

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JANUARY 26, 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 January 26, 2007.

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

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

**Chairman Rolston** announced that *Item III.C. – Gifted Education* had been deleted from this agenda.

**I. Consent Items**

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes November 3, 2006**

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

**II. Report Items**

- A. High School Redesign Task Force**

**Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director**, State Board of Education, presented the report. The report contained recommendations for improvements at both the middle school and high school levels as well as challenges the Task Force believed must be addressed in implementation. The recommendations focused around transitioning from the technical path and university path to a default diploma that provided the academic rigor needed for all students, whether preparing for the university or for work-force training.

**Mr. Ray** asked why the task force was skirting around the issue of requiring all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to have Algebra I?

**Dr. Nixon** stated that he would share Mr. Ray's concern with the High School Task Force and report their response at the next meeting.

**B. *Advisory Council on Teacher Education & Certification Recommendation***

**Chairman Rolston** introduced **Mrs. Patsy Garriott**. He praised **Mrs. Garriott** for her contribution to education through her years of public service. Mrs. Garriott is the chairwoman of the Advisory Council on Teacher Evaluation. She has also served as a member and chair of both the Kingsport Board of Education and TSBA Board of Directors. Currently **Mrs. Garriott** serves on state and national teacher task forces.

Representing the Advisory Council on Teacher Education, **Mrs. Garriott** presented the Council's recommendations concerning the needs of new teachers. She described the importance of the development, implementation, funding and evaluation of a statewide initiative to provide every new teacher with a high quality teacher induction program, including a mentor, during their first years of teaching.

**Mrs. Garriott** cited a recent Peabody report as stating that teacher quality is a serious concern. She noted the Advisory Council realizes some local initiatives are focused on induction and providing mentor teachers, however the inconsistency of program quality is a problem.

**Dr. Wright** asked about why Superintendents were not more interested in mentoring programs, especially in inner city schools.

**Mr. Kleinrock** asked why teachers would want to be in high poverty schools under the current situation in many districts.

**C. *The State of Education in Tennessee***

**Dr. Mathew Pepper**, a graduate student at Vanderbilt University, presented the first of what is planned to be a biannual report on the State of Education in Tennessee.

The report is the capstone doctoral project for Mr. Mathew Pepper, Mr. Tim London, and Mr. Mike Dishman under the supervision of Dr. James Guthrie. It outlines Tennessee specific indicators related to student and teacher population trends, performance standards, national and state measures of achievement, support mechanisms for improved college access, education funding, accountability, teacher salaries, and policy governance.

**D. Education Survey**

**Dr. James Guthrie**, Vanderbilt University, reported the findings of a poll of Tennessee voters in the 2006 election conducted by the Peabody Center for Education Policy. Questions addressed broad areas related to funding, teacher salaries, national achievement indicators, and impressions of who should be held most accountable for improving the quality of education in Tennessee.

**E. New Leaders for New Schools**

**Mr. Billy Kearney**, Executive Director - Memphis Program, New Leaders for New Schools presented a progress of the New Leaders for New Schools “experimental program.” **Mr. Kearney** described the program partnership with the University of Memphis as a vital partner of New Leaders for New Schools including licensure, research, supplemental literacy programs, and providing a designated a faculty member as the “liaison” for the NLNS partnership with the College of Education. **Mr. Kearney** also provided the Board with program evaluation materials.

New Leaders for New Schools also has a partnership agreement with Memphis City Schools to “identify, train, certify, place, and support outstanding principals and assistant principals for public schools in Memphis.” Currently, there are 43 New Leaders’ participants serving in the Memphis City Schools, including 13 Principals, 3 Assistant Principals and 27 Resident Principals.

In summary, **Mr. Kearney** reported the Memphis Program has established a very strong foundation for recruiting, training and supporting instructional leaders who are able to improve instruction. He thanked the board for recognizing that well researched innovative practices in schools help will improve the education of all children and the overall quality of life for all Tennesseans

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

**A. Master Plan**

**Mr. Rich Haglund**, State Board of Education, explained that the *Master Plan* has been significantly revised. It no longer includes work plans, but contains the vision of the State Board for all Tennessee children, with student-specific outcomes used to measure progress. Attached to the roughly two-page *Master Plan* are some data sets showing current ACT and NAEP results for Tennessee, and goals for the future.

The *Master Plan* will be implemented through the work of four standing committees, representing each of the foundational principles of the plan. Board members, Board staff and Department leaders will form the committees. These committees will report at Board meetings and develop

work plans. Agenda items at future Board meetings will also be put in context of the foundational principles and student outcomes envisioned in the *Master Plan*.

The *Master Plan* directions fit well, **Mr. Haglund** explained, with other reform efforts underway (High School Reform, American Diploma Project, etc.) and discussed at today's meeting.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve on first reading. **Ms. Thompson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. *Career and Technical Education***

**Mr. Ralph Barnett**, Department of Education, presented this item. He noted that these revisions are in response to recent legislation changing the name of the Division of Vocational Education to the Division of Career and Technical Education. This language change in Rules and Regulations reflects statute and federal guidelines.

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

**C. *This item was removed from the agenda.***

**D. *Proposed TCAP Proficiency Levels for Gateway Assessments.***

**Ms. Mary Reel**, Department of Education, presented this item. She recommended that the setting of cut scores be in concert with implementation of the American Diploma Project so as to align the assessments to the new standards rather than those of 2001.

**Mr. Ray** asked for clarification on the action and assurance that the assessments follow the standards revision and other reform efforts currently underway. He also stated that we needed to explain to all constituencies that students labeled “proficient” are not necessarily capable of attending post-secondary schools.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Ray** moved to delay the item, align the language with the tenets of the American Diploma Project, and bring the item back before the Board if necessary. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. *Accountability Workbook***

**Ms. Cory Curl**, Department of Education, presented this item. She outlined the proposed changes and noted that the Board was seeing these before the negotiation process had begun with the federal Department of Education.

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

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

**A. Requirements for the Occupational Education License in Health Science and Trade & Industry**

**Mr. Barnett** presented this item on behalf of the Department of Education. He noted that it clarified language within the existing licensure requirements for Health Science teachers.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote 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>Jacob Kleinrock</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Report on Student, Teacher and School Performance**

**Dr. David Sevier**, State Board of Education, presented this item. He noted that the report is produced annually, and presented to the Governor and General Assembly in accordance with TCA 49-1-302. The report contains information that allows policymakers to make better informed decisions regarding education priorities in Tennessee.

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

**C. Lifetime Wellness Standards**

**Mr. Jerry Swaim**, Department of Education, presented the lifetime wellness standards. He introduced Ms. Susan Brotherton who will be a full-time Lifetime Wellness consultant.

**Mr. Swaim** noted that these revisions are part of the customary curriculum revision cycle.

Discussion among members focused on the inclusion of specific information regarding the importance of healthcare resources for students and families.

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

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

Recommendations were presented to the Board for approval of teacher education programs and licensure areas.

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

**E. *Charter School Appeal – Nashville Charter Middle School***

**Mr. Haglund** noted that the findings and recommendation of **Dr. Nixon** were included in the agenda. Despite good intentions and diligent effort, the decision by the Metropolitan Board of Public Education to deny the application was not contrary to the best interests of the students, the community and the district. Therefore, the recommendation was to affirm the denial.

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

**F. *Rule Change: Dual Enrollment Eligibility***

**Mr. Haglund** explained that this rule change makes it easier for students to enroll in college-level courses even if there are not enough students to have the class held on campus. Students do not need to be seniors with a high GPA or ACT score to enroll.

**ACTION:** **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. A roll call vote 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>Jacob Kleinrock</b>	<b>X</b>		

**V. Teacher License Actions**

- A. Lisa W. Ashford (One Year Suspension)**
- B. Debra S. Howard (One Year Suspension)**
- C. Natalie J. Parriger (One Year Suspension)**
- D. Eugene Tarjan (Agreed Order-One Year Suspension)**
- E. Jennifer E. Turns (Permanent Revocation)**
- F. John M. Upchurch (Three Year Revocation)**
- G. Victoria H. Woodward (Three Year Revocation)**

**Mr. Haglund** noted that the first three one-year suspensions recommended were for substance or alcohol abuse, and required the individuals to present proof of meeting the conditions imposed to the Board. Reinstatement would not be automatic.

**Mr. Haglund** noted that Mr. Tarjan's agreed order was for breach of test security, Ms. Turns's permanent revocation for statutory rape, Mr. Upchurch for sexual comments and Ms. Woodward for substance abuse.

**ACTION:** **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to adopt all of the recommendations. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. A roll call vote 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>Jacob Kleinrock</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_