

Minutes
State Board Meeting
DATE: August 11, 2022

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair, Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair; Randy Henderson, Steve Sutton, Kathy McFetridge; Dr. Fitz Hill; Adrienne Woods, Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Johnny Key, ADE Secretary

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, August 11, 2022, in the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Auditorium. Chair Ouida Newton, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM, led by a moment of silence.

Recognition

Milken Educator Award Winner

Presented by Venus Torrence, Educator Impact Coordinator, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Mr. Grant Harbison, Band Director, Jonesboro School District was recognized as one of two Milken Award winners, sponsored by the Milken Foundation.

Career and Technical Student Organization National Officers

Presented by Mr. Ross White, Director, Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE), the following three Arkansas CTE students were recognized for election to Career and Technical Student Organization National Offices:

Ms. Lauryn Howard, JAG National Secretary of Little Rock Southwest High School
Ms. Rachael Thumma, HOSA International Executive Council of Bentonville High School
Ms. Reese Owens, FCCLA National Vice President of Community Service of White Hall High School

Changes to the Agenda

Added:

VI.1.b. School Choice appeal – Valencia

A motion was made to add Item VI.1.b to the Action Agenda. The motion was made by, Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes 07-14-22
2. Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
3. 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
4. Review Loan and Bond Applications
Anita Freer provided clarity on millage increase, advising that the millage increase for Bald Knob School District, by special election, failed and will not be moving forward.
5. Embedded Course Approvals 2022-2023
6. Educational Service Cooperatives (ESC) Annual Reports

A motion was made to approve the Consent agenda. The motion was made by, Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

Action Agenda A.

VI.1. School Choice Appeal under the School Choice Act of 2015

Item VI.1.a. – VI.1.b. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagoner, DESE Attorney.

VI.1.a. School Choice Appeal – Hicks

Item VI.1.a. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagoner, DESE Attorney. Also present via ZOOM:

Hicks Family

Nonresident school district - McCrory School District: Mr. Scott Waymire, Superintendent

Resident school district - Augusta School District: Ms. Cathy Tanner, Superintendent

The Hicks family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Augusta School District, denied the transfer based on reaching the 3% cap. The nonresident district is McCrory School District.

A motion was made to approve the appeal for the student transfer to McCrory School District. The motion was made by Ms. McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Item VI.1.b. School Choice - Galeazzi

Item VI.1.b. was presented by Ms. Shastady Wagoner, DESE Attorney. Also present via ZOOM:

Galeazzi Family

Non-resident school district – West Side School District: Dr. Brandi Wallace, Superintendent

Resident school district – Shirley School District: Mr. Aaron Wiggins, Superintendent

The Galeazzi family appeals the rejection of their child's school choice application. The resident district, Shirley School District, denied the transfer based on reaching the 3% cap. The nonresident district is West Side School District.

A motion was made to approve the transfer to McCrory SD. The motion was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.2. Consideration of Request for Act 1240 Waivers

Ms. Lori Freno, DESE Attorney presented Item VI.2.a.

VI.2.a. Springdale School District Act 1240 Waiver

Comments by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Director and State Board questions answered by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter Schools. Present from Springdale School District were:

Dr. Marcia Smith, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation;

Ms. Shannon Tisher, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation (8-12);

and Ms. Kendra Clay, General Council.

The Springdale School District requests district-wide waivers of teacher licensure, as well as class size and teaching load. The Springdale School District seeks these waivers for five years.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for Springdale School District for class size and teacher load for three years was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for Springdale School District for licensure for grades 8-12 for five years was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.2.b. Blytheville School District Act 1240 Waiver

Item VI.2.b. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Melissa Jacks, Public School Program Manager, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure. Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, DESE Deputy Commissioner provided clarification. Present via ZOOM were Dr. Veronica Perkins and staff.

The Blytheville School District requests district-wide waivers of teacher licensure, as well as class size and teaching load. The Blytheville School District seeks this waiver for three years.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for Blytheville School District for teacher licensure for three years was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for three years for Blytheville School District for class size and teacher load to implement Opportunity Culture was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.2.c. Magnolia School District Act 1240 Waiver

Item VI.2.c. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Melissa Jacks, Public School Program Manager, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure. Present was Mr. John "Skipper" Ward, Superintendent.

The Magnolia School District requests a waiver of class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model program. The Magnolia School District is seeking this waiver only for the Fall semester of 2022.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for the Fall semester of 2022 for Magnolia School District for class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model Program was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Adrienne. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.2.d. El Dorado School District Act 1240 Waiver

Item VI.2.d. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Melissa Jacks, Public School Program Manager, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure. Present via ZOOM were Mr. Jim Tucker, Superintendent and Ms. Melissa Powell, Assistant Superintendent.

The El Dorado School District requests a waiver of class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model program. The El Dorado School District is seeking this waiver only for the Fall semester of 2022.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for El Dorado School District for the Fall semester of 2022 for class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model Program was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.2.e. Hope School District Act 1240 Waiver

Item VI.2.d. was presented by Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Melissa Jacks, Public School Program Manager, Educator Effectiveness & Licensure. Present via ZOOM were Mr. Jonathon Crossley, Superintendent, and Ashlea Stewart, Principal, William Jefferson Clinton Primary School.

The Hope School District requests a waiver of class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model program. The Hope School District is seeking this waiver only for the Fall semester of 2022.

A motion was made to approve the Act 1240 waiver for the Fall semester of 2022 for Hope School District for class size and teaching load to implement an Arkansas Teacher Residency Model Program was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Ms. Kathy McFetridge. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.3. Consideration for Cross County High School a New Tech School Amendment Request

Item VI.3. was presented by Dr. Matthew Sutherlin, DESE Office of Public School Accountability, Coordinator of Standards and Systems Support/Charter Schools. Present via ZOOM was Mr. Stephen Prince, Principal, Cross County High School a New Tech School.

Cross County High School a New Tech School is requesting a waiver for Class Size and Teaching Load and Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation.

A motion was made to not review the decision of the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision of approval of the Cross County High School a New Tech School amendment request was made by Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.4. Consideration of Act 1240 Digital Learning Waiver

Ms. Tally Harp, DESE Public School Program Advisor, Office of Public School Accountability presented Item VI.4.

Southside Batesville Charter

The Southside Batesville Charter (JH/HS) has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by the Tri-Region Consortium for grades 7-8 and the district and Virtual Arkansas for grades 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team and approved by the Charter Authorizing Panel.

The district had a three-year approved plan. Revisions were made to change grades 7-8 to TRVP. The plan will expire in the 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made to not review the digital learning plan for two years for Southside Batesville Charter. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

Mountain View School District

The Mountain View 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 Tri-Region Consortium for grades K-8 and Red Comet for grades 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Red Comet. Class size waiver is 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 three-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to add grades K-8 to the Tri-Region consortium.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Mountain View School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Highland School District

The Highland 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 Tri-Region Consortium for grades K-8 and Virtual Arkansas for grades 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver is 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 three-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to add 6-8 to the Tri-Region consortium.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Highland School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Blytheville School District

The Blytheville 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 Tri-Region Consortium for grades K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver is requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a five-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to add grade 6 to the Tri-Region consortium.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Blytheville School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Melbourne School District

The Melbourne 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 Tri-Region Consortium for grades K-8 and Virtual Arkansas for grades 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size waiver is requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a one-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to add grades 6-8 to the Tri-Region consortium.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Melbourne School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Concord School District

The Concord 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 Tri-Region Consortium for K-8 and the district and Edgenuity for 9-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and the district. Class size waiver is 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 one-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to add grades K-2 and TRVP for grades K-8.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for one year for Concord School District. The motion was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Alpena School District

The Alpena School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades 7-12. The program will offer synchronous and asynchronous learning through a virtual approach using curriculum provided by Virtual Arkansas. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Virtual Arkansas. 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 one-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to remove 4-6 and change providers to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for one year for Alpena School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Ozark Mountain School District

The Ozark Mountain 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 grades K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for grades 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the district and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load 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 three-year approved plan. Revisions were made to change grades 7-12 to Virtual Arkansas.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Ozark Mountain School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Prairie Grove School District

The Prairie Grove 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 Lincoln Learning. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by Lincoln Learning. Class size and teaching load waivers are requested. The waiver is being requested through the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team.

The district had a three-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Revisions were made to change the LMS/CMS for K-6 from Florida Virtual to Lincoln Learning.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Prairie Grove School District. The motion was made by Ms. Kathy McFetridge, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. The motion unanimously passed.

Lamar School District

The Lamar 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 for grades K-6 and Virtual Arkansas for grades 7-12. Teachers are Arkansas State Certified and provided by the consortium and Virtual Arkansas. Class size and teaching load 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 one-year approved plan for the 2021-2022 school year. No revisions were made.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Lamar School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

Rector School District

The Rector School District has submitted a Digital Learning Program for students in grades K-6. 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. Class size waiver is requested. The waiver is being requested through the 2024-2025 school year. This application has been reviewed by the DESE team. The district has a one-year approved plan that expired. No revisions were made to the previously approved plan.

A motion was made to approve the digital learning plan for two years for Lamar School District. The motion was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.5. Consideration for emergency promulgation and public comment release: DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure, Sections 1-2.0, 4-5.0, 4-6.0, and 4-8.0 only)

Item VI.5. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE Attorney.

Item VI.5.a. was presented by Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, DESE Deputy Directory, and Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure. A presentation was given by Dr. Joshua McGee, Office of Education Policy, UALR and Chief Data Officer.

The Division requests the State Board approve for emergency promulgation Sections 1-2.0, 4-5.0, 4-6.0, and 4-8.0 of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure, pending Governor's Office approval. DESE also requests that these same sections be released for public comment (for permanent promulgation), pending Governor's Office approval.

A motion to approve release of the DESE Rules Governing Educator Licensure, Sections 1-2.0, 4-5.0, 4-6.0, and 4-8.0 only) for both emergency promulgation and permanent promulgation was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Dr. Fitz Hill. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.6. Helena-West Helena System Analysis

Item VI.6. was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner. Present was Dr. Keith McGee, Superintendent and Ms. Sheila Whitlow, Assistant State Superintendent, DESE Coordinated Support Services.

The State Board of Education directed the DESE to conduct a system analysis of the Helena-West Helena School District after being classified as In Need of Level 5 Support. 802 in Educator Rising Program, per Ms. Karli Saracini, DESE Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

A motion was made to accept the Helena-West Helena System Analysis report was made by Dr. Fitz Hill, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. 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 Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 4:14 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Johnny Key
ADE Secretary

Ouida Newton, Chair
State Board of Education