

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
May 11, 2023**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair; Adrienne Woods; Kathy Rollins; Lisa Hunter; Dr. Fitz Hill; Jeff Wood, Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary.

Attended via ZOOM: Randy Henderson; Steve Sutton

Absent: Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, May 11, 2023. Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

Item III. Teacher Appreciation Week

Item III. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Mr. Ross White, Director, Division of Career and Technical Education.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12, 2023. Two new up-and-coming teachers, Ms. Lacie Langdon, and Ms. Cadence Ray, as well as their teacher, Ms. Mandy Wolf, Introduction to Teaching and Educational Technology Instructor, Beebe High School were recognized.

Changes to the Agenda

Pulled from Consent Agenda and Moved to Action Agenda

Item VI.2. 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 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to Item V of the Action Agenda.

Action Agenda

V.1. Consideration of Standards for Accreditation Waivers

Item VI.1. was presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, Coordinator for Standards and Systems Support.

V.1.a. Wynne School District Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request

Item V.1.a. was presented by Dr. Sutherlin. Also present via ZOOM was Dr. Kenneth Moore, Superintendent.

Wynne School District is requesting a Standards for Accreditation 1-A.4 waiver of 178 instructional days due to the tornado, which devastated the community on March 31, 2023.

A motion to approve the Wynne School District Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

V.1.b. Woodlawn School District Standards for Accreditation Waiver Request

Item V.1.b. was presented by Dr. Sutherlin. Also present was Mr. Kevin Hancock, Superintendent.

Woodlawn School District is requesting a one (1) year 1-A.5 Class Size Standards for Accreditation waiver for the 2022-2023 school year. The waiver is for a second-grade class that exceeds the maximum class size by one (1) student.

A motion to approve the Woodlawn School District Waiver Request for the remainder of this school year for only one class was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

V.2. Consideration of Extension of Act 1240 Waiver: Brinkley School District

Item V.2. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, ADE Deputy Commissioner. Also present was Dr. Brenda Poole, Superintendent.

The Brinkley School District (District) is seeking waivers for Educator Licensure and Library Media Specialist Licensure. The District is seeking waivers for a three-year period (through the end of the 2025-26 school year).

A motion to approve the Brinkley School District Act 1240 Waiver Extension for one (1) year for Educator Licensure and Library Media Specialist Licensure was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. 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, 2023

Item V.3. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, ADE Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the Professional Licensure Standards Board serve rotating terms and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations. Ms. Melissa Speers, Superintendent of Jessieville School District, has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA) to represent public school superintendents and the AAEA membership. This position is being vacated by Dr. Andrea Martin whose term expires June 30, 2023. The term of this member is to begin immediately upon appointment and end on June 30, 2026.

A motion to the appointment of Ms. Melissa Speers to the Professional Licensure Standards Board, effective June 30, 2023, through June 30, 2026, was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V.4. Consideration for Final Release: DESE Rules Governing School Counseling Programs

Item V.4. was presented by Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel and Andrea Fortner, DESE Coordinator-Guidance and Counseling.

The Rules Governing School Counseling Programs were released by the State Board for public comment and approved by the Governor's Office. Following public comment, non-substantive changes were made. The rules are before the Board for final approval.

A motion of final approval of the DESE Rules Governing School Counseling Programs was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

V. 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

Item V. was presented by Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, ADE Deputy Commissioner.

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-17-309 requires local school districts to secure a waiver when classrooms are staffed with unlicensed teachers for longer than 30 days. Requests were received from schools in 8 districts for a total of 10 waivers. There were also requests for long-term substitutes from 36 school districts requesting a total of 88 waivers for long-term substitutes. These requests have been reviewed, were either approved or denied by Department staff, and are consistent with program guidelines.

A motion to hear public comment was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

Public comments were heard from Ms. Audie Alumbaugh.

A motion to approve the long-term substitutes list, except for those listed as part of Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative (Arch Ford Co-op), was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

Dr. Pfeffer will report to the State Board on Arch Ford Co-op long-term-substitute alternative education learning investigation results at the June State Board meeting.

The State Board requested, in the future, information on long-term substitutes for separate consideration, similar to what is submitted on Additional Licensure Plans (ALPs).

A motion was made to approve the ALP report and waivers was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes
2. Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309 – Moved to Action Agenda
3. Reallocation of Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) FY23 Slots
4. Review of Loan and Bond Applications
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 22-126 David Clark
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-063 Donald Joseph Eveld, Jr.
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-055 Leisha Nicole Jones
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-001 Kaitlyn Barnes (A.K.A. Kaitlyn Raines)

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except Report on Waivers to School Districts for teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309, which was moved to the Action Agenda, was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

New Business

None

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the State Board meeting was made by Dr. Fitz Hill, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 11:17 AM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Ouida Newton, Chair
State Board of Education

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