

Minutes
State Board Meeting
DATE: June 9, 2022

PRESENT: Post, Woods, Henderson, Sutton, Key, Ouida, Moore, Dean, Rankin, Hill

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair, Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair; Randy Henderson, Charisse Dean; Dr. Fitz Hill; Susanna Post, 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Adrienne Woods; Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

Present via ZOOM: Kathy McFetridge

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, June 9, 2022, in the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Auditorium. Chair Ouida Newton, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Recognition

The State Board recognized the incoming Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jessica Saum.

The State Board also recognized exiting State Board members for their service on the State Board: Ms. Charisse Dean and Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, as well as exiting 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Ms. Susana Post.

Changes to the Agenda

Pulled:

VII.2 Request for Waiver LA-22-009; Clark, Colburn

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes 05-12-22
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. Review Loan and Bond Applications

A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

VII. Action Agenda

VII.1. 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, 2022

Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure presented Items VII.1. Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the Professional Licensure Board (PLSB) serve rotating terms and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. The Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education voted to nominate for reappointment Dr. Donny Lee from Harding University and Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott from the University of Central Arkansas. On behalf of the Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators (ArkASPA), Brandie Williams, ArkASPA President nominates for reappointment Dr. Karen Lasker. Luanne Baroni is being nominated for reappointment by the Arkansas Public School Resource Center. The term of these members is to begin immediately upon appointment and end on June 30, 2025.

A motion was made to approve three member Professional Licensure Board reappointments through June 30, 2025: Dr. Donnie Lee, Harding University; Dr. Karen Lasker, Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators; and Luanne Baroni. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Charisse Dean. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.3. El Dorado School District Act 1240 Waivers Request

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, ADE Deputy Commissioner, presented Item VII.3. Present via ZOOM were Dr. Jim Tucker, Superintendent and Ms. Melissa Powell, Assistant Superintendent.

The El Dorado School District requests a waiver of teacher licensure for its Yokum Elementary School (K-4), Hugh Goodwin Elementary School (K-4), Northwest Elementary School (K-4), Washington Middle School (5-6), Barton Junior High School (7-8), and El Dorado High School (9-12).

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Waiver for El Dorado School District for Yokum Elementary was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.4. Consideration of Friendship Aspire Amendment Request

Ms. Dorie Summons, Director, Public Charter School and Ms. Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, presented Item VII.4. Ms. Virginia Perry, Development Director was present via ZOOM.

The Charter is requesting to:

- Merge Friendship Aspire Pine Bluff, Friendship Aspire Little Rock and Friendship Aspire Southeast Pine Bluff.
- Change grade levels served from grades 10-12 to grades 5-12.
- Increase the enrollment cap for Southeast Pine Bluff from twenty-five (25) student to seventy-five (75) students.

A motion to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of Friendship Aspire Academy Public Charter School's amendment request was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.5. Final Standards for Accreditation Status for 2021-2022

Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter presented Item VII.5.

The recommended 2021-2022 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. All districts and schools are Accredited (Pending).

A motion to approve the final Standards for Accreditation for 2021-2022 was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Charisse Dean. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.6. For Public Comment Release: DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools

Ms. Cristy Park, DESE Attorney Specialist presented item VII.6. Present via ZOOM were Ms. Jerri Clark, DESE School Health Services Director and Ms. Sheila Chastain, DESE Associate Director of Child Nutrition.

DESE seeks State Board approval to release for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval, the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools.

A motion to release the Division of Elementary & Secondary Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval, was made by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.7. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans

Item VII.7. was presented by Ms. Deborah Coffman, Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability. Ms. Coffman advised that of the 201 (170 school districts; 31 charter schools) Act 1240 digital learning plans approved by the State Board, 46 of them had expired at the end of the school year. Districts were provided the opportunity to reapply and update/revise their plans, if needed. Moreover, no new plans were added.

Mr. Don Benton, Assistant Commissioner of Research & Technology advised the State Board regarding the DESE review process.

Ms. Tally Harp, Public School Accountability and Standards Support, presented Items VII.7.a. – VII.7.c.

VII.7a. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans - Booneville

Ms. Tally Harp, Public School Accountability and Standards Support, presented Item VII.7.a. Mr. Trent Goff, Superintendent, was present via ZOOM.

The Booneville 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 Guy Fenter Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size, teaching load, and recess waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a plan approved for one year for the 2021-2022 school year. The only revision made to that plan was to request for three additional years.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan for Booneville School District through the 2023-2024 school year was made by Ms. Charisse Dean, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.7b. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans – Greene County Tech

Ms. Tally Harp, Public School Accountability and Standards Support, presented Item VII.7.b. Mr. Scott Gerrish, Superintendent and Ms. Kathy Bolin, former Greene County Tech math teacher, were present via ZOOM.

The Greene County Tech 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 TRVP Consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a plan approved for three years that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to change from Edgenuity to TRVP for 3-6 and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan for Greene County Tech School District through the 2023-2024 school year was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Beth Anne Rankin. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.7c. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans – Cave City

Ms. Tally Harp, Public School Accountability and Standards Support, presented Item VII.7.c. Mr. Steve Green, Superintendent, supported by Ms. Kathy Bolin, former Greene County Tech math teacher, were present via ZOOM.

The Cave City School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-8. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the TRVP Consortium. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium. Teaching load waiver is not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a plan approved for three years that would have expired in the 2023-2024 school year. The district made revisions to add grades 7-8 to TRVP and to add an additional year to the approved plan.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan for Greene County Tech School District through the 2023-2024 school year was made by Ms. Charisse Dean, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VII.7d. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Plans - Jacksonville

Ms. Tally Harp, Public School Accountability and Standards Support, presented Item VII.7.d. Ms. Janice Walker, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, was present via ZOOM.

The Jacksonville 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 for K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas. Teaching load and class size waivers are not requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a plan approved for one year that expired in the 2021-2022 school year. The district made revisions to change grades 7-12 from district provided to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion to approve the Act 1240 Digital Learning Plan for Jacksonville School District through the 2023-2024 school year was made by Ms. Charisse Dean, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 2:08 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Johnny Key
ADE Secretary

Ouida Newton, Chair
State Board of Education