

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APRIL 15, 2011**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 9:00 a.m., CDT, on April 15, 2011.

**Present..... 8      Absent..... 3**

**Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair**  
**Ms. Vernita Justice**  
**Ms. Carolyn Pearre**  
**Dr. Jean Anne Rogers**  
**Ms. Teresa Sloyan**  
**Dr. Melvin Wright**  
**Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio**  
**Mr. Chip Woods, Student Member**

**Mr. Jim Ayers**  
**Mr. Flavius Barker**  
**Mr. Richard Ray**

**Chairman Rolston** called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience. He then recognized **Ms. Dannelle Walker** who was recently appointed as General Counsel to the State Board of Education.

**I. Consent Items**

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2011**

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved acceptance. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Report Items**

**A. Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition**

**Mr. James Frances**, Department of Education, recognized 10 schools throughout the state that exceeded the state’s accountability criteria for the past 3 years.

Blue Ribbon Schools must be first nominated by the chief state school officer (CSSO) as eligible. Based on state data, the CSSO certifies that the nominated schools meet one of two criteria:

1. At least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and show dramatic improvement in test scores to high levels in at least the past three years in reading (language arts or English) and mathematics.

**1. Bethpage Elementary**

Sumner County Schools  
Bill Johnson, Principal  
420 Pld Hwy 31 E  
Bethpage, TN 37022

**2. Cowan Elementary**

Franklin County Schools  
Cynthia Young, Principal  
501 E. Cumberland Street  
Cowan, TN 37318

2. Regardless of demographics, achieves in the top 10 percent of schools in the state in the school's grade category as measured by state tests of reading (language arts or English) and mathematics in at least the last grade tested in the last year tested.

**1. Big Sandy School**

Benton County Schools  
Marty Caruthers, Principal  
13305 Hwy69A  
Big Sandy, TN 38221

**2. Douglass Elementary School**

Shelby County Schools  
Angela Brown, Principal  
1650 Ash Street  
Memphis, TN 38108

**3. Grundy County High School**

Grundy County Schools  
William Childers, Principal  
24970 SR 108  
Coalmont, TN 37313

**4. Townsend Elementary**

Blount County Schools  
John Dalton, Principal  
140 Tiger Drive  
Townsend, TN 37882

The nominated schools must successfully complete an intensive application process which is reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Dr. Debbie Owens**, Department of Education, presented the awards and the schools will also receive a certificate signed by Governor Haslam.

The schools' best practices will be profiled on the Tennessee Department of Education's website in addition to the schools participating in best practice sharing sessions throughout the year.

**B. *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition***

Mr. Francis recognized four schools as Title I distinguished schools in the following categories:

***National Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups***

**Hollis F. Price**

Memphis City Schools  
Daphne Beasley, Principal  
807 Walker Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38126

***National Title I Exceptional Student Performance***

**South Greene High School**

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

***State Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups***

**North Greene High School**

Greene County Schools  
Dr. Vicki Kirk  
4675 Old Baileyton  
Greeneville, TN 37745

***State Title I Exceptional Student Performance***

**A.H. Roberts Elementary**

Overton County Schools  
Matt Eldridge, Principal  
302 Zachary Street  
Livingston, TN 38570

**Dr. Owens** presented the awards and the schools will also receive a certificate signed by Governor Haslam.

**C. *2009 Presidential Award Winner Recognition***

Each year the President names more than one hundred science and math teachers as recipients of the prestigious *Presidential Awards for*

*Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.* These educators receive their awards during a White House ceremony given in their honor.

Winners are selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level. Each year the award alternates, going either to science and math teachers in grades K through 6 or to those teaching in grades 7 through 12 (as it was in this year).

**Ms. Linda Jordan**, Department of Education, recognized **Ms. Peggy Bertrand**, Oak Ridge High School and **Mr. Jeff McCalla**, St. Mary's Episcopal School as 2009 winners of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She noted that these two teachers were among the finest in the nation and were excellent representatives of the State of Tennessee. In addition to being recognized by the State Board of Education, these teachers traveled to Washington, D.C. for meetings and to receive additional rewards.

**Chairman Rolston** congratulated all of these individuals on their achievements.

### **III. Action Items (First Reading)**

#### **A. Identification of the Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools Policy**

**Dr. Debbie Owens** discussed the reason and rationale for removing one component of the Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools definition. The original definition contained a multiplier for schools not making adequate yearly progress over 6 or more years. Due to the state administering tougher standards and tests, this multiplier definition is being removed.

**Ms. Sloyan** asked if there was a timeline for the reauthorization of *No Child Left Behind*. **Dr. Owens** stated the Department of Education is taking a wait and see approach, but there is momentum building towards a more definite timeline.

**Ms. Sloyan** asked if this would increase or decrease the number of schools on the list. **Dr. Owens** stated that the number of schools identified will remain the same, however, the criteria upon which the school is identified for inclusion on the list is different. Instead of identifying schools based on low performance within potentially just one student subgroup. The new definition is now based on the performance of all students.

**Chairman Rolson** asked for clarification regarding how many new schools will be on the list. **Dr. Owens** stated that there is one school which fell into this category based on the performance of just one student subgroup that will no longer be on the list.

**Vice Chair Pearre** asked if there would be any changes in the funding formula, based on this new change. **Dr. Owens** stated that there would not. However, there is the anticipation of potentially significant cuts for the upcoming fiscal year.

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

**B. *Definition of a Tennessee Public School, Rule***

**Dr. David Sevier**, State Board of Education, presented this item. He noted that removing the words "one plant" from the definition of a public school would allow for increased flexibility for school districts and also allow for the formation of stand-alone virtual schools. He noted that all other provisions of the definition remain in place.

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

**C. *Adult High Schools, Rule***

**D. *Summer Schools, Rule***

**Dr. Sevier** presented these items together for consideration. He told members that summer school and adult high schools were the two remaining areas with seat time requirements for advancement. This change to SBE rules and regulations would allow LEAs to advance summer school students and adult students on mastery of content.

**Vice Chair Pearre** suggested the removal of archaic language in the adult high school rule relating to obsolete testing requirements.

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

**E. *Computer Technology***

**Mr. Morgan Branch**, Department of Education, presented revisions to the computer technology curriculum. **Mr. Morgan** stated that most of the courses were joint courses between CTE and the academic departments.

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

**F. *Middle Grades STEM Teacher License Standards***

**Dr. Sevier** presented this. He noted that these are the licensure standards that support the Board's recently approved Middle Grades STEM endorsement. He gave Board members background on the various

constituencies that were involved in the development of the standards and reminded the board the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification (ACTEC) would have an opportunity to review and give input on these standards before final approval.

**Ms. Sloyan** asked whether these had been reviewed by industry and business. **Dr. Sevier** responded that these standards were gleaned from existing math and science licensure standards that had received prior scrutiny. These are the standards for teacher training programs, but there was a conscious effort to ensure that these standards will prepare teacher to deliver the upgraded student curriculum.

**Mr. Woods** asked whether these standards would help ACT scores. **Dr. Sevier** responded that he believed that this new endorsement would certainly be an important part of preparing teachers who were well-prepared to teach the content necessary for success on the Explore, PLAN, and ACT exams.

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

#### **IV. Action Items (Final Reading)**

##### **A. Introduction to Fine Arts**

**Dr. Sevier** presented this item and reminded the Board that this course would fulfill the high school graduation requirements for one unit of fine arts and that there were no changes from since the first reading.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. High School Transition Policy**

**Dr. Sevier** presented this and gave Board members some background information on the confusion that has occurred with regard to students enrolled in dual credit courses and end-of-course examinations.

**Dr. Gary Nixon**, Executive Director, State Board of Education, added that most confusion was coming in the area of U.S. History when local districts were requiring students to taken state exams even though they were not enrolled in the high school course.

**Mr. Woods** commented that, in his experience, dual enrollment courses could actually be less challenging than the parallel course at the high school level.

**Dr. Rhoda** responded that higher education works with PreK-12 under a set of assumptions that everyone involved is doing so in a good faith effort to deliver the best instruction possible.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. *Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policy***

**Dr. Nixon** presented this item. He explained that it combines the criteria and guidelines for teacher and principal evaluations and guidelines for grievance procedures that were recommended by the Teacher Evaluation Advisory Council.

**Dr. Rogers** stated that she was concerned as to how cumbersome some of the rubrics are.

**Chairman Rolston** told **Commissioner Patrick Smith** that we needed to see how to simplify them.

**ACTION:** **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. *Non-public Schools – Categories I and VII, Rule Consolidation***

**Ms. Walker**, State Board of Education, presented this item and stated that this rule change would allow students in special purpose schools to be eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
<b>Jim Ayers</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Flavius Barker</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Vernita Justice</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Dick Ray</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Chip Woods</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Cambridge AICE Substitutions**

**Dr. Sevier** presented this item and reminded the Board that they had heard a presentation of the Cambridge AICE program at the workshop the preceding day. This change would allow the SDE to conduct a course-by-course analysis before presenting the Cambridge AICE program to the Board for approval as a stand-alone path to graduation.

**ACTION:** **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**F. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**

**Dr. Sevier** told the Board that this was simply a technical correction to earlier SBE action and would add the *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme* to the list of approved diploma paths.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Distance and e-Learning Policy**

This policy revision, presented by **Dr. Sevier**, changes the process by which e-learning content is validated and requires LEAs to ensure that course content meets or exceeds SBE curriculum standards. Likewise, it removes the course approval provisions and treats distance learning and e-learning as a strategy, rather than a type of special course.

**Dr. Sevier** commented that e-learning is an area that is moving quickly and that the Board should expect to see many revisions to this policy over the years to come.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Adjournment**

**Chairman Rolston** then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on August 5, 2011 for its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_