



**MINUTES**  
**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Conference Call Meeting**  
**March 16, 2017**  
**10:00 A.M. (CST)**  
**Ph. (646) 558-8656**  
**Webinar ID: 330-537-721**

To watch/hear the presentations, click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/330537721>

**Welcome & Introductions**

Chairman Rolston welcomed everyone to the special called meeting. Chairman Rolston opened the meeting by having the roll recorded. The results were recorded as 8 members present. There were 2 members absent from the call.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mr. B. Fielding Rolston, Chairman</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Allison Chancey</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Mike Edwards</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Gordon Ferguson</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Elissa Kim</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Lillian Hartgrove</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Wendy Tucker</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Cato Johnson</b>		x
<b>Dr. William E. Troutt</b>		x
<b>Student Member - Ms. Tiffany Cook</b>	x	

**I. Consent Items (Voice Vote)**

**A. Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Rolston asked for a motion on the adoption of the Agenda. Ms. Tucker made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. There being no discussion the agenda was approved by voice vote. The voice vote was unanimous and the agenda was adopted.

## **II. Statement of Necessity**

Chairman Rolston recognized Ms. Elizabeth Taylor who is the General Counsel for the State Board of Education. Ms. Taylor was asked to present the Statement of Necessity. Ms. Taylor explained that at the State Board of Education meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2017, the State Board of Education presented changes to the special education program and services rule as well as standards for special education evaluation and eligibility. At that meeting the State Board of Education had concerns regarding the proposed changes the State Department of Education was proposing. The State Board of Education asked that the items in question be removed until such time as counsel for the Board and the Department could meet to revise the language of the proposal. The State Board Staff met with Department of Education staff and further revised the language to align with federal regulations. Because of the State Department of Education implementation time frames, this special called meeting was convened to allow the State Board to review the proposed rule changes. The State Board special called meeting was a teleconference due to the physical distance of State Board members from Nashville.

## **III. Report Items:**

### **A. Update on High School Graduation Requirements Data**

Chairman Rolston recognized Dr. Candace McQueen commissioner of the Department of Education for updates on this item. Dr. McQueen advised the State Board of Education members that she would start off the discussion, and that there would be input from Nathan Schwartz. Dr. McQueen stated that her team has had multiple communications with department directors regarding the Seamless Pathways report based on the review of graduation data. Mr. Schwartz went on to state that there are essentially four reasons that students do not meet graduation requirements. The reasons given were: data entry errors, use of arts/foreign language waivers, course substitution misunderstandings, and missed courses. Mr. Schwartz went on to say that the Department of Education realizes that the department has to continue to improve their communication skills with the local districts. Mr. Schwartz went on to state that none of these issues are critical in nature. This statement was intended to not be an excuse, but a realization that while challenges persist, the problem with high school graduation rates is not as serious as originally thought. Mr. Edwards commended the Department of education on their actions to rectify the issues related to errors in the graduation requirements data. Mr. Edwards asked how many students did not get into a 4 year college because they did not have a foreign language credit. Dr. McQueen responded by saying the Department of education does not have that information. Mr. Edwards asked if computer programming could be substituted for the foreign language requirement. Dr. McQueen indicated that the Department of Education would look into that possibility. Ms. Tucker stated that she appreciates the work the Department of Education has done as well. Ms. Tucker liked the idea of parent engagement and parents signing off on their student's class choices. Ms. Tucker asked about the documentation of waivers, and if there were a record of how many students received the waivers. Mr. Schwartz stated that at this point there is not documentation at this point. Dr. McQueen stated that the districts and the Department of Education will have

a document available by the next State Board of Education meeting. Ms. Hartgrove expressed concern over the factual nature of items as they are reported to the State Board in the future.

**B. Update on School Counseling Policy**

Chairman Rolston recognized Dr. Candace McQueen commissioner of the State Department of Education. Dr. McQueen introduced Dr. Danielle Mezera who went on to address this item. The new changes clarify the guidelines based on the American School Counselors Association standards. The Department of Education put forward that counselors spend 80% of their time on direct student services, and 20% of their time on management support and fair share responsibilities. The Department of Education put forward the idea that a part of the fair share responsibilities idea would be that counselors may be required to assist in the implementation of school testing, but should not be responsible for the overall administration of testing programs. Dr. Mezera stated that the clarity of terms and definitions was very important. Ms. Chancey asked if this policy would be just for high school or all schools K-12. Dr. Mezera stated that this policy covers all K-12 schools. Mr. Edwards stated that he was thinking that a guidance counselor who did not document their 80%/20% time split would be viewed by others as not being a team player. The counselor would be accepted as a team player if the counselor was required to document time spent on their activities. Dr. McQueen stated the idea is that the idea is to continue to clarify the counselor role.

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

Chairman Rolston recognized Theresa Nichols who spoke on behalf of the State Department of Education. The State Department of Education provided new guidelines for the special education rule. These changes include a change to the subset characteristics of Autism, a revision to the definition of developmental delay, revisions to the emotional disturbance guidance, functional delay, and intellectually gifted. These items were presented using the power point program. Ms. Nichols explained that due to public feedback and State Board of Education concerns, changes were made in policy guidelines to align more directly with federal guidelines and standards. The Department of Education recommended adoption of this item on final reading. Ms. Chancey asked what assessment tools are used to assess intellectually gifted students. Ms. Nichols replied that there is not a mandated test.

Chairman Rolston announced that items A and B would be voted on by roll call vote together. Ms. Tucker made the motion that items A and B be voted on together. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion that both items A and B be voted on together. Chairman Rolston called for a roll count vote.

**A. Special Education Programs and Services Rule 0520-01-09-.11**

This was the final reading of an item to revise the guidelines and standards for determining program eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, and evaluating participants to better align to updated clinical disability definitions and best practices,

and to allow for improved portability between states in regards to eligibility. These revisions are the result of recommendations from a disability task force that convened on March 15, 2016, to review each disability category. There was no discussion.

**B. Standards for Special Education Evaluation & Eligibility**

This was the final reading of an item to revise the guidelines and standards for determining program eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, and evaluation participants to better align to updated clinical disability definitions and best practices and allow for improved portability between states in regards to eligibility. These revisions are the result of recommendations from a disability task force that convened on March 15, 2016, to review each disability category. There was no discussion.

The vote was as follows for items A and B.

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mr. B. Fielding Rolston, Chairman</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Allison Chancey</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Mike Edwards</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Gordon Ferguson</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Elissa Kim</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Lillian Hartgrove</b>	x	
<b>Ms. Wendy Tucker</b>	x	
<b>Mr. Cato Johnson</b>		x
<b>Dr. William E. Troutt</b>		x
<b>Student Member - Ms. Tiffany Cook</b>	x	

**V. Adjournment**

Chairman Rolston announced the upcoming meeting schedule, and stated that another called meeting would be necessary to discuss salary schedules.

**MEETING DATES FOR 2017:**

April 21, 2017

July 28, 2017

October 20, 2017

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_