

grade levels and subject area examinations have not yet been administered.

Vice Chairman Pearre asked about how graduation rate might change under a new reporting mechanism and **Commissioner Webb** responded that he expected a downward shift but did not, as of yet, have a prediction of how much.

The Board accepted the report into the record.

B. *Joint Report on Pre-Kindergarten through Higher Education*

Mr. Art Fuller, State Board of Education, presented a summary of the Joint Report, noting this year's edition was significantly streamlined to reflect the College and Career Readiness Indicators adopted by the Board in November. Mr. Fuller stated that this year served as the baseline year upon which future achievement targets would be set, incorporating results from the more rigorous assessments of the Tennessee Diploma Project.

C. *Tennessee's Teacher Equity Plan 2009-2010*

Dr. Julie McCargar, Department of Education, presented this report in response to *No Child Left Behind* requirements that help ensure that children living in poverty are not taught by the least effective teachers. Tennessee results mirror the national trends; teachers in schools that serve children of poverty likely have more ineffective teachers than other schools. This trend holds up for schools designated as "high priority" as well.

Tennessee's Race to the Top application contains a plan to address this issue and ameliorate these differences. **Mr. Ray** asked whether the report's results are based upon TVAAS scores and how other factors are taken into account. **Commissioner Web** responded that, under new legislation, others components will be a part of the overall student and teacher evaluation process and a recommendation will be brought forward from the evaluation committee created in recently passed legislation.

Mr. Ray also asked about the effectiveness of teachers who met the "highly qualified" status through a degree in the content area as opposed to other approved options. **Dr. McCargar** responded that the report does not differentiate, but that there is a new trend toward identifying teachers as "highly effective" rather than highly qualified.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Praxis Exam Passing Score, Business, Policy*

B. *Praxis Exam Passing Score, World Languages, Policy*

Ms. Jeanette Crosswhite and Ms. Kara Burkett, Department of Education, presented this change of Praxis exam scores for foreign language and business and explained that the Praxis tests, as part of the licensure process, have recently been revised to meet the needs of teachers and rescaled by ETS. Teams of state reviewers recommended cut scores, and the Department of Education proposes adopting a cut score one standard deviation below the recommendation for World Languages and the recommended cut score for Business. The Department has as a matter of practice started with scores in that range so that adjustments can be made up in the future, rather than having to lower scores.

Chairman Rolston asked whether these had been reviewed by the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification and **Dr. Sevier** responded that since this was not a reworking of the exam or its content and simply a recalibration of the cut score the Council did not review the work.

Mr. Ray asked how the content of the Praxis II exams -- these specialty exams -- differed from the Praxis I tests teacher candidates take to gain admission to preparation programs. **Ms. Crosswhite** explained that the Praxis I tests measure broader skills, including writing and math, whereas the specialty tests are very focused by subject. The World Languages content has been changed, for example, in order to give students the skills needed by government and other agencies needing translation in real-world settings such as the State Department and military.

Mr. Ray also asked if examples from the tests could be viewed. **Ms. Crosswhite** noted that ETS maintains samples of the tests on its website.

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

C. *High School Transition Policy*

Ms. Linda Jordan, Department of Education, presented this item that allows students to substitute higher level biology courses for Biology I and still meet graduation requirements.

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

D. *Pupil Transportation Rule Update*

Mr. Fuller reviewed the pupil transportation rule changes in compliance with Public Chapters 436 and 38 of the 106th General Assembly. **Mr. Fuller** reviewed updates related to the ability of the Commissioner of Safety to approve up to 17 years of service for conventional buses with

less than 200,000 miles. He also reviewed several technical changes based on outdated bus requirements related to school vans and outdated classifications of bus types.

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

E. *Identification of the Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools Policy*

Dr. McCargar presented this item. This definition and process is required for eligibility for federal programs including State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, Race to the Top, and School Improvement funding. This process and definition allows Tennessee to place appropriate focus on those schools most in need of additional resources in order to increase student achievement.

Chairman Rolston noted that there is very little difference between the two definitions and **Dr. McCargar** responded that these schools are very similar in nature and are only separated by the absence of the “Title” designation even though they may actually qualify as a Title school and qualify for Title monies.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *Review of School Curriculum Legislation*

Mr. Fuller summarized the Review of Curriculum Legislation report. **Dr. Rogers** asked **Mr. Fuller** to explain more thoroughly the details concerning House Bill 1823 on the use of psychotropic drugs. **Mr. Fuller** explained that of the 136 school districts surveyed, all used general medication policies to guide administration of the drug with students, based on the formal recommendations of a physician.

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

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

Ms. Brenda Ables, Department of Education, noted that there are no changes from the first reading version and that the curriculum is structured in such a way as to withstand “Establishment Clause” challenge.

Mr. Ray asked about potential problems of the course as interpreted by an individual teacher. **Ms. Ables** responded that the course structure does not take into account the inappropriate actions of a teacher who

may reach beyond the scope of the course. These types of concerns are address as part of the teacher’s training. **Ms. Ables** also gave background about the legislative history associated with this curriculum and those schools in Tennessee currently teaching similar, but not the same, courses.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve. **Ms. Justice** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme*

Ms. Ables, Department of Education, noted that there are no changes from the first reading version.

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

D. *School Fees, Rule*

Mr. Haglund pointed out one change since the first reading: the item, "fees for copies of student records" had been removed from the list of fees that could be waived for students eligible for free or reduced price lunches, since access to and charging of fees for records is covered by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other laws.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **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.

E. *Charter Schools Funding and Enrollment Rules*

Mr. Haglund explained that two changes had been made since first reading. The term "food services" would be replaced by "school nutrition programs," to coincide with terms used in federal and state laws and regulations. Also, in the enrollment section, the chart was changed to

combine the categories of students assigned to failing schools and students failing to test proficient. This aligned with the statute and rule text already in place.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve. **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. *Nonpublic Schools, Rules*

Mr. Haglund noted that no changes had been made to the rule since first reading.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Ms. Sloyan** 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.

V. *Teacher License Actions*

- A. *Jayna Binion – Suspension, minimum one (1) year***
- B. *Daniel D. Byram – Revocation, permanent***

- C. Tonya A. Fulton – Suspension, minimum two (2) years**
- D. Richard J. Hargrove – Reinstatement**
- E. James Lynch -- Reinstatement**
- F. Robert M. Maloney – Reinstatement**
- G. Jessica L. Percifull – Revocation, minimum three (3) years**
- H. Anthony V. Robinson – Revocation, permanent**
- I. Rebecca O. Wilson – Revocation, minimum five (5) years**

ACTION: Mr. Ray 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		
Brittini England	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on April 16, 2010.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____