

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 20, 2007**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m. CST, on April 20, 2007.

Present..... 10	Absent.....1
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair	Mr. Flavius Barker
Mr. Jim Ayers	
Ms. Carolyn Pearre	
Mr. Richard Ray	
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	
Dr. Valerie Rutledge	
Ms. Sharon Thompson	
Dr. Melvin Wright	
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio	
Mr. Jacob Kleinrock, Student Mbr	

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

Chairman Rolston announced that *Item IV.F. – Basic Education Program Improvements* and *Item V.C. – Valentina Jones (Reinstatement of License)* had been deleted from this agenda.

I. Consent Items

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes January 26, 2007**

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

II. Report Items

- A. Blue Ribbon & Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition**

Dr. Julie McCargar, Department of Education, reported on those schools recognized for high performance from both the State of Tennessee and the federal government. Based on state data, the CSSO certifies that the nominated schools meet one of two criteria:

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

2) Regardless of its demographics, the school 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.

Tennessee has had six schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools for 2006. They are:

Schools in the Top 10 Percent of the State with at least 40 Percent Disadvantaged Students

1. Carter County Schools
Danny McClain, Principal
Hampton High School
766 First Avenue
Hampton, Tennessee 37658
2. Franklin Special School District
Mark Tomow, Principal
Franklin Elementary School
1501 Figuers Drive
Franklin, Tennessee 37064
3. Lauderdale County Schools
Andy Pugh, Principal
Halls High School
800 Tigrett Street
Halls, Tennessee 38040
4. Putnam County Schools
Joe Matheney, Principal
Monterey High School
710 Commercial Avenue
Monterey, Tennessee 38574

Schools in the top 10 percent of the State with fewer than 40 percent disadvantaged students

5. Rutherford County Schools
Ivan Duggin, Principal
Holloway High School
619 South Highland Avenue
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130
6. Williamson County Schools
Dr. Kay Kendrick, Principal
Brentwood Middle School
5324 Murray Lane
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

Dr. McCargar noted that the national Title I conference will be held in Nashville next year and invited SBE members to attend.

Dr. McCargar noted that these schools are held up as models of best practices and this gives other Tennessee schools the opportunity to learn from their prior work.

Chairman Rolston conveyed the Board's congratulations and appreciation for the results achieved by these schools and stated that they needed to share the good things they are doing.

Dr. Nixon recognized **Mr. Ivan Duggin**, Principal of Holloway High School, in the audience.

B. *Tennessee's Teacher Equity Plan*

Dr. Julie McCargar from the SDE reported on the department's teacher equity plan in response to the Title II of NCLB. She noted that this plan serves to insure that students in high poverty areas are not taught by inexperienced teachers at higher rates than those students not in high poverty. She noted that the plan is publicly available on the SDE website.

The report examined the distribution of teachers w/ advanced degrees and teachers with high teacher effect data. According to the analysis in urban areas, wide gaps exist and this gap mirrors state-wide patterns.

Mr. Ray asked about patterns of teacher placement and underlying reasons for teacher transfers as it relates to high poverty and high minority schools.

Mr. Kleinrock asked about how Tennessee compares to other states and **Dr. McCargar** responded that Tennessee data is in line with other states.

Dr. Wright raised the issue of how these data relate to loan forgiveness for young teachers and mid-career professionals where teaching in high poverty schools is a condition of their loans forgiveness program.

C. *High School Redesign in Tennessee*

Dr. Earl Wiman, president of the Tennessee Education Association (TEA) gave a report on behalf of TEA and noted the organization's response to recent efforts related to school reform and high school redesign. He noted that Tennessee needs to move cautiously in making sweeping changes to the current high school graduation requirements. He noted that formative assessment, curriculum, class size, and parental involvement are all key components of related to student achievement. He especially noted that sufficient resources are necessary to implement any changes.

Dr. Wiman introduced **Gera Summerford**, TEA Vice President, and a Sevier County math teacher. She made remarks regarding high school reform as it relates to the perspective of a high school math teacher. She spoke to the concept of tracking students to ensure that they are completing their goals after graduation. Specifically, she addressed the lowering of class size and increasing parent participation. She noted that high school course requirements should only be changed if work is done to see that students enter high school prepared for rigorous work.

Chairman Rolston assured the presenters that the Board is sensitive to the opinions expressed as the work of high school reform moves forward but the Board is also committed to moving forward quickly.

D. *Teach Tennessee Annual Report*

Ms. Becky Kent, Department of Education, presented the report on the progress of the *Teach Tennessee* program. The report focused on the first 3 cohorts, a total of 89 fellows. The report includes data regarding prior knowledge and geography among other factors. She noted that the candidates appear to not be mobile and tend to wait until an appropriate teaching position becomes available in their geographic region before entering teaching.

Mr. Ken Hardison, a Teach Tennessee fellow, addressed the Board about his experiences as a fellow and new teacher. He currently teaches math at Blackman High School in Rutherford County. He stated that *Teach Tennessee* is necessary to fill a void by allowing mid-career professionals the opportunity to enter the teaching profession in an expedited, affordable manner.

Mr. Kleinrock asked about the fellow/mentor ratio. **Mrs. Kent** responded that she works to limit the ratio to 1:1.

Chairman Rolston stated that the Board was enthusiastic about this program.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Special Education Disability Specific Eligibility Standards*

Mr. Joe Fisher, Department of Education, presented the eligibility standards. A committee was formed and met from January 2007 until March 2007. The standards were revised to ensure that they align with the IDEA and revised rules and regulations.

The committee suggested a few changes. The term "adverse effect" was added to the standards. The intellectually gifted standards have changed since last presented to the Board. There were also changes in SLD standards.

Dr. Rogers stated that the wording concerning vision is not clear. She requested that visual perceptual changes be addressed.

Mr. Fisher said he would be glad to meet with **Dr. Rogers** and make changes between first and second readings.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve on first reading with the stipulation that representatives from the Division of Special Education meet to clarify the vision wording. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Special Education Programs & Services, Rules*

Mr. Bill Wilson, Department of Education Division of Special Education, presented for first reading the Special Education Programs and Service, Rule. The rules have been revised by a constituent task force. The revised rules align the State rules with the Federal Education of Individuals with Disabilities Law. The rules adopt the federal law by reference and are supplemented by state specific laws and choices.

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

Chairman Rolston directed the State Board of Education staff to schedule and conduct a rulemaking hearing.

C. *New Leaders for New Schools*

Dr. Mary Jo Howland, State Board of Education, presented a request from New Leaders for New Schools to continue as an experimental leadership program in Memphis. **Mr. Billy Kearney**, Executive Director of the Memphis program was introduced and was available for questions.

Dr. Rutledge commented that she was very impressed by the program participants and their performance. She stated New Leaders was an excellent program and thanked the people of Memphis for bringing the program to Tennessee.

ACTION: **Ms. Thompson** moved to approve the extension of the New Leaders for New Schools – Memphis program, in partnership with the University of Memphis, as an experimental program for an additional three years. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Career and Technical Education Transition Plan for Perkins Act of 2006*

Mr. Ralph Barnett, Department of Education, spoke on behalf of the SDE. He presented the State's transition plan to meet the requirements for the *Perkins Act of 2006*. He noted that this plan allows Tennessee to access funds provided by the Act. He also noted that the plan would

need to come back before the Board for approval before it can be submitted to the federal government.

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

E. *Personal Finance, Rule*

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented the rule change for personal finance and stated that this rule addressed employment standards and course substitutions. He noted that concerns had been expressed regarding specificity of training for teachers and that there would be work done on this aspect of the item before it came back to the Board for final approval.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *State Board of Education Master Plan*

Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education, noted that the Master Plan committees discussed in January have already been meeting and making progress in their areas. **Mr. Haglund** and **Dr. Nixon** feel that the draft Master Plan has been a great tool for presentations to various audiences, particularly the legislature.

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

B. *Career and Technical Language Revisions, Rule*

Mr. Ralph Barnett presented this rule for final reading. He noted that this is a “clean up” of present rule language in response to the General Assembly’s action in changing the division’s name from “Vocational” to “Career Technical.”

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
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Valerie Rutledge	X		
Sharon Thompson			X
Melvin Wright	X		
Jacob Kleinrock	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Category IV School Approval, Nashville International Academy*

Mr. Haglund explained that Nashville International Academy met all the requirements in the rule and was operated by a bona fide religious organization. The State Board staff and Department of Education staff recommend approval of the application.

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

D. *Personal Finance Curriculum*

Dr. Sevier presented curriculum standards for the course in personal finance. He noted that it was a very robust curriculum addressing many topics.

Chairman Rolston expressed concern that the curriculum was too broad and questioned whether the curriculum needed to be reduced in order to cover in more depth the essential items of the curriculum.

ACTION: **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve. **Mr. Kleinrock** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. *Lifetime Wellness Standards*

Dr. Sevier presented an addition to the lifetime wellness standards. The standard relates to making students aware of child abandonment laws in Tennessee and seeing that these are included as part of the overall wellness curriculum. He noted that concern had been expressed by a legislator about the issue of child abandonment and that this was the Board's means of addressing that concern.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved to approve. **Mr. Kleinrock** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. *Basic Education Program Improvements*

This item was removed from the agenda.

V. Teacher License Actions

- A. Allen W. Franks (revocation, permanent)**
- B. Carolyn R. Green (revocation, minimum five years)**
- C. Valentina Jones (reinstatement) – REMOVED FROM AGENDA**
- D. Lynn D. Lang (reinstatement)**
- E. Harold N. Moore (revocation, minimum three years)**
- F. Charles E. Rankhorn (revocation, permanent)**
- G. Ernest E. Robinson (revocation, minimum three years)**
- H. Dorothy L. Stubsten (suspension, one year)**
- I. Phillip N. Tarpley (revocation, permanent)**
- J. Terry L. VanMeter (suspension, concurrent with Kentucky suspension)**

Mr. Haglund explained that **Item C. – Valentina Jones (reinstatement)** was removed from the agenda at the request of Ms. Jones. He stated that on **Item H – Dorothy L. Stubsten (suspension, one year)** the time for the revocation was three years from the date of termination.

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

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Jim Ayers	X			
Flavius Barker			X	
Carolyn Pearre	X			
Dick Ray	X			X
Jean Anne Rogers	X			
Fielding Rolston	X			
Valerie Rutledge	X			
Sharon Thompson	X			
Melvin Wright	X			
Jacob Kleinrock	X			

The motion passed by majority vote to accept the Review Committees recommendation on all the items. Mr. Ray abstained on the reinstatement of Lynn Lang.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced the that the Board will meet on April 20, 2007.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____