

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 30, 2009**

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

Present..... 10 Absent.....0

- Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair**
- Mr. Jim Ayers**
- Mr. Flavius Barker**
- Ms. Vernita Justice**
- Ms. Carolyn Pearre**
- Mr. Richard Ray**
- Dr. Jean Anne Rogers**
- Ms. Teresa Sloyan**
- Dr. Melvin Wright**
- Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio**
- 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 November 14, 2007 & December 15, 2008***

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

II. Report Items

- A. *Report on Student, Teacher & School Performance***

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this report to the Board. This report is statutorily required under T.C.A. 49-1-302. He told members that the report provides a landscape of Tennessee education and that in the future this report may look significantly different in view of recent changes to curriculum and assessment.

Dr. Rogers asked about declines in reading scores and **Dr. Sevier** stated that he would get more information to her regarding her request.

Chairman Rolston asked for clarification regarding dropout rates and how these numbers are calculated. **Dr. Sevier** asked **Commissioner Tim Webb** to respond and **Commissioner Webb** explained the difference between cohort rates and event rates.

Mr. Ray asked about the potential of a national algorithm for calculating dropout rates and **Commissioner Webb** responded that new policies may result in a downward movement of the graduation rate that will necessitate recalculation of annual targets.

Dr. Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education, noted that graduation rates and dropout rates are not reciprocal of one another and that this can lead to confusion. **Commissioner Webb** concurred and responded that these are totally different calculations and that this can oftentimes lead to confusion.

Chairman Rolston closed the discussion by pointing out that only 18% of Tennessee students met all four of ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks and expressed his desire to see this percentage increase.

B. *Joint Annual Report (THEC & SBE)*

Mr. Art Fuller, State Board of Education, summarized the Joint Report emphasizing the following sections of the report, based on the PowerPoint presentation presented at the Joint Meeting of the State Board of Education and Tennessee Higher Education Commission on Thursday, January 29th.

1. *Higher standards and assessment for K-12.*

- **Indicator:** The Higher Education Commission and the State Board of Education...will develop and align academic curricula, assessments and entry and exit requirements and will communicate them to Tennessee students.
- **Baseline:** In 2005-2006, the state P-16 council reformed with a focus on the alignment of mathematics curriculum to standards of college readiness.
- **Target:** By 2007-08, submit a policy report outlining final recommendations of the state P-16 council related to mathematics curriculum.
- **Status:** Final drafts of the revised curriculum were approved by the State Board of Education.
- Fall 2009 establishes the first cohort of high school freshman required to meet the increased academic rigor of high school mathematics.

2. Voluntary Pre-kindergarten

- **Indicator:** The number of educationally at-risk four-year-old children completing a state funded early childhood education program before entering kindergarten will increase.
- **Baseline (2000-01),** 1,200 students
- **Target (2007-08),** 20,000 additional students
- **Status:** Enrollment is stabilized at **18,000 students** in 133 or 135 eligible school systems, pending available funding.
- Working towards **stronger curriculum alignment** of Pre-Kindergarten through third grade.
- Developing additional **continuing education training for school leaders** with early childhood programs at their schools.
- In 2007-08, Tennessee entered into a 3-year grant spanning five states focused on **providing training, professional development, and technical assistance to the early childhood education workforce** in partnership with the Center for the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL).

3. High School Drop Out Rate

- **Indicator:** Tennessee schools will reduce the high school drop out rate (cohort rate) to the national goal of 10-percent and will reduce disparity among demographic groups.
- **Baseline:** In 2000-01, the statewide dropout rate was 13.9 percent
- **Target:** By 2009-10, the TN drop out rate will be 10.0 percent or less

2007-2008	2006-07
Statewide 10.1%	Statewide 9.6%
White 7.7%	White 7.7%
African American 16.4%	African American 14.9%
Hispanic 14.2%	Hispanic 14.9%
Asian 7.2%	Asian 7.3%
Native American 13.3%	Native American 10.9%

4. Advanced Placement Exams

- **Indicator:** The number of high school students participating in advanced placement opportunities will increase by 50 percent.
- **Baseline (2000-2001),** 10,400 students took AP Exam
- **Target (2009-10),** 15,600 students will take AP Exams

Year	Students	Exams Taken
2007-08	13,883	22,638
2006-07	13,176	21,259
2005-06	11,542	18,388
2004-05	10,368	16,432
2003-04	9,239	14,729
2002-03	8,688	13,722

5. Bachelor's Degree Attainment in Tennessee

- **Baseline:** In 1999-2000, 17.7 percent of Tennesseans held a baccalaureate degree or above.
- **Target:** By 2009-10, reach the SREB average (2000-01: 21.7 percent)
- **Progress:** 2007: 21.7 percent

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. Middle Grades Task Force Proposed Rule

Dr. Nixon reported that in light of the declining revenue collection, the Task Force has reworked the proposal for making sure students are ready for the challenges that the Tennessee Diploma Project will bring to high schools. Sections a, b, and c are already in rule. Sections d and e are new. Section d calls for the Department of Education to report to the State Board of Education annually the number of elementary students promoted who score below on the assessments. Section e lays out a revised version of interventions that kick in when funding is provided or BEP 2.0 is fully implemented. It focuses on student readiness for 1st grade, 5th grade and 9th grade and calls for interventions to be assessed through a formative process with a recommendation for placement made to the principal by a team of professionals.

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

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

Mr. Ralph Barnett, Department of Education, presented this item to Board members and stated that these end-of-course exams are part of the Perkins IV Plan previously approved by the Board. Currently, Tennessee uses "competencies" to help determine the effectiveness of career-technical programs and this item, once approved and implemented, will begin the process of transitioning away from competencies and toward third party technical skill assessments. This proposal is limited to marketing and health sciences.

Mr. Ray asked about plans to extend these assessments beyond marketing and health sciences and **Mr. Barnett** responded that the areas of Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences are under development and that the expansion of this plan means that the Division of Career and Technical Education may return annually to the SBE seeking approval for additional assessments.

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

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

Ms. Lynne Cohen, Department of Education, presented this item and noted that this item fully aligns contextual academic courses with their academic course counterparts. Also, it clarifies Trade and Industrial language to allow it to reflect the focus areas that students may choose from to fulfill the elective focus requirement.

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

D. *High School Policy – One Path Clarification*

Ms. Cohen presented this item and noted this it clarifies "one-path" for Trade and Industrial students and aligns the language with other CTE programs areas.

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

E. *Isolation or Restraint for Students Receiving Special Education Services, Rule*

Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education, explained that the 2008 Act provided significant instruction and prohibitions, but authorized the State Board, with other agencies, to promulgate rules defining "extended

time" and other terms, and stating who may authorize isolation or restraint. He noted that the rules have already received significant comment prior to first reading, and a rulemaking hearing will be held March 18, 2009, at the Andrew Johnson Tower.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. School Fees, Rule

Mr. Haglund explained that the proposed rule has not changed since first reading. The amendment clarifies that LEAs may request, but not require any student to pay school fees for courses or activities during the school day. This rule change simply clarifies law that already exists in statute and is ultimately based on the constitutional guarantee of a free public education.

Dr. Rogers asked how this might affect PTAs wanting to hold fundraising activities during the school day. **Mr. Haglund** answered that it clarifies that such activities may occur, but no student may be required to raise funds to participate in such activities, regardless of that student's income.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved to approve. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Employees of the Special Schools, Rule

Mr. Haglund explained that these revisions combined two rule chapters and were revised to reduce confusion for teachers and other employees of the State special schools regarding grievance and appeal procedures for employment actions.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved to approve. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Teacher Licensure, Endorsements and Praxis Scores, Rule

Mr. Haglund explained that these revisions are technical, reflecting endorsements previously eliminated by Board action, and scores revised based on PRAXIS's move to scale scores to 200 instead of 800.

ACTION: **Mr. Wright** moved to approve. **Mr. Ray** 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. Summary of Proposed Amendments to Tennessee’s Accountability Workbook

Dr. Julie McCargar, Department of Education, explained that these three revisions have already been submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Education for review.

In response to a question from **Vice Chair Pearre**, **Dr. McCargar** explained that the revisions, if approved, would be applied to the determinations made based on the 2008-2009 school year.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Teacher License Actions

- A. Vern G. Braswell – Automatic Revocation, permanent**
- B. Joe Gray – Reinstatement**
- C. Frances D. Spencer – Suspension, one (1) year**
- D. Heather Thorsby – Revocation, permanent**
- E. Gregory R. White – Revocation, may apply for reinstatement after sentence**

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **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		

	Yes	No	Absent
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Brittini England	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Webb then asked for a few minutes to brief the Board on a telephone conference call with the new Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. He stated that the focus of the new Administration is on four areas:

1. Early Childhood
2. K-12 Standards Increase
3. Enhancing Community Colleges
4. Pockets of Excellence – Building on Foundations

Commissioner Webb stated that he would keep Board members informed on Administration issues.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on April 17, 2009.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____