

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the First Floor Conference Room of the Davy Crockett Tower, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m., CST, on November 6, 2009.

Present..... 8	Absent.....3
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair	Mr. Jim Ayers
Ms. Vernita Justice	Mr. Flavius Barker
Ms. Carolyn Pearre	Miss Katie McMillan, Student Member
Mr. Richard Ray	
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	
Ms. Teresa Sloyan	
Dr. Melvin Wright	
Dr. Linda Doran for Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio	

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience, recognizing Buzz Thomas from Niswonger Foundation. He also commended Commissioner Tim Webb for his fantastic job of speaking at the Teacher of the Year Banquet the evening of November 5.

I. Consent Items

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from July 30, 2009**

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance. **Ms. Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report Items

- A. The Basic Education Program Review Committee Report**

Mr. Art Fuller, State Board of Education, introduced the BEP report, noting that the recommendations simply restated the immediate and extended priorities from the past two years of the report. He discussed the formation of a subcommittee to review BEP components, Tennessee Code Annotated, and SBE rules to determine if there were any outdated or obsolete requirements. The subcommittee did not find any. Mr. Fuller also reviewed work of the committee related to national research on differentiated pay, citing that math teachers with an earned Master's degree in the area of mathematics have a demonstrated record of improving student achievement outcomes for students.

Chairman Rolston commended **Mr. Fuller** and **Dr. Gary Nixon**, Executive Director of the State Board of Education on the quality of the report.

The Board accepted the report into the record.

B. *The Report Card on the Effectiveness of Teacher Training Programs*

Mr. Fuller began by stating this was a report best designed for the web, due to the significant length of the report. **Mr. Fuller** noted that the report contained profiles for each of the 39 teacher training institutions in Tennessee. He stated that the emphasis of the report focused on teachers who were either highly effective (top 80%) or highly ineffective (bottom 20%). He described how institutions receiving a green were statistically significant positive and those receiving a red were statistically significant negative.

Mr. Fuller provided examples of institutions demonstrating a positive difference for beginning teachers in the areas of Mathematics (Tusculum College, University of Memphis), Reading / Language (University of Memphis), Science (East Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University, University of Tennessee, Martin) and Social Studies (none).

Ms. Sloyan stated that she would like to see the Board work with higher education on teacher preparation programs.

The Board accepted the report into the record.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Review of School Curriculum Legislation*

Mr. Fuller began by providing the background upon which a specific set of House Bills was referred to the State Board of Education for Study. He stated that State Board of Education staff and staff from the Department of Education collaborated on preparing the report, which in essence restated and organized the information already submitted to the legislature through fiscal notes received during the legislative session. He noted that there were some additions beyond that of the original fiscal notes.

Mr. Fuller then reviewed several examples of referred curriculum bills ranging from issues dealing with the ability of parents to opt in vs. opt out of Family Life courses to expanding the nature of academic assessments, focusing on a more holistic approach to diagnosing student understanding of academic content.

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

B. *Curriculum for a Secondary Level Course on the Bible*

Ms. Brenda Ables, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that the development of this course outline followed the same process as that of other curriculum guides. She also pointed out that these guidelines reflect many of the Bible courses currently approved and being taught in Tennessee schools.

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

C. *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme*

Ms. Ables presented this item on behalf of the Department of Education. Her presentation mentioned that International Baccalaureate has grown in Tennessee over the past few years and that the level of performance required for an IB certificate was quite rigorous. This proposal would allow for a systemic course substitution approach, rather than the current course-by-course method used today. The Department of Education has worked with both IB schools in Tennessee as well as the IB governing organization to create these substitutions that not only increase the academic rigor of several required courses, but preserve the integrity and intent of the required courses as well.

Ms. Pearre asked about the number of IB schools in Tennessee and **Ms. Ables** responded that there are 9 approved programs and 2 additional schools seeking approval.

Chairman Rolston asked about the distinction between SL and HL and **Ms. Mary Catherine Bradshaw**, State Chair of IB Coordinators, responded that these terms refer to the number of hours of instruction rather than the level of instruction.

Chairman Rolston asked how these programs affect other programs and how could resources be redistributed. **Ms. Bradshaw** stated that these challenges are most often met through differentiated staffing and by offering other types of programs as well.

Dr. Nixon commented that the training that is required of IB teachers is of very high quality and that often this professional development spreads across the schools into non-IB courses and has a very positive effect on student learning school wide.

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

D. *School Fees, Rule*

Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education, explained that the fee rules which were revised in 2008 and became effective in August 2009

did not completely clear up the confusion caused by the references to school fees in statutes. In order to clarify that schools may require fees for voluntary summer school programs and graduation ceremonies the rules have now been divided into three sections: (1) fees that may not be required of any student, regardless of income, (2) fees that may be required of some students, but must be waivable for poor students, and (3) what fees do not constitute "school fees".

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

E. *Charter Schools Funding and Enrollment, Rules*

Mr. Haglund explained that 2009 Public Chapter 555 required the Board, working with the Department of Education, to promulgate rules regarding the distribution of BEP funds to public charter schools and the lotteries used to determine enrollment in charter schools. The rules were developed with administrators and attorneys at districts across the state, and with input from charter school operators and support organizations. The rules took the language from PC 555 and added language from a February 2009 SDE memo regarding fund distribution, as well as a chart to show the enrollment priorities from the existing and new parts of the public charter school law. Other issues that came up in the discussion are being shared with the Comptroller's Charter School Task Force, which is scheduled to issue a report to the legislature in February 2010.

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

F. *Non-public Schools, Rules*

Mr. Haglund pointed out that this revision aligns the SBE rules with 2009 Public Chapter 329's requirement that State agencies treat Category IV church-related school diplomas "as having all the rights and privileges of a high school diploma awarded by a public school system." The revision also removes the number of regional accrediting agencies since some of them have merged.

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

IV. *Action Items (Final Reading)*

A. *Tennessee College & Career Ready Goals & Indicators*

Dr. Nixon stated that Tennessee was selected as one of eight states to participate in the College and Career Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI). Over the past several months this initiative has been studying the data that indicate student readiness for college or workforce training. The work was presented for first reading in July. At the direction of the

Board, the work was restructured to be more succinct and to focus as much as possible on national measures such as ACT and NAEP. He stated that this draft proposes three goals and nine performance indicators. Further, recommendations from the SCORE Final Report have been incorporated. The CCRPI recommends these goals and indicators become the measures for the Annual Performance Report we produce for the January Board meeting.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve this item. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *The PRAXIS Series, Moving Rule to Policy*

Mr. Haglund noted that in order to streamline the revision of required minimum scores, the listing of required scores is being moved from the rule to policy.

The rule revision still meets the statutory requirement for teachers to pass proficiency tests.

ACTION: **Ms. Pearre** moved approval of this item. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			X

The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Praxis SLLA Exam Passing Score Policy*

D. *Teacher Licensure, Praxis Score Scale Changes, Policy*

Mr. Haglund noted that moving the teacher competency tests and passing scores from rule to policy would streamline the approval process. He noted that the score on the SLLA was set at 160, even though that was at the low end of the range recommended by the task force put together by ETS, since this would be the first time the test would be administered. The passing score can be revisited after the first year.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve this item. **Ms. Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Training for Salary Purposes, Rule

Mr. Haglund explained that this rule revision aligns the rule with statutes that allow for salary adjustments to be made in the second semester. Licensed educators will, once the rule revision is effective, be able to receive credit for salary purposes during the first and/or second semester of school.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve this item. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			X

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Standards for Infant/Toddler, Preschool & School-Age Extended Care Programs, Rule

Mr. Haglund said that programs approved by the Department of Education must have rules that parallel those for programs approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Because DHS revised its rules in October 2008, these rules are being revised. The revisions include specific provisions unique to programs approved by the Department of Education. Other than typographical corrections, the draft remained the same between first and second reading.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved to approve. **Mr. Ray** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			X

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Dual Enrollment, Rule

Mr. Haglund explained that in order to allow for cooperative programs envisioned by 2007 Public Chapter 459 and being formulated through RAMP-UP, the rules need to be revised to allow all high school students, not just 11th and 12th grade students, to take courses at a post-secondary institution or courses offered online by a post-secondary institution.

ACTION: **Ms. Pearre** moved to approve. **Dr. Rogers** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			X

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Category II Non-Public School Accrediting Agency Renewal

Mr. Haglund explained that the Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools (TANAS), an approved Category II nonpublic school accrediting agency, had their approval renewed two years ago. They recently revised their teacher certification process, and sought approval of that amendment.

Chairman Rolston explained that given the minor change, it was appropriate to hear this item on first and final reading.

Mr. Haglund added that the Department of Education recommended approval, as did the State Board of Education staff.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved to approve this item. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

I. *Teacher Education Unit and Program/Licensure Areas*

Mr. Martin Nash, Department of Education, presented this item. A total of five institutions are seeking approval; 3 NCATE and 2 for state approval. He also commented that the standard for approval is the same is these same regardless of the type of approval being sought.

Ms. Pearre asked about program deficiencies and how these are addressed. **Mr. Nash** responded that these deficiencies must be acted upon within 12 months of Board action and that a return visit will determine if the deficiency has been addressed.

Dr. Nixon asked **Mr. Nash** about his perspective on the Board's Teacher Education Report Card and how this might affect state accreditation. **Mr. Nash** responded that as the process is refined the report will serve as a valuable tool toward programs improvement. **Dr. Nixon** invited **Mr. Nash** to be a part of the refinements that take place in the report over time.

J. *Preliminary List of Textbooks for Section II*

Mr. Branson Townsend, Department of Education, presented the list of approved textbooks for English, English as a Second Language, and Foreign Language for final reading.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Ms. Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

K. *Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy*

Dr. Nixon stated that while the final Race To The Top (RTTT) guidelines have not yet been released, the preliminary guidelines require that states must provide the opportunity for organizations that are not institutions of higher education to become approved programs to license principals, much like we have in teacher preparation, for the state to be eligible to receive RTTT funds. This is a requirement for Tennessee to become eligible for \$300,000,000 - \$500,000,000.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** moved approval of this item with her recommended change. **Ms. Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. *Teacher License Actions*

- A. *John K. Burgess: Revocation, minimum three (3) years***
- B. *Laura A. Costin: Denial, three (3) years***
- C. *Joe B. Driver: Revocation, minimum three (3) years***
- D. *Jerry L. Fuson: Voluntary surrender, permanent***

- E. Jennifer Hanna: Denial, two (2) years**
- F. Robert Scott Pope: Reinstatement**

ACTION: **Ms. Pearre** moved to approve Items **V.A. – V.E.** **Dr. Rogers** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			X

The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve Item **V.F.** **Ms. Justice** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers			X
Flavius Barker			X
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre		X	
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie McMillan			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 January 29, 2010.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____