

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
April 10, 2025**

Present: Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair; Dr. Gary Arnold; Ken Bragg; Randy Henderson; Lisa Hunter; Leigh Keener; Jeff Wood; Adrienne Woods; Beau McCastlain, 2024 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary.

Present via Zoom: Kathy Rollins, Vice-Chair

Call to Order

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, April 10, 2025. Dr. Sarah Moore called the meeting to order at 9:02, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

III.1. 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Awards

Item III.1. was presented by Mr. DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director, Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. Also present to assist was Peyton Bolling, Miss Arkansas' Teen 2025.

Recognized for their support in making the MLK Awards possible were Ms. Capri Salaam, ADE Assistant to the Director - Educator Effectiveness & Licensure and Ms. Mary Perry, ADE Coordinator Special Programs, Office of the Secretary.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announced the following 2025 Education Awards:

1. Dr. King's Legacy of Service to School and Community Award
 - o Dr. Nelson White, Stuttgart School District
2. MLK Lifelong Service to Student Success Award
 - o Ms. Yvonne "Kay" White, Stuttgart School District
3. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parent Engagement and Advocacy Award
 - o Ms. Tonya Johnson Baker, Little Rock School District
4. MLK Advocate for School Services Award
 - o Ms. Annithia Harris, Little Rock School District
5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Leadership in Education Award
 - o Dr. Shoutell Richardson, Little Rock School District
6. MLK Spirit of Service in School Operations Award
 - o Ms. Tequila Mazique, Little Rock School District
7. Martin Luther King, Jr. Champion of Student Support Award
 - o Ms. Aretha Jackson, Little Rock School District
8. MLK Commitment to Community Service in Education Award
 - o Ms. Porsha Arnold, Little Rock School District
9. MLK Community Builder in Education Award
 - o Ms. Karonda Fuller Lowe, Little Rock School District
10. MLK Lifetime Achievement Award
 - o Ms. Lee Etta Lewis

Educators visiting from Taiwan were introduced by Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner – Educator Effectiveness & Licensure; Ms. Yvonne Hsiao, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston - Liaison between the U.S. and Taiwan; Ms. Andrea Shuyang Yang, Director of Education Division; and Mr. Josh Linn, Industry of Foreign Affairs.

III.2. United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) Delegates

Item III.2. was presented by Dr. Kiffany Pride, Assistant Commissioner – Division of Learning Services. Also present was delegate, Ms. Prerana Reddy Kodakandla - Bentonville High School - Bentonville School District and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Venkat Kodakandla. Additionally, present was delegate Mr. Landen Curtis Coursey - Alma High School - Alma School District and his parents Mr. J.D. Coursey, Principal, Alma Middle School, Alma School District and Ms. Bekah Coursey, School Social Worker, Fort Smith School District.

In 1962, the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) was created by Senate Resolution 324. As stated in Senate testimony, the purpose of the USSYP is "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, learn the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Ms. Prerana Kodakandla and Mr. Landen Coursey represented Arkansas during the 63rd Annual USSYP Washington Week Program, held March 1-8, 2025. They were selected from among the state's top student leaders to be part of the national student delegation. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study.

III.3. 2025 Draft Day

Item III.3. was presented by Mr. Ross White, Director, Career & Technical Education.

In partnership with Be Pro Be Proud and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Department of Education partnered to provide the Third Annual Draft Day. The 2025 Draft Day is currently hosting nine events across the state for high school students. With the goal of building tomorrow's workforce and taking students from high school to a Success Ready Pathway, Be Pro Be Proud's Draft Day events match regional employers with graduating seniors for in-person interviews while providing career exploration for underclassmen.

Changes to Agenda

None

Action Agenda

V.1. Consideration for Approval of the Office of Early Childhood Professional Service Grants for FY26

Item V.1. was presented by Ms. Tonya Williams, Director, Office of Early Childhood.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the State Board of Education, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Early Childhood respectfully requested the approval of the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Professional Service Grants in the amount of \$4,723,763.00 and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDF) Professional Service Contracts in the amount of \$12,206,155.27 for a total of \$16,929,918.27.

A motion to approve the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Professional Service Grants in the amount of \$4,723,763.00 and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDF) Professional Service Contracts for FY26 was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Dr. Gary Arnold. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Comments

Senator Alan Clark, District 7 - Garland County

V.2. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 24-051 - Dr. Nancy Anderson

Item V.2. was presented by Ms. Alisha Price, ADE Attorney Specialist. Also present were Ms. Whitney James, ADE Managing Attorney; Mr. Cody Kees, Attorney - Bequette, Billingsley & Kees; Dr. Nancy Anderson, Superintendent, Cutter Morning Star; Ms. Laura Baber, Principal, Cutter Morning Star; and Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner – Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 13, 2025, the State Board requested the move of the Professional Licensure Board recommendation for Case No. 24-051 - Dr. Nancy Anderson, from the Consent Agenda to April's Action Agenda. The hearing was scheduled, and Dr. Anderson's attorney was notified of the hearing date.

A motion to find that Dr. Nancy Anderson, educator, violated Standards 2a., 2b., 3b., 4a., and 4b. of the Code of Ethics was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

Roll Call – Item V.2. Violation of Code of Ethics

Dr. Gary Arnold	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes

A motion to modify the Ethics Hearing Committee's sanction to include a 30-day suspension of educator's license, followed by probation from June 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027, was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion passed with a vote of 5 Yes – 4 No.

Roll Call – Item V.2. Sanction - Modified

Dr. Gary Arnold	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	No
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	No
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No
Dr. Sara Moore	Yes

A motion was made to modify the approved sanction but to include written reflections to be completed before the end of second year of the two-year probationary period and include the \$250 fine was made by Ms. Leigh Keener, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion failed with a vote of 3 Yes to 5 No.

Roll Call – Item V.2. Sanction – Modification

Dr. Gary Arnold	No
Mr. Ken Bragg	No
Mr. Randy Henderson	No
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	No
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No

Another motion was made to accept the recommended sanctions and to include in the previously-approved motion, trainings and written reflections to be completed by the end of the probationary period on June 30, 2027, with suspension to be served from June 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025, and no fine was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Ken Bragg. The motion passed with a vote of 6 Yes to 1 No.

Roll Call – Item V.2. Sanction – Modification

Dr. Gary Arnold	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	No

A motion was made to accept the rationale of the Ethics Evidentiary Hearing Subcommittee was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, seconded by Ms. Adrienne Woods. The motion unanimously passed.

Roll Call – Item V.2. Rationale

Dr. Gary Arnold	Yes
Mr. Ken Bragg	Yes
Mr. Randy Henderson	Yes
Ms. Lisa Hunter	Yes
Ms. Leigh Keener	Yes
Ms. Kathy Rollins	Yes
Mr. Jeff Wood	Yes
Ms. Adrienne Woods	Yes

V.3. Election of 2025-2026 State Board Officers

Item V.3. was presented by Mr. Randy Henderson.

The State Board of Education Nominating Committee (Committee) composed of Mr. Randy Henderson, Ms. Lisa Hunter, and Ms. Adrienne Woods met on March 31, 2025, and shared the Committee's unanimous nominations for the 2025-2026 academic year Chair, Ms. Adrienne Woods and Vice Chair, Ms. Lisa Hunter. The term for newly elected officers begins July 1, 2025, and ends on June 30, 2026.

A motion to elect Ms. Adrienne Woods as Chair and Ms. Lisa Hunter as Vice Chair of the 2025-2026 State Board was made by Mr. Randy Henderson, seconded by Mr. Jeff Wood. The motion unanimously passed.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than sixty (60) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
3. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-024 - Cynthia Russenberger
4. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-121 - Danny R. Marrs Jr.
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-090 - Cheryl Wilson
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-089 - Dylan Richmond
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-122 - Christopher Strode
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-151- Chad Mansfield
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-100 - Jon Sallings
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-111 - Milissa Pennington

Present were Ms. Whitney James, Managing Attorney and Ms. Karli Saracini, Assistant Commissioner – Educator Effectiveness & Licensure.

Pulled

VII.4 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-121 - Danny R. Marrs Jr. was pulled by Ms. Adrienne Woods, Ms. Woods stated that this was one of the most egregious allegations the State Board has seen, and it took parents coming to the State Board. She further stated that probation seems light, and she wants the ability to read the full report. Ms. Kathy Rollins and Mr. Jeff Wood agreed.

Public Comment

Ms. Angie Edwards and son, Cash
Ms. Stephanie White and son, Eli

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except Item VII.4 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case 25-121 – Danny R. Marrs Jr., was made by Ms. Adreinne Woods, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Adjournment

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair, adjourned the State Board meeting at 12:19 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Sarah Moore, Chair
State Board of Education