

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
July 13, 2023
Auditorium - ADE**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Steve Sutton, Jeff Wood, Capri Salaam, 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio Secretary.

Absent: Ms. Adrienne Woods

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, July 13, 2023. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

None

Changes to the Agenda

Pulled

Action Agenda:

V.1.a. School Choice Appeal – Lease

V.1.e. School Choice Appeal - Robinson

Action Agenda

V.1. School Choice Appeals under the Public School Choice Act of 2015

Each appeal under this section was timely filed. Each appeal comes to the State Board of Education due to the nonresident district denying the applicant on the basis of lack of capacity.

V.1.a. School Choice Appeal – Lease

Pulled

V.1.b. School Choice Appeal - Camp

Item V.1.b. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney Specialist. Also present was the Camp family and:

Nonresident school district – Des Arc School District: Mr. Marc Sherrell, Superintendent

Resident school district – Hazen School District: Mr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their school choice application by the nonresident school district, Des Arc, due to lack of capacity. The resident school district is the Hazen School District.

A motion to grant the appeal for the student to transfer to Des Arc School District was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

V.1.c. School Choice Appeal - Jones

Item V.1.c. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney Specialist. Also present was the Jones family and:

Nonresident school district: Des Arc School District

Mr. Marc Sherrell, Superintendent

Resident school district: Hazen School District

Mr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their school choice application by the nonresident school district, Des Arc, due to lack of capacity. The resident school district is the Hazen School District.

A motion to grant the appeal for the student to transfer to Des Arc School District was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V.1.d. School Choice Appeal – Robinson (Ward)

Item V.1.d. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney Specialist. Also present was the Ward family.

Nonresident school district: Pulaski County Special School

Mr. George (Jay) Bequette, Jr., Bequette Billingsley Kees (BBK) Law and colleague,

Mr. Phillip Brick; via ZOOM: Dr. Janice Warren, Assistant Superintendent – School Choice Administrator/Pupil Services and Equity

Resident School District: Jacksonville North Pulaski School District

via ZOOM: Dr. Jeremy Owoh, Superintendent

The family appeals the rejection of their school choice application by the nonresident school district, Pulaski County Special School District, due to lack of capacity. The resident school district is the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District.

A motion to grant the appeal for the student to transfer to Pulaski County School District was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

V.1.e. School Choice Appeal - Robinson

Pulled

V.2. Consideration of Request for Act 1240 Waiver by Jacksonville North Pulaski School District

Item V.2. was presented by Mr. Stephen Reynolds, DESE Attorney. Also present were Mr. Michael Vincent, Instructional Technology Coordinator and Ms. Lorri Stinnett, School Improvement Specialist. Additionally, present via ZOOM were Dr. Jeremy Owoh, Superintendent; Dr. Janice Walker, Assistant Superintendent-Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. Amanda Picard, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

The Jacksonville North Pulaski School District is seeking three Act 1240 Waivers to continue its digital learning program: 1) attendance, 2) six-hour instructional day, and 3) clock hours and recess. These waivers are only being requested for three years.

A motion to approve the three Act 1240 waivers for three years was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V.3. Recommendation for Accredited - Probation Status for the Cutter Morning Star School District

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel, Ms. Shastady Wagner DESE Attorney Specialist, and Mr. Matthew Sutherlin, Coordinator, Standards and Systems of Support/Charter. Also present was Dr. Nancy Anderson, Superintendent and Ms. Laura Baber, Director of Administrative Support.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education recommends that the Cutter Morning Star School District be placed on Accredited - Probation Status for violation of Standards 2-B.2 which states that "[e]ach public school district shall maintain accurate student attendance records in a format prescribed by the Division." (D/P) and Standard 3-A.3 which states that "[e]ach public school district shall submit accurate and timely reports deemed necessary to assure compliance with federal and state law and the rules of the Division, as requested." (D/C) The Cutter Morning Star School District timely filed an appeal of the Division's recommendation.

Mr. Rhodes confirmed with Mr. Jay Bequette, BBK Law that Cutter Morning Star had legal representation present. Upon confirmation of legal representation, Mr. Rhodes provided Mr. Bequette with an opportunity to speak in response to Dr. Anderson's admissions; Mr. Bequette declined.

A motion to affirm the recommendation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to place Cutter Morning Star on Accredited – Probation Status for violation of Standards 2-B.2 (D/P) and 3-A.3 (D/C) was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to place Cutter Morning Star in Accredited – Probation Status for violation of Standard 2-B.2 (D/P) was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to place Cutter Morning Star in Accredited – Cited Status for violation of Standard 3-A.3 (D/C) was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V.4. Updated Praxis® Tests for Secondary Science and K-12 School Professional Licensure Tests and Cut Scores

Presenter: Karli Saracini

Description: Educational Testing Service (ETS) has updated four 7-12 science Praxis® tests and three K-12 school professional tests currently used by DESE for various educator licenses. DESE recommends adopting updated Praxis® assessments for Life Science/Biology (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Earth Science (7-12), Physics (7-12), Guidance and Counseling (K-12), Library Media Specialist (K-12), and School Psychology Specialist (K-12).

Praxis® Biology (5236) - passing score of 142

Praxis® Chemistry (5246) - passing score of 133

Praxis® Earth and Space Sciences (5572) - passing score of 141

Praxis® Physics (5266) - passing score of 133

Praxis® School Counselor (5422) - passing score of 146

Praxis® School Librarian (5312) (fm. Library Media Specialist) - passing score of 141

Praxis® School Psychologist (5403) - passing score of 142

Item V.4. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

A motion to adopt the updated Praxis cut scores and increased fees was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

V.5. Consideration of Request for Approval of Emergency Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts

Item V.5. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel; Mr. Darrell Smith, Assistant Commissioner - Office of School Choice and Parental Empowerment; and Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education requests approval of Emergency Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts promulgated pursuant to Act 237 of 2023.

A motion to approve the release of Emergency Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

V.6. Consideration of Request for Approval to Release the Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts for Public Comment

Item V.5. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel. Also present was Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

The Department requests approval to release the Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts, promulgated pursuant to Act 237 of 2023, for public comment.

A motion to release the Rules Governing Education Freedom Accounts for public comment was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

V.7. Educational Service Cooperative's Annual Reports

Item V.7. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

On or before August 31 of each year, each education service cooperative shall file with the State Board of Education for the state board's approval an annual report as outlined in Section 21 of ADE Rules Governing Educational Service Cooperatives (8 ESC reports attached)

The State Board heard public comments from Ms. Aldie Alumbaugh.

A motion to table the educational service cooperatives' annual reports until the August State Board meeting and request additional financial information be included in their annual reports, was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes
 - a. Special Board Meeting, 06-01-2023
 - b. Regular State Board Meeting, 06-08-2023
2. Consent for the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Reallocation of FY23 Remaining Funds
3. 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 Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – Dr. Luke Lovins
5. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – J.D. Keeling
6. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – Dudley Webb, III
7. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – Dr. Tiffany Bone
8. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – Hosea Born
9. Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Member for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Member Whose Term is Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2023 – Brandi Cheers
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-060 Jennifer Hill
11. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-082 Brittney Harrod
12. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-110 Steffeny Tacker
13. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 23-071 Keilan Patterson
14. Consideration of Premier High School of Arkansas Amendment Request
15. Consideration of Arkansas Virtual Academy Charter School Amendment Request

Instructions for pulling a Consent Agenda item were provided by Ms. Shastady Wagner, DESE Attorney Specialist. Present via ZOOM regarding Item 15 of the Consent Agenda was Ms. Mendy Felton, Academic Administrator/Assistant Head of School for Academics, Arkansas Virtual Academy.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

New Business

None

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. Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair adjourned the State Board meeting at 1:44 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Stacy Smith, Ex-Officio
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education