

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
May 12, 2022**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Susanna Post, 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Randy Henderson, Steve Sutton, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

Present via ZOOM: Adrienne Woods, Kathy McFetridge, Dr. Beth Anne Rankin

Absent: Charisse Dean

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, May 12, 2022, in the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Auditorium. Chair Ouida Newton, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM, led by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

**PAEMST Awardees for 2019 and 2020**

Ms. Michele Snyder, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Science Program Manager presented the Presential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (PAEMST).

PAEMST are the highest honors bestowed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

The Awards were established by Congress in 1983 and the President may recognize up to 108 exemplary teachers each year. Awards are given to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and/or computer science teachers from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories.

**2019 PAEMST Mathematics and Science Awardees, Grades 7-12 Cycle**

Math Category: Melodie Murray, Pocahontas High School, Pocahontas, AR  
Ms. Murray teaches general and AP high school mathematics courses, grades 10-12. Additionally, Ms. Murray is a National Board Certified teacher.

Science Category: Mary Beth Hatch, Harrison Middle School, Harrison, AR  
Ms. Hatch taught Environmental and Spatial Technology EAST, grades 6-8 and currently leads the STEM Model Program for the DESE Office of Learning Services.

## **2020 PAEMST Mathematics and Science Awardees, Grades K-6 Cycle**

Math Category: Lindsay Hall, Bernice Young Elementary, Springdale, AR  
Mrs. Hall teaches all subject areas in grade 3.

Science Category: Lisa Taylor, Willis D. Shaw Elementary, Springdale, AR  
Mrs. Taylor teaches all subject areas in grade 5. Additionally, Ms. Taylor is a National Board Certified teacher.

## **2022 National Youth Science Camp Delegates**

Ms. Michele Snyder, DESE Science Program Manager presented the 2022 National Youth Science Camp Delegates.

National Youth Science Camp (NYSCamp) is an all-expense paid program proudly hosted in West Virginia since 1963 for students from across the nation. The NYSCamp is operated by the National Youth Science Foundation and honors high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 NYSCamp will be a virtual experience including world-class lectures, directed studies, and seminars with prestigious and up-and-coming STEM professionals who are making a difference in their fields of study and changing the world for good. The camp will also provide significant opportunities for delegates to interact and engage with STEM professionals, camp staff, and other delegates in exciting, fun, and meaningful ways.

## **2022 Arkansas High School Senior Delegates**

Samera Orrantia, Hillcrest High School, Strawberry, AR  
Alexander Soto, Springdale High School, Springdale, AR

## **Changes to the Agenda**

### **Added:**

Hackett School District Act 1240 Waiver Request

A motion to add Hackett School District Act 1240 Waiver Request to the Action agenda as Item VI.5. was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Public Comment:**

A motion to allow public comment was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Pulled from the Consent Agenda and added to New Business:**

Item V.3. Review of Loan and Bond Application

## Consent Agenda

Items included for consideration in the Consent Agenda were as follows:

1. Minutes 03-10-22
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Review Loan and Bond Application
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 Standard Board for Case #22-083 LeAnn Alexander
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standard Board for Case #22-054 Shawn Schouweiler
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standard Board for Case #22-085 Eric Arrington

A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda, minus Review of Loan and Bond Application. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

## Action Agenda A.

### VI.1. Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY23 – Agency Grant Awards

Ms. Lori Bridges, Director of ABC Programs presented Item VI.1. Present was Dr. Kiffany Pride, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Office of Learning Services.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the DESE Office of Learning Services - Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) respectfully requests approval of the ABC Renewal Grants for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$105,431,010.

A motion was made to approve of the ABC Renewal Grants for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$105,431,010 was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

## **VI.2. Consideration of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY23 – Professional Services Grant**

Ms. Lori Bridges, Director of ABC Programs presented Item VI.2.; present was Dr. Kiffany Pride, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Office of Learning Services.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the DESE Office of Learning Services - Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) respectfully requests approval of the ABC Professional Service Grants for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$6,514,219.10.

A motion was made to approve of the ABC FY23 Professional Services Grant for the 2022-2023 school year in the total amount of \$6,514,219.10 was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

## **VI.3. Consideration of Charter School Amendments**

Charter school amendments for Items VI.3.a. and VI.3.b. were presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter.

### **VI.3.a. Founders Classical Academy Charter Amendment**

Presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter. Present via ZOOM was Ms. Susan Provenza, State Director of Classical Schools.

Founders Classical Academy is requesting to add a new virtual building with statewide enrollment and to increase the enrollment cap from 2,500 to 3,000. The charter expires June 30, 2028.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the Founders Classical Academy Charter amendment was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.3.b. Premier High Schools of Arkansas Charter Amendment**

Presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter. Present via ZOOM was Mr. Dennis Felton, Responsive Education Solutions Team – AR State Director and Mr. Curtis Shack, Executive Director of Data and Systems Management.

Premier High Schools of Arkansas is requesting to add a new virtual building with statewide enrollment and to increase the enrollment cap from 625 to 875.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the Premier High Schools of Arkansas Charter amendment was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

### **VI.3.c. Hackett School District 1240 Waiver Request**

Item VI.3.c. presented by Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, ADE Deputy Commissioner. Present via ZOOM were Mr. Edward Ray, Superintendent and Dr. Monica Riley, University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

The Hackett School District requests an Act 1240 waiver of 1-A-5 Class Size and 1-A-6 Teacher Load for five years for Hackett Elementary School for grade 5, effective school year 2022-2023.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for Hackett School District for Hackett Elementary School for grade 5 for five years was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

## **VII. Action Agenda B.**

### **VII.1. For Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions**

Item VII.1. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, DESE Attorney Specialist.

The State Board gave its final approval of the DESE Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions on March 10, 2022. Prior to approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council, an additional change was recommended and incorporated in the rules at Section 3-5.00. The Division requests final approval of the rules.

A motion of final approval of the DESE Rules Governing Arkansas Military Child School Transitions with a change at Section 3-5.00 to incorporate the paragraph, "the Division will cooperate with the Council for Military Children to develop a guidance document to assist parents with the application and provisions of the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act and the rules" was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin.

## **New Business**

Item VIII.1. Review of Loan and Bond Application, pulled from the Consent Agenda and added to New Business to discuss Western Yell County School District. Mr. Greg Rogers, ADE Assistant Commissioner of Fiscal & Administrative Services was present to address State Board member concerns. Present via ZOOM was Ms. Deanna Klaus, Superintendent and Mr. Ray Beardsley, school financial advisor.

A motion to approve Item VIII.1. Review and Bond Application was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

## **Public Comments**

- Mr. Julius Wright
- Ms. Charlene Wright
- Ms. Trammell Howell
- Mr. Alfred Carroll
- Rosalind Mouser
- Donna Barnes
- Earlene Collins
- Virginia Hymes
- Amanda Roat-Barron
- Vernice Terry
- Mattie Collins
- Chanda Griffin

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:49 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

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**Johnny Key, Commissioner  
Ex-Officio Secretary**

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**Ouida Newton, Chair  
State Board of Education**