

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AUGUST 10, 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., CDT, on August 10, 2007.

<b>Present..... 9</b>	<b>Absent.....2</b>
<b>Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair</b>	<b>Mr. Flavius Barker</b>
<b>Mr. Jim Ayers</b>	<b>Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio</b>
<b>Ms. Carolyn Pearre</b>	
<b>Mr. Richard Ray</b>	
<b>Dr. Jean Anne Rogers</b>	
<b>Dr. Valerie Rutledge</b>	
<b>Ms. Sharon Thompson</b>	
<b>Dr. Melvin Wright</b>	
<b>Ms. Caroline Hadley</b>	

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

**Chairman Rolston** introduced our new student member, **Ms. Caroline Hadley**. **Ms. Hadley** is from Knoxville and attends Bearden High School. She is the recipient of awards in Geometry, English, Chemistry, German, Science and Pre-Calculus and is President of the Student Government Association. **Ms. Hadley** has been active in Girl Scouts and has been awarded the Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award. We are very happy to have Ms. Hadley with us for the next year.

**I. Consent Items**

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from April 20, 2007, May 4, 2007, and June 22, 2007**

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

**II. Report Items**

- A. Summary Report: Performance of 2005-2006 Teacher Education Graduates**

Statute requires the Board to annually review the Praxis scores from each public and private teacher education institution. **Dr. Susan Bunch**, Assistant Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, Department of Education, stated that the Praxis II examinations include the Principles of Learning and Teaching examination and subject area assessments.

**Dr. Bunch** stated that in accordance with the statute, the State Department of Education prepared a summary report of the performance on the Praxis II examinations of the 2005-2006 teacher education graduates. No institution had more than 30 percent of its students fail the examination.

**B. *Teaching Quality Initiative***

**Dr. Paula Short**, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Board of Regents, presented the Teaching Quality Initiative report. She highlighted the timeline and the report's focal areas and recommended strategies for implementation. The five foundational principles are knowledge base, characteristics, personalizing teaching, modeling, and mentoring. Of particular note was the modeling of good pedagogical strategies by teacher preparation and content professors. The report recommends the creation and support of strong professional development over time for teachers.

**Chairman Rolston** asked about next steps and **Dr. Short** responded that a TQI budget was under preparation. She believes that progress toward implementation will be incremental.

**III. Action Items (First Reading)**

**A. *Non-Public School Approval, Rule***

**Mr. Rich Haglund**, State Board of Education, explained that the current rule allows non-public schools that are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to be approved as Category III schools, but schools accredited by other regional accrediting agencies could not. Some distance learning programs may be approved by another regional accrediting agency because of their location. Changing the rule allows those programs to receive the same approval. The revision also requires non-public schools to report their attendance to the director of schools in the LEA in which the child resides, rather than the LEA where the school is located.

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

**B. *Education Leadership Redesign Commission***

**Dr. Mary Jo Howland**, State Board of Education, presented the 15 recommendations of the Leadership Redesign Commission. The recommendations when operationalized will revise the way instructional leaders are selected, trained, licensed, inducted, evaluated, provided professional development, and the working conditions that will enable them to succeed. The system redesign is needed.

**Dr. Howland** explained the key to the redesign is requiring the learning-focused Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards (TILS) to be adopted and used to align preparation, licensure, induction, evaluation and professional development. Aligning to the TILS will create a cohesive, well articulated, standards based-system of instructional leadership development.

For systems to acquire the instructional leaders needed to will require more collaboration between preparation programs with local systems. **Dr. Howland** said it is essential to create a shared vision and program design consistent with the TILS and meet the needs of the district. Districts should assist in developing the process of recruiting, selecting, preparing and supporting the most promising candidates. Further, without district support prospective leaders will not get the high-quality field experiences so necessary for relevant leadership development.

The Commission proposes that all new and existing advanced programs in education administration be designed (or redesigned) based on the Tennessee standards for instructional leaders with emphasis on the instructional leaders.

The workplace changes that the Commission was studying have been assisted by Public Chapter 376 (HB 472, SB 570). This law lays the foundation for workplace changes. The issues addressed in the legislation matched the workplace task force's principal survey results. The principals reported barriers to success are consistent with the changes in principal accountability, working conditions, school improvement planning, principal evaluation, and differentiated pay plans.

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

**C. *Science Curriculum Standards***

**Ms. Linda Jordan**, Department of Education, presented the curriculum standards. She noted that the curriculum revisions are linked to the textbook adoption cycle. The standards are informed by various science standards organizations. The process involved classroom teachers and a major component of the revision was an effort to reduce redundancy. The language has been changed to increase rigor in connection with science promotion organizations.

**Chairman Rolston** commented that he would like for ACT to review the standards before second reading.

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

**D. *Preliminary List of Textbooks for Section IV (Social Studies)***

**Mr. Morgan Branch**, Department of Education, outlined the selection process for choosing social studies texts and stated that the list will be finalized in early fall in time for the next SBE meeting.

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

**E. *English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) Standards for English as a Second Language (ESL)***

**Dr. Julie McCargar**, Department of Education, presented. She thanked those who provided leadership to the task force. She noted that Tennessee has one of the highest percentages of ESL growth. The standards have been revised to attain alignment to the federal standards. She noted that following approval of the standards, proficiency levels and cut scores will be presented to the Board for approval.

**Mr. Ray** asked about amount of time necessary to have a child move to a level of English proficiency that allows them to exit from the program. **Dr. McCargar** responded that it may take 1 to 3 years for a child to obtain social English skills, while 5-7 years may be necessary to obtain content English fluency.

**Mrs. Pearre** noted the importance of this issue and the current levels of variation of service across the state.

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

**F. *Marketing Education Building Wealth Curriculum Standards***

**Ms. Lisa Jones**, Department of Education, presented the Building Wealth curriculum. She highlighted importance of financial competence and knowledge of basic investment strategies. **Ms. Jones** stated that this course could serve as a substitute for Personal Finance.

**Mrs. Pearre** asked for clarification about the substitution for Personal Finance and **Ms. Jones** responded that it covers, and goes beyond, the Personal Finance curriculum recently approved by the Board.

**Mr. Ayers** commented on the importance of finance elements within this course. **Ms. Jones** commented that these aspects are integral to the Building Wealth course.

**Chairman Rolston** asked that the Building Wealth course and the Personal Finance course standards be aligned side-by-side.

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

**G. *K-5 Theatre Curriculum Standards***

**Ms. Jeanette Crosswhite**, Department of Education, presented the K-5 Theatre Curriculum Standards. She noted that the major aspect of the revision was to place the standards into a format similar to other theatre standards.

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

**H. *High School Transition Policy***

**Dr. Gary Nixon**, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, began by outlining the work of the Tennessee Diploma Project and the communication that has occurred between the governor's office and business executives across the state. These executives have commented that they continue to seek out employees who can communicate well, have the ability to apply math and science concepts, can work as a team to solve problems, and maintain a strong work ethic. This transition policy takes effect with the 2007-2008 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. It adds a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math, ½ unit requirement of Personal Finance, and a ½ unit requirement of Physical Education.

**Dr. Nixon** noted a shift within the science requirements that will mean all students will take either chemistry or physics, and that this proposal eliminates the current two-track system for high school graduation. Also, he commented that special education services are still under consideration.

**Mr. Ray** recognized **Mr. Ralph Barnett** and his work in the Division of Career-Technical education in terms of this policy revision.

**Ms. Pearre** suggested adding "counselors" under the list of challenges.

**Miss Hadley** asked about the process regarding how a student would go about changing their program of study. **Dr. Nixon** responded that this would be a decision that would involve a discussion between student, parents, counselors, and appropriate others.

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

**I. *Tennessee School Bus Specifications***

**Mr. Art Fuller**, State Board of Education, recommended approval of the Tennessee School Bus Specifications on first reading.

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

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

**A. Special Education Disability Specific Eligibility Standards**

**Dr. Joseph Fisher**, Department of Education, explained to the board the special education eligibility standards for specific learning disabilities are not included in the proposed standards presented for final reading. The department plans to review and revise the specific learning disabilities and clarify the response to intervention (RTI) procedures. The specific learning disabilities will be presented at the November meeting for final reading.

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

**B. Special Education Programs & Services, Rules**

**C. New Leaders for New Schools**

**D. Tennessee Teacher Education Units and Program/Licensure Areas**

**E. BEP 2.0 Allocation for Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

**F. BEP Salary Schedule for Licensed Instructional Personnel and State Mandated Minimum Salary Schedule for Superintendents/Directors of Schools for Fiscal Year 2007-08**

**G. Minimal Nutritional Standards for Items Sold or Offered or Sale During the School Day in Grades K-8, Rule**

**ACTION:** **Mr. Ray** moved to approve **Items B-G** as a group. **Ms. Hadley** seconded. A roll call was taken as follows.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Jim Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Flavius Barker</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Dick Ray</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Valerie Rutledge</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Sharon Thompson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Caroline Hadley</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Teacher License Revocations**

- A. Blalock, Christopher**
- B. Buchanan, Nakia L.**
- C. Campbell, Sandra**
- D. Cobb, Susan E.**
- E. Conway, Richard S.**
- F. Ford, Louvenia**
- G. Lollar, Matthew C.**
- H. Loving, Anthony K.**
- I. McClain, Jonathan M.**
- J. Okeke-Lacy, Janice A.**
- K. Pearce, Ronald H.**
- L. Provet, Jodi**
- M. Roman, Norberto**
- N. Thomas, Lillie R.**

**Mr. Haglund** noted that details of each of the cases were included, along with recommendations from the Board staff review committee.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Ray** moved to approve **Items V.A.-N.** **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. A roll call vote to revoke the above-mentioned licenses was taken as follows.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Jim Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Flavius Barker</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Dick Ray</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Valerie Rutledge</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Sharon Thompson</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Caroline Hadley</b>	<b>X</b>		

**VI. Adjournment**

**Chairman Rolston** stated that at the conclusion of the workshop, the Board discussed procedures for conducting an evaluation of the executive director. Individual board members will be polled and the Chairman will gather feedback from education stakeholders that work regularly with the executive director.

**Chairman Rolston** then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on November 1-2, 2007.

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