

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 11, 2014**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in Room 12, Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 9:00 a.m. April 11, 2014.

Present..... 9 Absent..... 2

Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chairman
Ms. Allison Chancey
Mr. Mike Edwards
Ms. Carolyn Pearre
Mr. Lonnie Roberts
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Ms. Teresa Sloyan
Dr. Richard Rhoda
Ms. Katie Mitchell, Student Member

Ms. Janet Ayers
Dr. Melvin Wright

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience. He recognized our student member, **Miss Katie Mitchell**, whose term expires April 1, 2014. **Chairman Rolston** expressed his appreciation for her service and presented her with a token of the Board’s appreciation.

I. Consent Items (Voice Vote)

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 31, 2014**

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

II. Report Items

- A. Blue Ribbons Schools Recognition**

Mr. Bing Howell, Department of Education, explained the *Blue Ribbon Schools Program*. The program identifies and disseminates knowledge about effective school leadership and instructional practices. The award is both a high aspiration and a potent resource of practitioner knowledge. It is a symbol of educational excellence recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities.

Tennessee had three public schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools for 2013. These schools were recognized with the other national Blue Ribbon Schools for 2013 in Washington, D.C., in November 2013.

Commissioner Kevin Huffman presented the award to the three Tennessee recipients:

1. McFadden School of Excellence

221 Bridge Avenue
Murfreesboro, TN 37129-3503
Principal: Dr. Clark Blair
School District: Rutherford County Schools

2. Meigs Middle Magnet School

713 Ramsey Street
Nashville, TN 37206-4015
Principal: Dr. Samuel Underwood
School District: Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

3. Thomas Magnet School

515 Tate Avenue
Shelbyville, TN 37160-3288
Principal: Ms. Janice Womble
School District: Bedford County Schools

B. *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition*

Mr. Mike Koprowski, Department of Education, presented this item. The National Title I Distinguished Schools were recognized at the National Title I Conference in San Diego, CA, in February 2014. Two schools in Tennessee have been recognized, at the national level, as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2013-2014:

1. Thomas Magnet School

515 Tate Avenue
Shelbyville, TN 37160-3288
Principal: Ms. Janice Womble
School District: Bedford County Schools

2. Germanshire Elementary School

Shelby County Schools
Myke Collins, Principal
3965 S Germantown Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Representatives from each school were present to receive their recognition and were commended for their success in raising the expectations and achievement of their students.

C. *Occupational Endorsement Additions to Endorsement List*

Ms. Heather Justice, Department of Education, reported this item. She informed members that this information is presented in an effort to inform stakeholders of the new endorsement names and identification

numbers that are coming about as a revision to the teacher licensing process.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Uniform Grading Policy*

B. *Uniform Grading Rule*

Dr. Nixon explained how this action is a result of the performance audit conducted with the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) last year. The audit found variation in the grade calculation methods and suggested a concrete example be provided and used. This effort will make uniform the way that the GPA is calculated for the Hope Scholarship including the addition of a weight for the state wide dual credit courses.

Dr. Rhoda expressed appreciation for the quick development and revision of this policy.

Ms. Sloyan asked for clarification of the Department's audit process with the LEAs and **Dr. Nixon** explained who would do that and how this action will give a benchmark for audit purposes.

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

C. *Occupational Diploma, Rule*

Mr. Joey Hassell, Department of Education, presented the occupational diploma rule revision as a result of Public Chapter 422 requiring the State Board of Education to approve an occupational diploma option for students meeting the appropriate standards and benchmarks of attendance, academic achievement, and job readiness skills for the occupational diploma.

Mr. Roberts commented that he appreciated all the work that the team put into accomplishing this work.

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

D. *Category II Non-Public School Accrediting Agencies*

Ms. Marcy Tidwell, Department of Education, presented this item. She explained the process for accreditation for Category II Non-public Schools. The deadline to submit applications for accreditation was December 10, 2013 and ten applications were received. **Ms. Tidwell** also explained that she conducted site visits of a school in each of the accreditation agencies. During the site visit, reviewers completed a checklist of items that were aligned with items required by State Board

rules on Category II accreditation agencies. After the applications were reviewed and sites visits completed, **Ms. Tidwell** recommended approval of the following accreditation agencies:

Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Classical and Christian Schools
Catholic Diocese of Knoxville
Catholic Diocese of Nashville
Mississippi Association of Independent Schools
National Lutheran School Accreditation
Southern Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists
Tennessee Association of Christian Schools
Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools

Based upon the application and site visit, **Ms. Tidwell** recommended denial of the E. A. Sutherland Educational Association.

Representatives from E.A. Sutherland were present to respond to the Department's recommendations and rebut evidence submitted by the Department.

Dr. Rogers asked whether E.A. Sutherland could have an opportunity to respond to the deficiencies cited by the Department. **Ms. Tidwell** responded affirmatively.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve the Department's recommendations on first reading and to allow E.A. Sutherland to present evidence of remediation on second and final reading in July. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Update Policy 3.205 to reflect AP Course Offerings

Ms. Emily Carter, Department of Education, presented this item. It is a technical correction to the List of Approved Courses relative to Advance Placement courses. Changes to the list include new courses developed by The College Board and revised courses that have been renamed.

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

F. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Course Standards

Dr. Danielle Mezera, Department of Education, presented this item and noted that it includes two CTE STEM courses that were inadvertently left off a previously approved set of curriculum standards.

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

G. *Substitute Teacher Compensation Rule*

Ms. Walker presented this item on first reading. She explained that this rule change was necessary because the present language is outdated.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *Special Courses Offered for Three or More Years*

Ms. Emily Barton, Department of Education, explained that a local school district can request approval to offer a course that is not on the list of courses that are required for graduation as approved by the State Board of Education. These courses must be approved by Department of Education for each of the first three years that the course is offered by the local school district. After three years, a course may become a permanent part of the local school district upon approval by the State Board of Education.

Ms. Sloyan asked if approval is automatic for an LEA after the third year. **Ms. Barton** affirms that approval is automatic after the third year.

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

B. *High School Social Studies Courses*

Ms. Barton presented the item to update the list of approved high school social studies to be in alignment with the new course standards that were approved earlier by the State Board of Education and in current review by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

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

C. *High School Mathematics Course Standards*

Ms. Barton presented the upper level mathematics course revisions that were now aligned with the Common Core Standards to create a seamless transition between the required coursework and the upper level course options.

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

D. *Early English Language Development (E-ELD) Standards*

Ms. Barton presented the standards for English language learners who are in Pre-K; they support the English learning needs of children from two and a half years of age to five years of age.

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

E. *Arts, Audio/Visual Technology, and Communications Course Standards*

F. *Business Management & Administration Course Standards*

G. *Architecture & Construction Course Standards*

H. *Finance Course Standards*

I. *Government & Public Administration Course Standards*

J. *Health Sciences Course Standards*

K. *Information Technology Course Standards*

L. *Law, Public Safety, Correction and Security Course Standards*

M. *Manufacturing Course Standards*

N. *Marketing Course Standards*

O. *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Course Standards*

P. *Transportation, Distribution and Logistics Course Standards*

Dr. Mezera presented Items **E. - P.** It is the second grouping of revised CTE courses. These were reviewed by over 170 Tennessee CTE teachers.

Dr. Mezera mentioned that there have been some minor revisions to the standards since first reading. **Ms. Sloyan** expressed her appreciation for how the CTE division actively engaged in obtaining feedback about the standards prior to approval.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved approval of **Items E-P.** **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Q. *Change of Name and Address, Rule*

Ms. Walker presented this item on final reading. She explained that this rule change was necessary to keep current records of licensed educators in the State.

Chairman Rolston asked how the State Board would notify educators of this new requirement. **Ms. Walker** noted that State Board staff would work with the Department to include this information in their communications to licensed educators.

Vice Chair Pearre asked about whether the 30-day time frame was standard. **Ms. Walker** answered that other licensing agencies in the State have this time frame in their rules.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval. **Ms. Mitchell** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

R. *Teacher License Advancement and Renewal*

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this item. He noted the ongoing work that has been done in the area of teacher licensing and told members that rescinding this language sets the stage for new policy that will be added at a future meeting.

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

S. *Educator Licensure, Praxis Changes, Policy*

Dr. Sara Heyburn, Department of Education, presented this item. She informed members that this item represents the recently regenerated Praxis exams with accompanying cut scores that are based upon the multi-state standard setting process recommendation. Likewise, she noted that, in the case of some exams, scaling has been changed to reflect any necessary statistical adjustments.

ACTION: **Mr. Roberts** moved approval. **Ms. Mitchell** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

T. *LEA Alternative Salary Schedules*

Dr. Heyburn presented the differentiated pay plan policy revised in June 2013 which states that in order to fulfill the policy requirements, local education agencies may apply to the State Board of Education for approval of an alternative salary schedule. Five LEAs have chosen to propose alternative salary schedules as their differentiated pay plans: Fentress County, Gibson County Special School District, Kingsport City Schools, Rutherford County, and Wilson County.

The proposals reward effective and highly effective educators by making them eligible for salary increases. In each of the five LEAs, all staff will be required to participate in the alternative salary schedule. **Dr. Heyburn** noted that she expects to see more districts submitting plans at the next meeting.

Chairman Rolston commented that we should encourage systems in the use of bonuses in performance instead of just step increases.

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

U. State Attendance Guidelines

Ms. Walker presented this item on final reading. She explained that this item was revived after it was brought on first reading in July 2013. A number of conversations were held between State Board staff and stakeholders including attendance supervisors, school superintendents, and special education advocates. The rule is in response to a requirement in T.C.A. §49-6-3002(a) that the Board promulgates rules on attendance.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved to amend the rule with the following amendatory language:

“Efforts to improve attendance should include supports and interventions in elementary, middle, and high school levels to address and prevent chronic absenteeism”

and

“(1) The number of unexcused absences shall comply with T.C.A. §49-6-3007. When appropriate, responses to and consequences for unexcused absences shall be handles within the school setting using relevant supports and interventions that address the underlying cause(s) for the unexcused absences.”

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

IV. Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) Default Actions

A. TSAC Defaults

Ms. Walker presented this item. She explained that these educators have defaulted on student loans and have been notified by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). She explained the process that TSAC uses for notifying educators in default, which is 90 days in which to come into compliance. The State Board of Education then gives educators another 30 days to make arrangements with TSAC. Thus, educators have at least 120 days’ notice before their licenses are suspended.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Teacher License Actions

Ms. Walker presented these items.

A. Aimee Cooley – Revocation, concurrent

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Michael D. Droese – Revocation

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Essam Elia – Denial*

ACTION: Mr. Edwards moved approval. Vice Chair Pearre seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rolston asked that *Item VI.D.* be handled separately.

E. *Steve Holmes – Revocation*

ACTION: Mr. Edwards moved approval. Vice Chair Pearre seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

F. LaVar Jernigan – Revocation

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Terry Long—Revocation, concurrent

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

H. *Jadice Moore – Revocation*

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

I. *Amariah Robb – Suspension, three (3) years with contingency*

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

J. *William Howard Scudder – Suspension, one (1) year with contingency*

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

K. James Ray Williams – Revocation

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

L. Nicholas Wooster – Revocation, concurrent

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers			X
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright			X
Katie Mitchell	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Sarah Jo Frost – Suspension, one (1) year with contingency

ACTION: Vice Chair Pearre moved approval. Mr. Roberts seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Janet Ayers			X	
Allison Chancey	X			X
Mike Edwards	X			
Carolyn Pearre	X			
Lonnie Roberts	X			
Jean Anne Rogers	X			
Fielding Rolston	X			
Teresa Sloyan	X			
Melvin Wright			X	
Katie Mitchell	X			

The motion passed by majority vote.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on July 25, 2014.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____