

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 20, 2012**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 9:00 a.m., CST, on April 20, 2012.

Present..... 10 Absent..... 1

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chairman | Ms. Vernita Justice |
| Mr. James Ayers | |
| Mr. Mike Edwards | |
| Ms. Carolyn Pearre | |
| Mr. Lonnie Roberts | |
| Dr. Jean Anne Rogers | |
| Ms. Teresa Sloyan | |
| Dr. Melvin Wright | |
| Ms. Lauren Haley, Student Member | |
| Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio | |

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience.

I. Consent Items

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2012 and March 2, 2012.**

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved acceptance. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report Items

- A. Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition**

Mr. James Francis, Department of Education, recognized schools that are making significant changes in their students' lives regardless of student backgrounds. Schools will share best practices and will be featured on the Department of Education website. These schools were also recognized as best schools in Washington DC by the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan.

Commissioner Huffman presented the awards to the schools in the top 10 percent of the state with at least 40 percent disadvantaged students:

Hume-Fogg Magnet School

Davidson County Schools
Dr. Paul Fleming, Principal
700 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Page High School

Williamson County Schools
Dr. Andrea Anthony, Principal
6281 Amo Road
Franklin, TN 37064

Commissioner Huffman then recognized schools with at least 40 percent disadvantaged students that have dramatically improved student achievement to high levels.

South Greene High School

Greene County Schools
Cindy Bowman, Principal
7469 Ashville Highway
Greeneville, TN 37743

Frazier Elementary School

Rhea County Schools
Gail Kelly, Principal
3900 Double S Road
Dayton, TN 37321

Morristown High School

Hamblen County Schools
Dr. Jeff Moorhouse, Principal
1 Trojan Trail
Morristown, TN 37813

Fairmont Elementary

Johnson City Schools
Carol McGill, Principal
1405 Lester Harris Road
Johnson City, TN 37601

B. *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition*

Mr. Francis, Department of Education, stated that the purpose of the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program is to identify schools that are ensuring that all children have access to effective instructional strategies and challenging academic content; and that are demonstrating success in ensuring that all children, particularly educationally deprived children, make significant progress toward learning that content.

Commissioner Huffman presented the awards to the four schools in Tennessee that have been recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2011-2012 -- two national awardees and two state awardees.

National Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups:

David Crockett Elementary School

Lawrence County School
Anne L. Ray, Principal
2301 Waynesboro Highway
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

National Title I Exceptional Student Achievement:

Fairmont Elementary

Johnson City Schools
Carol McGill, Principal
1405 Lester Harris Road
Johnson City, TN 37601

Mr. Francis noted that Johnson City is the first time ever double winner in one single year.

State Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups:

Michigan Avenue Elementary

Bradley County Schools
Robert Brittingham, Principal
188 Michigan Avenue Road
Cleveland, TN 37312

State Title I Exceptional Student Achievement

John P. Freeman Optional School

Memphis City Schools
Monica C. Smith, Principal
5250 Tulane Road
Memphis, TN 38109

Mr. Francis noted that Title 1 schools can make a significant difference in the lives of their students. **Chairman Rolston** offered congratulations from the Board to all award winners and encouraged them to share good practices with other schools.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Health Science Education Licensure Policy & Rule Revision*

B. *Trade & Industrial Education Licensure Policy & Rule Revision for Field of Criminal Justice*

Ms. Heather Justice, Department of Education, presented these items together. She noted that these items contain changes that serve to broaden the pool of candidates in the areas of both Health Science and Criminal Justice.

Chairman Rolston stated that it seemed to be a significant change in Health Science in moving from three years of full time prior employment to one year of part time employment as a nurse as a minimal employment standard.

Ms. Justice responded that the changes reflect the practice nationally and that the Department will monitor this issue moving forward.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Approved High School Courses*

Ms. Lynne Cohen, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that the item updates the list of approved courses and that there is not a creation of a new course.

Dr. Nixon pointed out a typographical error within the Department's work -- a transposition of 13 and 31 in the course code numbering.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Migrant Education Student Records Exchange Policies & Procedures Manual*

Ms. Paula Gaddis, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that this rule change governs the use of the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) database. The database will provide a method for LEAs to gather information about migrant students. It also establishes policies and procedures for LEAs to use the database.

Chairman Rolston questioned the amount of paper work involved in using the system. **Ms. Gaddis** commented that the information is already being gathered at the local level. It asks LEAS to complete the information once the migrant student leaves their system. She admitted that it is a significant amount of paperwork, but that it helps the process of enrolling migrant students for the next LEAS that the student attends.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Rogers** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. *Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy*

Dr. Sara Heyburn, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that the Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy is used to guide school leadership training programs across the State as they develop new school leaders. The changes presented clarify the role of the site teams, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

Chairman Rolston asked about the visit cycle and **Dr. Heyburn** responded that the initial visit will be out of synch with other accreditation and approval visits but that subsequent visits will be folded into the regular accreditation cycle.

Ms. Sloyan requested that time at an upcoming workshop be devoted to the subject of leadership.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. *Standards for Professional Learning*

Ms. Hanseul Kang, Department of Education, presented this. She noted that these standards for professional learning serve as a guideline for what strong professional development looks like. This is the third iteration of these standards, the previous two being adopted by the SBE in the past.

Mr. Edwards asked about when the standards are applied. **Ms. Kang** responded that these serve as the guideline for districts as they review and craft professional development.

Commissioner Huffman and **Mr. Edwards** engaged in a dialogue about how these standards are utilized in our current teacher preparation programs with **Mr. Edwards** asking when are they applied, are they applied to teachers in the field? **Commissioner Huffman** responded to discuss vision on where we are going regarding program approval and ongoing discussions and stated that evaluations of common core are part of the same questions.

Ms. Kang noted that these standards are for the “on the job” training component in a teacher’s career path and are crafted in such a way as to ensure that learning about teaching is an ongoing component of training for any teacher.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

G. License Denial, Suspension and Revocation Procedure Policy

H. Teacher Licensure Actions, Rule

Ms. Dannelle Walker, State Board of Education, presented these items together and noted that this rule and policy adds a new option for licensing action -- the formal reprimand. She explained that the purpose of the formal reprimand was to allow the State Board to have a less punitive option for use when a licensed educator engages in misconduct that requires action, but does not rise to the level of a suspension.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

I. High School Transition Policy

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this item and noted that it removes vendor-specific language from the policy and substitutes language directly from statute. It also adds the appropriate benchmark scores relative to College Board examinations.

ACTION: **Mr. Roberts** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Teacher Licensure, Praxis Score Scale Changes, Policy

Dr. Heyburn, Department of Education, presented this item which was moved to first reading with final reading anticipated in July of 2012. **Dr. Heyburn** gave the members information relative to improving the overall quality of the teacher licensing process including a revision of the teacher licensure standards.

Mr. Vance Rugaard, Department of Education, presented the recommended Praxis exam cut scores and noted that these scores, along with others approved in prior years, are one standard error of measure lower than the scores recommended by the multi-state standard setting group; a group on which Tennessee was represented. He also pointed out that, given the inherent uncertainties of standardized tests, one standard error of measure is within the statistical bounds of the multi-state group's recommendation. **Mr. Rugaard** highlighted the some exam pass rates; especially those related to mathematics. He stated that research is underway to determine what steps, if any, can take place to raise the skills of future teachers.

Several Board members expressed concern about the current level of cut scores. The Department of Education reiterated its commitment to addressing teacher pipeline issues.

Chairman Rolston recommended passing the item on first reading with the understanding that significant restructuring will take place prior to

the Board's final approval in July. This restructuring could even be a proposal to revisit previously approved Praxis cut scores and raising them to level recommended by the multi-state standard setting group.

Chairman Rolston asked that the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification (ACTEC) examine the issue as well and make a recommendation on the issue prior to the July State Board meeting.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved acceptance on first reading. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with **Mr. Edwards** casting a dissenting vote.

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. 2012 Tennessee School Bus Specifications

Dr. Scott Eddins, State Board of Education, presented the relevant sections from the National School Transportation Specifications manual for buses with a body build date of July 1, 2012 or later and stated that no changes had been made between first and final reading.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Move on When Ready Act

Dr. Nixon presented this item. He stated that TCA 49-6-8303 outlines a procedure that, beginning in the 2012-1313 school year, allows students to graduate from high school early and enroll in a two year or four year institution of higher education provided specific requirements have been met. The law directs the State Board of Education to determine the benchmark scores for the end of course tests. Further, the law directs the State Board of Education to identify a world language assessment and to set the benchmark score. Students choosing to graduate early under this law are to have attained benchmark scores that demonstrate an exemplary high school performance and are indicative of the ability to perform college-level work.

Dr. Nixon recommended that the benchmark score for the end of course tests be a performance at the advanced level and that the world language assessment be the AP world language assessments with a benchmark score of a 3 or better.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Annual Measurable Objectives

Ms. Erin Ohara, Department of Education, presented this item. She stated that districts work with schools to set targets for the schools. All will aggregate to the State targets -- 3 to 5% growth per year; 6.25% annual gap reduction is the target.

Mr. Edwards asks if AP courses will be an issue. **Ms. Ohara** explained that middle school is the real issue with Algebra I and TCAP math. Algebra I will replace the TCAP math scores. Students will not take both.

Commissioner Huffman spoke to timelines to implement. He stated that the Department had been grappling with districts to set erasable targets and said that he wants them to be more flexible. Lower performing districts would need to make greater gains than the state average, but not enough districts proposing higher goals.

Dr. Nixon stated that the measures have been anchored with college and career ready targets and commended the Department for doing so.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Teacher Licensure, Praxis Score Scale Changes, Policy

This item was moved to first reading, Item III.J.

E. International Baccalaureate Programme

Dr. Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this item. He informed the Board that this action will update the State's list of currently approved IB courses. These are not new courses, but rather courses already approved and already being taught in Tennessee schools.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Charter School Appeal Item

A. Connections Preparatory Academy Charter School Appeal

Dr. Nixon presented this item. On April 3, 2012, a hearing was held at the Jackson/Madison County Board of Education in Jackson, Tennessee, to consider Connections Preparatory Academy's appeal of the denial of its application by the Jackson/Madison County Board of Education.

Based on the procedural history and findings of fact, he stated that he believed that the decision to deny Connections Preparatory Academy's

application was not “contrary to the best interests of the pupils, the school district, and the community”, and recommended that the Board affirm the decision of the Jackson/Madison County Board of Public Education.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Teacher Revocation Appeal Item

A. *Matthew Clark*

Ms. Lesley Farmer, Department of Education, presented this appeal. She stated that upon receiving notice of the Board’s intent to suspend his license, Mr. Clark requested a hearing and a case was docketed with the Administrative Procedures Division. The Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case entered a judgment in favor of the State Board, ordering that Mr. Clark’s license be suspended until such time as he furnishes appropriate medical proof to the Board sufficient to establish the lack of a drug or alcohol impairment which would prevent him from resuming his teaching career.

Mr. Clark, through counsel appealed the initial order on February 24, 2012.

Pursuant to the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, the Board is required to hear Richardson’s appeal and render a final order or an order remanding the matter for further proceedings within sixty (60) days after receipt of briefs and oral argument, unless that period is waived or extended with the written consent of all parties or for good cause shown. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-314 and 315, the Board may take any one of the following actions:

1. Adopt- in whole or in part- the initial order as the final order.

2. Enter a new final order, with findings of fact and conclusions of law.
3. Remand the matter to the administrative judge with specific instructions for further proceedings.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved adoption of the final order in whole, thereby suspending Respondent’s license. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Teacher License Actions

A. Nathan Carl Buice -- Revocation

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Joe Bryant Driver – Restoration

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Chanda Franks – Revocation

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Carolyn Hutchinson – Revocation, concurrent

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Jonathan Light – Suspension, concurrent

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Michael Martin – Revocation

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Phyllis Sanders – Revocation, concurrent

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Pam Schlieff – Revocation, three (3) years, with contingency

ACTION: Dr. Wright moved approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

I. Bryan Tramel – Revocation

ACTION: Dr. Wright moved approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

J. *Dustin L. Turley -- Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency*

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

K. *Jonathan Lee Wallace – Suspension, one (1) year, with contingency*

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

L. *David Ryan Witten – Revocation, concurrent*

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
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		
Lauren Haley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on July 27, 2012 for its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____