MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 17, 2009

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the First Floor Conference Room of the Andrew Johnson Tower, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m., CST, on April 17, 2009.

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

Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair
Mr. Jim Ayers
Ms. Vernita Justice
Ms. Carolyn Pearre
Mr. Richard Ray
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Ms. Teresa Sloyan
Dr. Melvin Wright
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio

Mr. Flavius Barker
Ms. Brittni England

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

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda
B. Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2009

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

II. Report Items

A. Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition

Dr. Julie McCargar, **Ms. Karen Mott** and **Dr. Connie Smith**, Department of Education, presented plaques, certificates and bouquets of spring flowers to the following Title I Distinguished Schools:

National Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Burchfield Elementary
Scott County Schools
Randy Shelton, Principal
1112 W Third Street
Oneida, Tennessee 37841

National Title I Exceptional Student Performance

Centerview Elementary
Cocke County School System
Pam Messer, Principal
2400 Hwy 160
Newport, Tennessee 37821

State Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Circles of Success Learning Academy
Memphis City Schools
Shari Catron, Principal
867 S. Parkway E.
Memphis, Tennessee 38106

State Title I Exceptional Student Performance

Gleason School
Weakley County Schools
Randy Frazier, Principal
92-99 Championship Drive
Gleason, Tennessee 38229

Each state may select two schools for national recognition; a maximum of one from each of the following categories:

- Category 1: School that has exceeded its adequate yearly progress for two or more years NCLB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(ii); and,
- Category 2: School that has significantly closed the achievement gap between students groups NLCB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(i).

Selected schools must have a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year and meet these two criteria:

- Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years; and,
- Met or exceeded state standards for making adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years.

The schools received congratulations from Board members.

B. ***Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition***

Dr. McCargar, **Ms. Mott** and **Dr. Smith** presented plaques, certificates and bouquets of spring flowers to the following Blue Ribbon Schools:

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

John P Freeman Optional School
Memphis City Schools
Georgia E Parks, Principal
5250 Tulane Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38109

Mountain City Elementary
Johnson County Schools
Gay Triplett, Principal
301 Donnelly Street
Mountain City, Tennessee 37693

Northwest Elementary
Fayette County School
Santita Wright, Principal
5245 Highway 70
Mason, Tennessee 38049

Walnut Grove Elementary
Hardin County Schools
Linda Gean, Principal
4355 Hwy 69
Savannah, Tennessee 38372

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

Lawrenceburg Public Elementary School
Lawrence County Schools
Gari Lynn, Principal
600 Prosser Road
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee 38464

Greeneville High School
Greeneville City Schools
Jerry Ayers, Principal **principal at the time*
Linda Stroud, Principal
210 Tusculum Blvd
Greeneville, Tennessee 37745

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.

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.

The schools received congratulations from Board members.

C. Tennessee Council for Career & Technical Education Biennial Report

Mr. Thom Smith, Department of Education, presented this biennial report as required under TCA 49-11-202.

Mr. Ray asked what the State Board of Education should do to enhance the efforts of CTE.

Mr. Smith replied that the Board should see where standards can be implemented in existing courses and stated that CTE is a continually evolving field and that continued work together is vital to success.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. Identification of Core Knowledge and Skills for Performance-Based Assessment of Students with Disabilities

Ms. Donna Parker and **Mr. Branson Townsend**, Department of Education, presented this item for first reading. The Board's High School Policy requires that the Department identify the core standards that are essential for students with disabilities to know and understand in order to receive credits in that course. These standards are the result of that work.

Mr. Townsend stated that this was a collaborative effort that will help ensure that the maximum number of students with disabilities have an opportunity to receive a regular high school diploma.

Ms. Parker clarified that this process is available for those students with valid IEPs that contain documentation of a limiting condition that would adversely impact testing performance.

Ms. Pearre asked how many students would be evaluated using these standards.

Ms. Parker stated that she did not have these figures readily available but would get back with the Board on this question.

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

B. Mental Health Standards and Guidelines

Ms. Sara Smith, Department of Education, presented this item. Current Board rules call or local education agencies to have rules in place related to guidance, psychological, social work, and health services for pupils. Currently, no state guidance is available to assist LEAs in this work. This document supports this effort.

Ms. Pearre asked for clarifying language that treats this document as guideline, rather than a rule.

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

C. Additional Endorsements, Policy & Rule

Mr. Townsend presented this item for the Department. This represents another opportunity for currently licensed secondary teachers to obtain additional endorsements in various subject areas.

Dr. Smith added that the current PRAXIS exam serves as the measure for minimal competency.

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, added that the same examination serves as the current path for initial licensure.

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

D. Changes to Academic Course Listing, Policy

Mr. Townsend presented this list of courses. It is essentially a technical correction to courses that have been approved in the past by the Board and never added to the course listing, and other courses that have become outdated or otherwise eliminated but have not been taken from the official list of courses.

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

E. Transitional Licensure Policy

Mr. Martin Nash, Department of Education, presented the Department's policy proposal regarding the Transitional Teaching License. He noted that many constituencies were consulted in the creation of this proposed policy. This policy allows LEAs and other education-related agencies or

organizations to seek approval to recommend candidates for initial teacher licensure using program standards that are parallel to those used by currently approved colleges and universities.

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

F. High School Policy: Graduation with Distinction Clarification Policy

Ms. Lynne Cohen, Department of Education, presented this and noted that this clarifies and aligns the clock-hour training from Tennessee technology centers with credit hours earned from community colleges and universities.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. Middle Grades Task Force Proposal Rule

This item was deferred.

B. Career and Technical Education End-of-Course Assessments, Rule

Mr. Ralph Barnett, Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education, noted that this item begins the process of technical skill assessments, rather than competencies, in Health Sciences, and Marketing.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance. **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		
Brittni England			X

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Changes to Career and Technical Education Course Listing, Policy

Ms. Cohen was available to answer questions on this item which was being presented for final reading.

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

D. High School Policy – One Path Clarification

Ms. Cohen stated that this item aligns Trade and Industrial courses into the single path of eligible courses in support of the Board's high school policy.

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

E. Achievement Levels and Descriptors

Dr. McCargar stated that this moves the number of achievement levels from three to four and creates a more "NAEP-like" model of reporting student achievement.

Dr. Smith added that this alignment opens the opportunity for better communication with parents regarding their child's achievement.

Mr. Ayers stated that he did not like the terminology "Approaching Proficient" and the possible problematic aspects of that term believing it to be misleading.

Chairman Rolston asked Board members contact **Dr. Smith** with any suggestions for alternative terminology.

Dr. Nixon suggested approving the concept of the four levels and that the Department of Education return with other possible titles for that descriptor along with an outline of potential communications plans.

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

V. Teacher License Actions

A. Carol B. Burkhart – Suspension, one (1) year
B. Timothy N. Byars – Revocation, permanent
C. Edward V. Derrick – Voluntary surrender, permanent
D. Paula J. McGlothlin – Suspension, one (1) year
E. ***James A. Swafford – Voluntary surrender, permanent***
F. ***Brenda M. Swinton - Suspension, one (1) year***
G. Craig W. Worley – Reinstatement
H. Greg D. McDonald – Reinstatement

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance. **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		
Brittni England			X

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on July 31, 2009.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____