

**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Thursday, October 8, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, October 8, 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 10:03 a.m. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

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

Absent: Mr. Brett Williamson, Vice-Chair

**Resolutions**

Dr. Cheryl May thanked Governor Asa Hutchinson for his commitment to school safety. She read the resolution for Arkansas Safe Schools Week and the Governor's proclamation for National Bullying Prevention Month in Arkansas.

Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford introduced Ms. Suzanne Jones as the new School Safety Coordinator for the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Woods, to approve the Arkansas Safe Schools Week resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Consent Agenda**

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 # 20-117 Angie Huff
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case# 20-139 Delton Brown

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Agenda A**

**A-1 State Board Hearing of Revocation of License- LA 20-08 Steven Barnett**

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

Mr. Barnett reviewed the background of his case. He said in 2009 he was charged with conspiracy to defraud the government on a First Time Home Buyer Loan. He thanked the State Board for the opportunity to speak.

Managing Attorney Ms. Amy Douglas said he was found guilty in 2014 and was sentenced to a three year probation. However, for whatever reason this information was not uploaded to the Division system. It was later determined that he had a disqualifying offense. She explained the options in this case.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. Chamber, to grant the waiver to Mr. Barnett. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-2 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision to Approve Amendment Request for Arkansas Virtual Academy**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said in September the Charter Authorizing Panel approved an amendment request for Arkansas Virtual Academy to increase the enrollment cap from 4,000 to 5,500. By a unanimous vote, the Panel voted to approve the request.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to not review. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Bryant School District is requesting a one year Standards for Accreditation waiver for library media specialist ratio for the 2020-2021 school year.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Woods moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Shirley School District is requesting a one year Standards for Accreditation waiver for Kindergarten class size. The District is one student over the allowed limit.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-5 Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver Request - Siloam Springs School District**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Siloam Springs School District is requesting educator licensure and class size and teaching load.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Deputy Commission Dr. Ivy Pfeffer explained the inconsistencies of the verbiage regarding options for students. Staff Attorney

Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt explained all the options for this item.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the educator licensure waiver. The motion passed unanimously. The class size and teaching load waiver request will come back before the State Board during the November meeting.

#### **A-6 Consideration of Act 1240 District Waiver Request - Batesville School District**

Coordinator of Monitoring and Systems Support Ms. Tracy Webb said the Batesville School District is requesting a one year waiver for daily and weekly planning periods for grades 6-12.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Hester said the district has gone to an A/B block schedule which includes 80 minutes of planning time every other day for their teachers. He said it averages around 200 minutes over the course of two week; however, when reading the law literally, the district is in violation of the requirements.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve with the understanding that the district will provide 200 minutes of planning time per week per each teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **A-7 Consideration of Request for Waiver to Implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said on June 29, 2020, the State Board granted certain waivers to public school districts and charter schools providing the necessary flexibility for implementation of the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model. One of the waivers granted was for Ark. Code Ann. 6-16-102(a)(5), which requires 40 minutes of recess daily. At the time, this requirement had not yet been added to rules so no waiver of rules was necessary. The DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools have now been updated to include the recess requirement and became effective October 1st. She said it is necessary to provide a waiver of sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the rules, which correspond to the section of law already waived, to continue to offer public schools flexibility.

State Board members asked clarifying questions.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Sutton, to approve the waiver request. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports**

### **Board Member/Liaison Reports**

Ms. Chambers noted that there are openings on NASBE's finance committee and encourage her fellow board members to consider the opportunity.

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

Mr. Lookadoo discussed his involvement in the 2021 Arkansas Teacher of the Year classroom observation of the top 4 finalists. He also discussed the Teacher Leadership Institute held at the Winthrop Rockefeller. He noted that many teachers in attendance appreciated being treated like professional while they were in attendance and that it meant a lot to those in attendance.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Key invited Public School Program Advisor Ms. Susan Jobe, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, and Director of Office of Coordinated Support and Service Ms. Stacy Smith to provided updates. Ms. Jobe discussed the G.U.I.D.E. for Life curriculum. Dr. Pfeffer provided updates on items such as federal grants, the DESE call center, TESS Support for Virtual Educations, Cyber AWARE Month, the CTE playbook, and ENGAGE Arkansas. Ms. Smith provided updated for school districts under state control. State Board members asked clarifying questions.

The State Board decided to meet at 9 a.m. November 13, 2020, to receive an overview of the Dollarway School District. There will also be a work session at 10 a.m. December 1, 2020, to review all the information that was presented at State Board meetings.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Woods moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 P.M.