

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JULY 22, 2009**

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 8:00 a.m., CDT, on July 22, 2009.

<b>Present..... 10</b>	<b>Absent.....1</b>
<b>Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair</b>	<b>Mr. Flavius Barker</b>
<b>Mr. Jim Ayers</b>	
<b>Ms. Vernita Justice</b>	
<b>Ms. Carolyn Pearre</b>	
<b>Mr. Richard Ray</b>	
<b>Dr. Jean Anne Rogers</b>	
<b>Ms. Teresa Sloyan</b>	
<b>Dr. Melvin Wright</b>	
<b>Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio</b>	
<b>Ms. Katie McMillan</b>	

**Others present in the Conference Room and On the Call:**

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education  
Dr. David Sevier, Deputy Executive Director, State Board of Education  
Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education  
Dr. Tim Webb, Commissioner, Department of Education  
Mr. Robert Greene, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education  
Dr. Connie Smith, Director of School Innovation, Improvement & Accountability,  
Department of Education  
Ms. Jean Sharp, Department of Education  
Dr. Debbie Owens, Department of Education

Others on the call:  
John Barker, Memphis City Schools

**Chairman Rolston** called the meeting to order.

**I. Action Items (Final Reading)**

**A. 2009 List of State Identified High Priority Schools and School Systems**

**Chairman Rolston** introduced the item for consideration and **Commissioner Webb** made note that the information was being made public in time to meet federal reporting requirements.

**Commissioner Webb** introduced **Dr. Connie Smith**. She pointed out that there are two lists: high priority systems and high priority schools.

**Mr. Ray** asked about the various levels of accountability and **Dr. Smith** outlined the levels and their implications. **Mr. Ray** and **Dr. Smith** discussed potential shifts in finances in light of various accountability measures.

**Dr. Smith** continued with her explanation and noted that the state's involvement increases if the school or system fails to make AYP benchmarks.

She presented the lists for consideration and explained the "safe harbor" provision and how this aspect of the NCLB law might be used as part of the appeal process. **Dr. Smith** also pointed out that 42 schools (31%) came off of the list and 37 schools (25%) made improvements such that they moved into "improving" status.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Ray** moved to approve this list. **Dr. Wright** seconded.

**Mr. Ray** asked about the increased rigor and what the Department of Education is doing to prepare for a potential increase in the number of schools not making AYP next year.

**Dr. Smith** responded that the SDE has trained over 15,000 Tennessee educators on the new standards and new assessments. She enumerated several training opportunities available both currently and in the near future. **Deputy Commissioner Robert Greene** commented that there is also an effort underway to make the public, especially parents, aware of the new standards. **Mr. Ray** commented that there remains an issue regarding student-level interventions and that these must continue, in spite of fiscal constraints.

**Dr. Smith** and **Commissioner Webb** responded that the Department is placing a new emphasis on reading and that ARRA funds will be leveraged in this effort.

**Vice Chair Pearre** asked about Title I and how these monies are distributed in support of learning. **Dr. Deborah Owens** responded that federal money is currently coordinated via a grant process that works through the existing improvement plan at the school.

**Chairman Rolston** asked whether most high schools on the list are there due to graduation rate. **Dr. Smith** responded that this was the primary reason for high schools not making AYP.

The motion to approve passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Commissioner Webb** commented that, based upon conversations with representatives of the federal government, Tennessee is well-positioned in terms of initiatives that are in place or in development.

**Chairman Rolston** thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone and thanked the Department of Education for their work. He reminded members of the July 30-31, 2009 workshop and meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_