

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2012
3:15 P.M.**

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 3:15 p.m., CDT, on August 13, 2012.

Present..... 9	Absent.....1
Ms. Janet Ayers	Dr. Richard Rhoda
Mr. Mike Edwards	
Ms. Vernita Justice	
Ms. Carolyn Pearre, Vice Chair	
Mr. Lonnie Roberts	
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair	
Ms. Teresa Sloyan	
Dr. Melvin Wright	

Others Present

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBE)
Dr. David Sevier, SBE
Dr. Scott Eddins, SBE
Ms. Dannelle Walker, SBE
Ms. Vicki Burger, SBE
Commissioner Kevin Huffman, TDOE
Mr. Stephen Smith, TDOE
Dr. Debbie Owens, TDOE
Ms. Erin O'Hara, TDOE
Ms. Connie Casha, TDOE

Chair Rolston welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

I. Consent Items

A. *Adoption of Agenda*

ACTION: **Dr. Jean Ann Rogers** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policy*

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, presented this item and listed the following items as revisions to the policy. First, spend more time with teachers scoring at the bottom while spending less

time with teachers at the top. Next, change some of the options within the 15% component. Also, adopt comparable measures for non-tested grades and subjects. Finally, create a definition of the acceptable range of results. The professionalism on the rubric was left intact, but streamlined to eliminate redundancy.

Mike Edwards asked about changing the 15%. How does that work? Are we expanding TVAAS to move into that void? **Commissioner Huffman** responded “no”, but removing some options that don't come back until the middle of the following school year is proposed.

Teresa Sloyan asked for Commissioner Huffman to talk about the misalignment between performance and the evaluation. **Commissioner Huffman** stated he is assigning staff to focus on schools that are the farthest out of alignment. What is causing the lack of alignment, etc? Coaches will be deployed to the schools to work on these issues specifically. **Commissioner Huffman** noted that districts which do a good job on their evaluation process are put in an awkward position when other districts do not follow the process as well. **Carolyn Pearre** asked about schools that have an inflated number of fives, etc..?

Commissioner Huffman stated there shouldn't be any teachers that have fives with really low performing students because of the way it is set up. Teachers may be scored higher than they really are, but it shouldn't be that extreme.

Mike Edwards asked if the professional development for the bottom 5% to be retrained is currently funded? **Commissioner Huffman** responded “yes, it is”. **Chairman Fielding Rolston** stated it seems that we are in good shape to move forward.

ACTION: **Dr. Jean Ann Rogers** moved approval. **Mr. Mike Edwards** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards Amendment

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, presented this item. There were no questions from the Board members.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Dr. Wright** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

C. 2012 List of State Identified Priority and Focus Schools

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, presented this item. He stated that under the waiver there are now three categories of schools that get identified under the waiver. (1) Priority under 5%, (2) Focus schools have the greatest achievement gaps, and (3) Reward schools, which will be presented later. There is a straightforward formula for looking at the priority schools. There are 83 schools in total across the state on the priority list. The waiver was based on the previous year's data and there were some shifts. There are 69 schools in Memphis, 6 schools in Metro Nashville, 1 in Knox County, 1 in Hardeman County and 6 in Hamilton County. The Achievement School District can pull in any of these schools, but most will not be. Districts that have multiple schools can create "innovation zones". Those are zones where schools can engage in extended learning activities and other research-based activities to turn around those schools.

Focus schools are a wider group. Most districts have at least one school in this category. There are a number of schools that have high performing students. Focus schools are eligible for grants as well.

Carolyn Pearre asked how many charter schools were determined to be priority schools? **Commissioner Huffman** responded that 5 are charter schools. **Carolyn Pearre** asked if districts are included in the reporting process. **Commissioner Huffman** responded that previously the Department of Education reported this, but it is through a different

process than school accountability. Districts are not put in a particular status just because they have a high number of schools on the list. That is a different accountability system.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Annual Measurable Objective

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, presented this item. He stated that the Department of Education sets multiyear state targets to improve in key subject areas which are generally around 3-5%. Districts like this process better because it seems fairer than the previous system and a more accurate determination of progress. **Chairman Fielding Rolston** stated he believes it is a good improvement in the process.

ACTION: **Mr. Roberts** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

E. TCAP Achievement Levels: Standards Setting Process and Implementation for English III

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, presented this item. He stated the Department of Education had a broad and representative sample for this process. The technical advisory committee determined that the process was implemented fairly. The committee was modified to include college level faculty and used the bookmark method. A concordance study confirmed that the cut scores do not indicate college readiness on the ACT. In two years we will be moving to the PARCC assessments which will align to college readiness as well. English III cut scores are based on this standard of readiness. **Erin O'Hara** stated it is slightly lower to be in alignment with the ACT. Achieve was not involved with this, but there was an outside observer for external validation.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chair Rolston thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone. He informed them that there would be another conference call in the near future regarding the 2012 List of State Identified Reward Schools. He also reminded them of the upcoming workshop and meeting on October 18-19, 2012 in Nashville. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: _____ Date _____