

**Minutes
State Board Meeting
February 9, 2023**

Present: Ouida Newton, Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore, Vice-Chair Adrienne Woods; Randy Henderson; Steve Sutton; Jeff Wood, Lisa Hunter; Dr. Fitz Hill; Adrienne Woods, Jessica Saum, 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, Jacob Olivia, ADE Secretary.

Present via ZOOM: Kathy McFetridge

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, February 9, 2023. Ms. Ouida Newton called the meeting to order at 8:59 AM, followed by a moment of silence.

Recognition

Career and Technical Education Month

Mr. Ross White, Director, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) presented the CTE Month Proclamation to the State Board.

February has been proclaimed Career and Technical Education Month in Arkansas by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. DCTE will be celebrating CTE Month all month throughout the State through regional showcase events. The State Board heard from the following students: Mr. Mason Flint, Harbor High School; Mr. Roman Hart, Jonesboro School District; Ms. Maggie McDonald, Magnolia High School; and Ms. Reese Owens, White Hall High School.

Changes to the Agenda

Removed

VI.4. For Final Approval: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing School Counseling Programs.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Minutes 01-12-23
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 of Loan and Bond Applications
5. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 22-055 - Leslie Joshua
6. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 22-138 - Jean Bormann Herald
7. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 23-033 - Leona Crowe
8. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 23-037 - Pamela Morgan
9. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 23-041 - Erin Johnson
10. Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case No. 23-043 - Glynn Eastwood

A motion to approve the Consent agenda was made by Mr. Steve Sutton, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

Action Agenda

VI.1. Petition of Ozark Mountain School District to Close Grades 7-12 at its St. Joe and Bruno-Pyatt Campuses

Item V1.1. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel. Also present was Mr. Jeff Lewis, Superintendent, Ozark Mountain School District; Mr. Norman Hill, Financial Consultant, Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative; Mr. Darryl Treat, Executive Director, Greater County Searcy Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Andy McCutcheon, Resident–St. Joe.

The Ozark Mountain School District seeks to close Grades 7-12 at its St. Joe and Bruno-Pyatt campuses, which are "isolated schools," and transfer the students to its Western Grove campus. The Ozark Mountain School District board of directors voted in favor of moving these grades to the Western Grove campus, but the vote was not unanimous (4-3 vote). Consequently, the district is petitioning the State Board seeking approval of the transfer.

A motion to allow public comment was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hunter. The motion unanimously passed.

The State Board heard public comments from:
Ms. Patricia Dody, Resident-St. Joe
Ms. Megan Hill, Parent, St. Joe Campus

A motion to approve the petition to of Ozark Mountain School District to transfer the students in Grades 7-12 at its St. Joe and Bruno-Pyatt Campuses to the Western-Grove Campus was made by Mr. Jeff Wood, seconded by Mr. Steve Sutton. After roll call, the motion unanimously passed.

ROLL CALL:
(Petition of Ozark Mountain School District to Close Grades 7-12 at its St. Joe and Bruno-Pyatt Campuses)

Dr. Sarah Moore	Yes
Kathy McFetridge	Yes
Randy Henderson	Yes
Dr. Fitz Hill	Absent
Steve Sutton	Yes
Adrienne Woods	Yes
Lisa Hunter	Yes
Jeff Wood	Yes



VI.2. Annual Statistical Report

Item VI.2. was presented by Ms. Anita Freer, ADE Coordinator Special Programs, DESE Local Education Agency State Funding and Loans & Bonds.

In compliance with the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-20-2201 et seq., the Annual Statistical Report of the Public Schools for Arkansas, Open Enrollment Charter Schools, and Education Service Cooperatives, 2021-2022 Actual and 2022-2023 Budgeted, (ASR) is considered for adoption by the State Board of Education.

DESE is required to submit the Annual Statistical Report to the state board, Governor, and House and Senate Education committees by February 15 each year. The report contains information on revenues, expenditures and fund balances for each traditional school district, open-enrollment charter, and education service cooperative in 2021-22, as well as budgeted amounts for 2022-23. Additionally, data such as millage, assessment, total debt, per pupil expenditures, licensed FTEs, and licensed classroom FTEs are included. These reports are pulled from the statewide eFinance system. There are summary pages for all traditional school districts (p. 2), open-enrollment charters (p. 253), and education service cooperatives (p. 237). The report also contains rankings by selected items such as per pupil expenditures, average daily attendance, average daily membership, and average classroom teacher salary.

There is an Excel version of the data that is published on the DESE website at the same time as the PDF version is published.

A motion to accept the Annual Statistical Report for Arkansas was made by Dr. Sarah Moore, seconded by Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed.

VI.3. For Final Approval: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Home Schools

Item VI.3. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel.

The Division's Rules Governing Home Schools were amended to incorporate provisions of Act 623 of 2021. On December 8, 2022, the State Board approved release of the rules for public comment, pending Governor's Office approval; approval was received on December 15, 2022. Following public comment, no substantive changes were made to the rules. The Division asks that the Board give its final approval to these rules.

A motion to approve the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Home Schools was made by Ms. Adrienne Woods, seconded by Dr. Sarah Moore. The motion unanimously passed.

PULLED

VI.4. For Final Approval: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing School Counseling Programs

Item VI.4. was presented by Ms. Lori Freno, DESE General Counsel.

On October 13, 2022, the Division's Rules Governing School Counseling Programs were approved for public comment released by this Board pending Governor's Office approval, which approval was received on November 21, 2022. Following public comment, no substantive changes were made to the rules. The Division asks that the Board give its final approval to these rules.

VI.5. Educational Service Cooperative Evaluations

Item VI.5., Educational Service Cooperative (ESC) Evaluation for Arkansas River ESC was presented by Ms. Stacy Smith, DESE Deputy Commissioner.

ESC evaluations occur at least once within a five-year period. Arkansas River ESC evaluation and self-study report are attached.

A motion to accept the evaluation report for Arkansas River ESC was made by Ms. Lisa Hunter, 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 Mr. Randy Henderson. The motion unanimously passed. Chair Ouida Newton adjourned the State Board meeting at 1:00 PM.

Minutes recorded by Angela Scaife.

Mr. Jacob Oliva, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Education

Ouida Newton, Chair
State Board of Education