

**Minutes  
State Board Meeting  
June 13, 2024**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods; Capri Salaam, 2023 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary

ZOOM: Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, June 13, 2024. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

**Recognition**

III. Recognition of Siyona Karkera, Miss Arkansas Teen USA 2024

Item III was presented by Jacob Oliva, ADE Secretary.

On April 14, 2024, Pulaski Academy senior, Siyona Karkera, was named Miss Arkansas TEEN USA 2024. The first Indian American to hold this title, Siyona serves as a National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) state youth ambassador and an advocate for children's mental health. Through classroom presentations and education videos, Ms. Karkera's shares her message, positively impacting many Arkansans and others.

**Changes to Agenda**

None

**Action Agenda**

**V.1. Waiver Request for Standards for Accreditation 1-A.4.1**

Items V.1.a. – V.1.e. were presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability.

Districts impacted by severe weather on Memorial Day weekend requested a waiver of Standards for Accreditation 1-A.4.1, each public school shall provide a minimum of 178 days of student teacher interaction time.

A motion to approve the Standards for Accreditation 1-A4.1 Waiver Request for Arkansas Arts Academy; Bentonville School District; Haas Hall Rogers; LISA Academy Rogers; and Rogers Public School District was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.2. Standards for Accreditation Status Recommendations for the 2023-2024 Accreditation Cycle**

Item V.2.a. – V.2.b. were presented by Ms. Hope Worsham, Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability and Ms. Stacy Smity, Deputy Commissioner.

A motion to approve Item V.2.a. Recommendation of Final Accredited Status for Districts was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to approve Item V.2.b. Recommendation of Final Accredited-Cited Status for Districts was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.3. Consideration of Boundary Change Petition by the Prairie Grove School District**

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel. Present was Mr. Shelby Johnson, Director, Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services. Present via Zoom from Prairie Grove School District were Mr. Lance Campbell, Superintendent and Mr. Pete Joenks, Assistant Superintendent. Also present via Zoom was Dr. Mary Ann Spears, Superintendent, Lincoln Consolidated School District.

The Prairie Grove School District filed a petition to change its school district boundary pursuant to Arkansas Code § 6-13-1414. The affected school district is the Lincoln School District, which objected to the petition. The petition by the Prairie Grove School District, the response by the Lincoln School District, as well as maps detailing the affected area prepared by the Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Office were included with the agenda as attachments.

A motion to deny the petition was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion failed with a vote of 2-Yes; 4-No.

ROLL CALL (to deny petition):

Mr. Ken Bragg	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	No
Ms. Leigh Keener	No
Mr. Jeff Wood	No
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes

A motion to table the petition for next month was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. After roll call, the motion unanimously passed.

ROLL CALL (to table the petition):

Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes

#### **V.4. Consideration of Request to Release Administrative Rules for Public Comment**

Items V.4.a. through V.4.f. were presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, Arkansas Code 25-15-201 et. seq, the following six (6) rules were presented for approval to be released for public comment.

##### **V.4.a. DESE Rule Governing Career-Ready Pathways to Diploma**

##### **V.4.b. DESE Rule Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Public School Districts**

##### **V.4.c. DESE Rule Governing the Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites**

##### **V.4.d. DESE Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Rule Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program**

##### **V.4.e. DESE Rule Governing Math Intervention**

##### **V.4.f. DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA)**

A motion to release for public comment the DESE Rule Governing Career-Ready Pathways to Diploma; the DESE Rule Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and Public School Districts; and DESE Rule Governing the Documents Posted to School District and Education Service Cooperative Websites was made by Ms. Adrienne Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Kathy Rollins joined the State Board meeting via Zoom.

A motion to release for public comment the DESE Office of Early Childhood (OEC) Rule Governing the Arkansas Better Chance Program; the DESE Rule Governing Math Intervention; and the DESE Rule Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA) was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

## **V.5. Consideration of Request for Final Approval of Administrative Rules**

Items V.5.a. – V.5.k. were presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The following administrative rules were presented to the State Board for final approval, following a 30-day public comment period.

### **V.5.a. DCTE Rule Governing the Adult Diploma Program**

The DCTE Rule Governing the Adult Diploma Program was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on April 11, 2024. The public comment period began on April 14, 2024, and ended on May 15, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.5.b. DESE OEC Rule Governing the Requirements and Procedures for Obtaining an Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential**

The DESE OEC Rule Governing the Requirements and Procedures for Obtaining an Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024. The public comment period began on May 10, 2024, and ended on June 10, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made.

### **V.5.c. DESE Rule Governing Background Checks**

The DESE Rule Governing Background Checks was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024.

### **V.5.d. DESE Rule Governing the Code of Ethics**

The DESE Rule Governing the Code of Ethics was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024.

### **V.5.e. DESE Rule Governing Maternity Leave Cost Sharing**

The DESE Rule Governing Maternity Leave Cost Sharing was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024.

#### **V.5.f. DESE Rule Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories**

The DESE Rule Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on March 14, 2024. The first comment period ended on April 25, 2024. Based on significant public input and feedback from stakeholders, many substantive changes were made to the rule, necessitating a second round of public comment which ended on June 10, 2024.

A motion to release for final approval the DCTE Rule Governing the Adult Diploma Program; the DESE OEC Rule Governing the Requirements and Procedures for Obtaining an Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential; the DESE Rule Governing Background Checks; the DESE Rule Governing the Code of Ethics; the DESE Rule Governing Maternity Leave Cost Sharing; and the DESE Rule Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.5.g. DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Account Program**

The DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Account Program was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on July 13, 2023. The first public comment period began July 22, 2023, and ended August 28, 2023. Based on significant public input and feedback from stakeholders, many substantive changes were made to the rule, necessitating a second round of public comment. The second public comment period began on April 27, 2024, and ended on May 28, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made. The Division requests the State Board of Education's final approval of the rule.

A motion to release for final approval the DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Account Program was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.5.h. DESE Rule Governing Professional Development**

The DESE Rule Governing Professional Development was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on December 15, 2023. The first public comment period began on December 20, 2023, and ended on January 22, 2024. Based on significant public input and feedback from stakeholders, substantive changes were made to the rule, necessitating a second round of public comment.

#### **V.5.i. DESE Rule Governing School Transformation Contracts**

The DESE Rule Governing School Transformation Contracts was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on April 11, 2024. The public comment period began on April 14, 2024, and ended on May 15, 2024. Public comments were received, and no substantive changes were made. The Division requests the State Board of Education's final approval of the rule.

**V.5.j. DESE Rule Governing Emergency Response Equipment and Training in Arkansas Public Schools**

The DESE Rule Governing Emergency Response Equipment and Training in Arkansas Public Schools was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024.

**V.5.k. DESE Rule Governing Water Safety Information Provided by Public Schools**

The DESE Rule Governing Water Safety Information Provided by Public Schools was approved to be released for public comment by the State Board of Education on May 9, 2024.

A motion to release for final approval the DESE Rule Governing Professional Development; the DESE Rule Governing School Transformation Contracts; the DESE Rule Governing Emergency Response Equipment and Training in Arkansas Public Schools; and the DESE Rule Governing Water Safety Information Provided by Public Schools was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

**V.6. Consideration of Final Approval of Request to Repeal Administrative Rules**

Items V.6.a – V.6.h. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

The following eight (8) administrative rules were presented for final approval to repeal, following a 30-day public comment period. All eight (8) rule repeals were approved to be released for public comment by the State Board on May 9, 2024, and the public comment period for all eight (8) rules began May 10, 2024, and ended June 10, 2024.

**V.6.a. DESE Rule Governing the Educator Compensation Reform Program**

**V.6.b. DESE Rule Governing Eligibility of Participating School Districts in the Traveling Teacher Program**

**V.6.c. DESE Rule Governing Incentives for Teacher Recruitment and Retention in High-Priority Districts**

**V.6.d. DESE Rule Governing Reimbursement by School Districts for Election Expenses**

**V.6.e. DESE Rule Governing School Board Zones and Rezoning**

**V.6.f. DESE Rule Governing School District Duty to Report Student Criminal Acts**

**V.6.g. DESE Rule Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program**

**V.6.h. DCTE Rule Governing Methods of Administration of Career and Technical Education Programs**

A motion of final approval of repeal of administrative DESE Rule Governing the Educator Compensation Reform Program; DESE Rule Governing Eligibility of Participating School Districts in the Traveling Teacher Program; DESE Rule Governing Incentives for Teacher

Recruitment and Retention in High-Priority Districts; DESE Rule Governing Reimbursement by School Districts for Election Expenses; DESE Rule Governing School Board Zones and Rezoning; DESE Rule Governing School District Duty to Report Student Criminal Act; Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program; and the DCTE Rule Governing Methods of Administration of Career and Technical Education Programs was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion passed unanimously passed.

#### **V.7. Request for Approval of Norm-Referenced Tests to Fulfill the Education Freedom Account Testing Requirement for Participating Students**

Item V.7. was presented by Dr. Darrell Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment. Also present was Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

To meet the requirements of Arkansas Code § 6-18-2509(a)(1)(B) and 12.01.2 of the DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Account Program, a list of nationally norm-referenced tests were presented to the State Board for consideration of approval as testing options for students participating in the Educational Freedom Account Program.

A motion to approve the list of Norm-Referenced Tests to fulfill the Educational Freedom Account testing requirement for participating students was made by Mr. Ken Bragg; seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **V.8. Request for Approval of Associations to Accredit Education Freedom Account Participating Private Schools**

Item V.8. was presented by Dr. Darrell Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Office of School Choice and Parent Empowerment. Also present was Ms. Stacy Smith, Deputy Commissioner.

To meet the requirements of Arkansas Code § 6-18-2507(a)(1)(A) and 7.01.2 of the DESE Rule Governing the Educational Freedom Account Program, a list of accrediting associations was presented to the State Board for consideration of approval as accrediting organizations for private schools participating in the program.

A motion to approve the list of Associations to accredit private schools participating in the Educational Freedom Account Program was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods; seconded by Ms. Leigh Keener. The motion passed unanimously passed.

## **V.9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 21-075 Steven Shook**

Item V.9. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present was Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 9, 2024, the State Board requested the Professional Licensure Standards Board recommendation for Case 21-075 Steven Shook be moved from the Consent Agenda to the June Action Agenda. Mr. Steven Shook's attorney was notified of the June State Board hearing date via certified mail.

A motion to find that Mr. Steven Shook violated Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the sanction recommended by the Ethics Hearing Sub-committee and accept DESE's recommendation of permanent license revocation and \$500 fine was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg.

A motion to modify the rationale to state that the educator has two true findings by the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD), very high negative impact on young students (first grade), and multiple students reported inappropriate sexual touching by educator, was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion passed with a vote of 6-yes to 1-no (Mr. Jeff Wood).

Mr. Jeff Wood and Ms. Leigh Keener absent.

## **V.10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-075 Tyler Scott**

Item V.10. was presented by Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney. Also present were Mr. Tyler Scott, educator and Mr. Trey Kitchens, the educator's attorney.

The educator objected to the Ethics Hearing Subcommittee's evidentiary hearing findings and recommendation of April 3, 2024, and requested a review by the State Board.

A motion to find that Mr. Tyler Scott violated Standard 2 of the Code of Ethics was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Kathy Rollins. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion to modify the sanction to probation of license for three (3) years; \$250 fine; all trainings, courses, and books listed in the initial recommendation; written reflection on each training and book due to PLSB 90 days from the date of the order; and quarterly reports due during the period of probation was made by Ms. Kathy Rollins, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion passed with a vote of 4-yes to 1-no (Ms. Adrienne Woods).

A motion to accept the rationale, substituting the word 'bully' with 'intimidate' in every instance except in the Bullying Policy, was made by Mr. Ken Bragg, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.



## V.11. Election of 2024-2025 State Board Officers

Item V.11. was presented by Ms. Adrienne Woods, State Board Nominating Committee. Also present was Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff.

The State Board of Education Nominating Committee, Mr. Randy Henderson, Ms. Lisa Hunter, and Ms. Adrienne Woods, met on June 4, 2024. Ms. Woods presented the Chair and Vice-chair candidates for the 2024-2025 academic year. The term for newly elected officers begins on July 1, 2024, and ends on June 30, 2025.

A motion to re-elect Dr. Sarah Moore as Chair and Ms. Kathy Rollins as Vice-chair as 2024-2025 State Board officers was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### Consent Agenda

1. Minutes – State Board Meeting (Regular Meeting) Minutes 05-09-24
2. Minutes – State Board (Special Meeting) Minutes 05-30-24
3. Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than sixty (60) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-111 Chase Utley
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-165 Kara Lee
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-052 Marian Candace Ashcraft
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-054 Karen Eoff
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-055 Megan Boyce
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-134 Benjamin Liddle
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 24-151 Mark Manry
11. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision for Friendship Aspire Academy North Little Rock
12. Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision for eStem Public Charter School
13. 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, 2024 - Wendy Peer
14. 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, 2024 - Brenda Brown

15. 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, 2024-  
Annette Hux
16. 2024-2025 Embedded Courses

A motion to pull Item VII.3. and move it to the July agenda, requesting justification for the overturning of the revocation sanction, was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, pulling Item VII.3., was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

### **Public Comments**

The State Board heard public comments.

- Mr. Gary Newton
- Charline Wright
- Julius Wright

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 3:21 PM.

*Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.*

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**Jacob Oliva, Secretary**  
**Arkansas Department of Education**

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**Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair**  
**State Board of Education**