

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, November 12, 2020, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Chair Ms. Charisse Dean called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Charisse Dean, Chair; Mr. Brett Williamson, Vice-Chair (via Zoom); Dr. Sarah Moore; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Ms. Ouida Newton; Mr. Steve Sutton; Ms. Susan Chambers (via Zoom); Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Absent: Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

**Resolutions**

Presenter: Charisse Dean

**Computer Science Week**

Description: December 7 through 13, 2020 has been declared to be National Computer Science Education Week by Code.org, the Computer Science for All Initiative, and other nationally recognized entities.

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

Dr. Moore 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. 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
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 20-042 Tefilo Sharp

**Action Agenda A**

Presenter: Charisse Dean

**A-1 State Board Status Review of PLSB 17-193 Jerri Lyn Odom**

Presenter: Amy Douglas

Description: At the October 2019 State Board meeting, the State Board ordered a review date to evaluate completion of the conditions of Ms. Odom's one year license suspension. Ms. Odom is represented by attorney Mr. Jim Hensley.

Managing Attorney Ms. Amy Douglas noted Ms. Odom's license was suspended and she was ordered to complete drug treatment via State Board order. Mr. Hensley stated that Ms. Odom has no insurance and could not afford drug treatment but has attended AA meetings and received other counseling and support. She has passed five drug tests in recent months.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to accept Ms. Odom's treatment as effective for the order. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-2 State Board Review of PLSB 20-002 Ethics Hearing Committee Recommendation - Katrina Alumbaugh**

Presenter: Amy Douglas

Description: Ms. Alumbaugh holds a teacher's license issued by the State Board of Education. Ms. Alumbaugh 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. Alumbaugh is represented by attorney Mr. Matthew Campbell.

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno introduced the item and procedures.

Mr. Campbell stated that he and Ms. Alumbaugh agree that discipline of some type is acceptable but revocation is too harsh. He noted there was no finding of criminal activity by the Arkansas State Police and no child maltreatment finding by DHS.

Ms. Alumbaugh was sworn in by Ms. Dean.

Ms. Douglas reviewed the findings of the PLSB investigation and hearing.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to accept the PLSB finding of fact. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, for a determination of violation of Standards 1 and 2. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to accept the sanctions recommended by PLSB of a \$500 fine and revocation of teaching license. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A-3 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions**

Presenter: Tracy Webb

- a. Approval of District Conversion Charter School Application - Cave City Middle School Career and Collegiate Preparatory**

Description: In October 2020, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the district conversion charter school application for Cave City Middle School Career and Collegiate Preparatory for a period of five years. The school will serve a maximum of 375 students in grades 6-8 and will offer a traditional/hybrid program, as well as, an online program for students. Cave City High School is also a district conversion charter school.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions of Cave City Charter Director Dr. Cheryl Bell.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Approval of District Conversion Charter School Application - Batesville Charter High School**

Description: In October 2020, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the district conversion charter school application for Batesville Charter High School for a period of five years. The school will serve a maximum of 2000 students in grades 9-12 and will offer career pathways that will increase opportunities for students to expand their career and college options.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Douglas.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

**c. Approval of District Conversion School Application - Academies of Rivercrest High School**

Description: In October 2020, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the district conversion charter school application for the Academies of Rivercrest High School for a period of five years. The school will serve a maximum of 500 students in grades 9-12 through an academy model, allowing for unique educational experiences and opportunities based on student interest. The model includes academies for freshmen, agriculture, technology, general education and virtual learning.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions of Assistant Superintendent Mr. Harry Alvis.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

**d. Approval of District Conversion School Application - Vilonia Pathways Academy**

Description: In October 2020, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the district conversion school charter school application for Vilonia Pathways Academy for a period of five years. The school will serve a maximum of 700 students in grades K-12 and will offer an online core content curriculum, in addition to, service learning instruction and differentiated pathways to develop workplace skills.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cathy Riggins.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

**e. Approval of District Conversion Charter School Application - Driven Virtual Academy (Pulaski County Special School District)**

Description: In October 2020, the Charter Authorizing Panel approved the district conversion school charter application for Driven Virtual Academy for a period of five years. The school will serve a maximum of 900 students in grades K-12 through a 100% virtual program.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions of Superintendent Dr. Charles McNulty and Virtual Program Coordinator Rachel Blackwell.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, not to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-4 Request for approval of assessment for Succeed Scholarship Program: KTEA-3**

Presenter: Courtney Salas-Ford

Description: Ark. Code Ann. 6-41-903(d)(1)(A) requires private schools participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program to "administer annually or make provisions for a student participating in the Succeed Scholarship Program to take a nationally recognized norm-referenced test as established by the state board". The KTEA-3 is not on the current list of approved assessments. The Hannah School has requested approval from the Board to use the KTEA-3 to meet the statutory requirement.

State Board Members asked clarifying questions.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the assessment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Agenda B**

**B-1 Consideration of Request for Final Approval: DESE Rules Governing Special Education and Related Services, Sec. 18.00 Residential Placement**

Presenter: Courtney Salas-Ford

Description: These Rules were amended to incorporate the changes of Act 523 of 2019. A public comment hearing was held on February 12, 2020. Public comments were received, but did not result in substantive changes to the Rules. DESE staff respectfully requests that the State Board grant final approval for these Rules.

Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, for final approval. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

There were no new business items.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Dean adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

*Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid*

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

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