Van Buren School District has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) to represent their membership. Dr. Sheena Williamson, Assistant Superintendent of the Searcy School District has been nominated for a second term by the Arkansas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). The terms of these members to begin on July 1, 2021 and end on June 30, 2024.

Dr. Moore, seconded by Ms. Chambers, moved to accept the recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A.3. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request - Atkins School District**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Atkins School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of Standard 4-D.1 - Teacher Licensure for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

### **A.4. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request - Newport School District**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Newport School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of Standard 3-A.6 - Board Training Hours for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

### **A.5. Consideration of One-Year Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request - Pulaski County Special School District**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The Pulaski County Special School District is requesting a one-year Standards for Accreditation waiver of Standard 3-A.6 - Board Training Hours for the 2020-21 school year.

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

#### **A.6. Consideration of the 2020-2021 Final Standards for Accreditation Status Report for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

Description: The recommended 2020-2021 Final Standards for Accreditation Status for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts is included in the attached report for State Board review and final status determination.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Secretary Key highlighted the new Standards for Accreditation system created by ADE staff that helps identify challenges as the year progresses, which has made the process much easier. Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the Final Standards for Accreditation Status report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A.7. 2022-2024 Arkansas Governor's School Site Selection Committee Recommendation**

Presenter: Dr. Kiffany Pride / Krystal Nail

Description: Presidents and Chancellors of all four-year colleges and universities were invited to submit proposals to host 2022-2024 Arkansas Governor's School. Proposals were received from Hendrix College, Arkansas Tech University, and Arkansas State University. The site selection committee reviewed proposals and conducted site visits to each institution. Based on the majority vote of the AGS 2022-2024 Site Selection Committee, Arkansas Tech University is the recommendation for the host site for AGS 2022-2024.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.1. Consideration of Charter Amendments for Digital Learning Programs**

##### **B.1.a. Siloam Springs High School**

Presenter: Don Benton, Kiffany Pride, Karli Saricini

Description: Siloam Springs High School has submitted an amendment request for a Digital Learning Program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction with virtual and blended options through the use of an approved digital provider and licensed district staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter will expire at the end of 2024-2025.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge made a motion, seconded by Ms. Newton, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) decision. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.1.b. Lincoln High School**

Description: Lincoln High School has submitted an amendment request for a digital learning program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction with a virtual option through the use of an approved digital provider. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter will expire at the end of 2021-2022.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton made a motion, seconded by Dr. Rankin, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) decision. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.1.c. Harrison High School**

Description: Harrison High School has submitted an amendment request for a digital learning program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction with virtual and blended options through the use of an approved digital learning provider. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter will expire at the end of 2021-2022.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Chambers, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) decision. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.1.d. Mountain Home High School Career Academies**

Description: Mountain Home Career Academies has submitted an amendment request for a digital learning program in grades 9-12. The school will offer asynchronous and synchronous instruction with a virtual option through the use of an approved digital provider and licensed staff. The application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The charter will expire at the end of 2024-2025.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge made a motion, seconded by Dr. Moore, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) decision. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.2 Consideration of Charter Amendment Request - Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter**

Presenter: Tim Johnston

Description: The Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter is requesting an amendment to absorb Capital City Lighthouse and Pine Bluff Lighthouse into the Jacksonville charter, to change the name to Arkansas Lighthouse Academies and to request additional waivers.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton requested the CAP voting sheets be included in future packets. Ms. Webb will email them to SBE members. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel (CAP) decision. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.3 Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Waivers (7-12 Grades)**

#### **B.3.a. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Plan - South Conway County School District.**

Presenter: Stacy Smith

Description: The South Conway County School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.3.b. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Riverside School District**

Description: The Riverside School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the waiver for one (1) year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.3.c. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Plan - Kirby School District**

Description: The Kirby School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.3.d. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – East End School District**

Description: The East End School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously

### **B.4 Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Waivers (Arkansas River Consortium)**

#### **B.4.1. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - White Hall School District**

Description: The White Hall School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Arkansas River Coop Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.4.2. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Sheridan School District**

Description: The Sheridan School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Arkansas River Coop Consortium and Canvas Learning Management. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through the consortium for K-6 and the Sheridan School District for grades 7-12. Class size and teaching load waivers are requested for grades 7-12 for this digital learning plan. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.4.3. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Stuttgart School District**

Description: The Stuttgart School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 5-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas (7-12). Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the district for 5-12 and by Virtual Arkansas for 9-12 for additional courses. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Sutton moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B.5 Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Waivers (Dawson ESC Consortium)**

### **B.5.1. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Centerpoint School District**

Description: The Centerpoint School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Dawson Education Service Coop Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through the consortium Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.5.2. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Bismarck School District**

Description: The Bismarck School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 1-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Dawson Education Coop consortium and by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver is requested; however, teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.5.3. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Arkadelphia School District**

Description: The Arkadelphia School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Dawson ESC consortium Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through the coop and Virtual



Arkansas. Class size waiver is requested for K-6; however teaching load waiver is not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Rankin, to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B.6 Act 1240 Digital Learning Applications and Waivers**

### **B.6.1. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program - Alma School District**

Description: The Alma School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Edgenuity and Apex. District teachers will act as facilitators and will be licensed and employed by Alma School District. Class size waiver will be required for this digital learning request; however, teaching load is not required. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Mr. Sutton, seconded by Ms. Newton, moved to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.6.2. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – Bald Knob School District**

Description: The Bald Knob School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Wilbur D. Mills Coop consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the coop and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver will be required for this digital learning request; however, teaching load is not required. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Dr. Rankin, seconded by Dr. Hill, moved to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B.6.3. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – Deer/Mt. Judea School District**

Description: The Deer/Mt. Judea School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas (9-12). Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the district for K-8 and by Virtual Arkansas for 9-12. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. Newton, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved to approve the waiver for one (1) year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.6.4. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – El Dorado School District**

Description: The El Dorado School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer daily synchronous learning with asynchronous resources through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district. Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the district for daily synchronous sessions. Class size and teaching load waivers are requested; however current numbers do not indicate the district will go over the maximum numbers. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.6.5. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – Brookland School District**

Description: The Brookland School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the district and by Edgenuity. Teachers are Arkansas certified and provided by the district for Science of Reading instruction and by Edgenuity. Class size and teaching load waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved to approve the waiver for two (2) years. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **B.6.6. Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver request for a Digital Learning Program – Elkins School District**

Description: The Elkins School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 3-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Northwest Arkansas Education Coop Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided through the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load waivers will not be required for this digital learning request. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

State Board members asked clarifying questions. Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Sutton, moved to approve the waiver for three (3) years. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report**

Presenter: Joel Lookadoo

**Board Member Reports**

Presenter: Dr. Fitz Hill

**Secretary's Report**

Presenter: Johnny Key

**Adjournment**

Ms. Dean adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid*

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Charisse Dean  
Chair

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Johnny Key  
Secretary