

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 21, 2013**

The State Board of Education met for a special called meeting in the TSBA Conference Room, 525 Brick Church Park Drive, Nashville, Tennessee, at 12:30 p.m., CDT, on June 21, 2013.

The following Board members were present:

Chairman Fielding Rolston
Ms. Carolyn Pearre
Mr. Lonnie Roberts
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Ms. Teresa Sloyan
Dr. Melvin Wright
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio

The following Board members participated by telephone:

Ms. Janet Ayers
Mr. Mike Edwards
Ms. Vernita Justice

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience. He then introduced and welcomed the Board's intern, **Mr. Christopher Cannon**.

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Action Items (First Reading)

A. Educator Licensure & Preparation Policies and Rules

Dr. Sara Heyburn, Department of Education, presented this item which would streamline the current licensure policy

She stated that there are 5 parts to the proposal.

1. Educator Licensure (Rule 0520-02-03)

The proposal repeals current language in Chapter 0520-02-03 of State Board of Education rule and replaces it with the text

included herein. The new language clarifies and streamlines teacher licensure requirements in Tennessee. In doing so, initial licensure, renewal and advancement determinations are informed by effectiveness data.

2. Educator Licensure Policy (5.502)

The proposal stipulates educator license types and performance expectations for advancement and renewal of teacher licenses in Tennessee. These changes represent a more streamlined approach with clear performance criteria outlined at every stage of the licensing process.

3. License Renewal or Advancement Review Policy (5.503)

This policy outlines a process for review of license eligibility determinations within a specific set of parameters related to the performance data itself.

4. Educator Preparation (Rule 0520-02-04)

The proposal repeals and modifies current language in Chapter 0520-02-04 of State Board of Education rule and replaces it with the text included herein. The new language focuses rule on the broad purposes and authorities related to the preparation of Tennessee educators. Information related to specific components of preparation, such as requirements related to clinical practice, will be included in revised policy regarding educator preparation that will be introduced as we explore a new relationship with a national accrediting body. In addition, that policy will offer new metrics related to measuring the effectiveness of educator preparation programs.

5. Professional Assessments (5.105)

The proposed policy adopts revised passing scores for Praxis exams. Research staff at ETS, through two multi-state standard setting studies for each exam, determined the recommended cut scores. The studies involved two expert panels, comprised of teachers, administrators, and college faculty. The recommended cut scores are provided to help state departments of education determine appropriate cut scores. The enclosed chart identifies the new cut scores. These scores represent a significant increase in the cut scores proposed in the past.

Dr. Rogers asked how Teach for Tennessee fit into this. **Dr. Heyburn** responded that those teachers would receive a practitioner's license.

Chairman Rolston stated that the presentation helped to simplify the understanding of the process.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved acceptance on first reading. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded.

Dr. Rogers asked for a point of clarification as to agreeing with a portion of the item and being against other portions.

Chairman Rolston responded that changes could be made on second reading if the Board so decided.

ACTION: A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers		X	
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed by majority vote.

III.A. 2013-14 State Minimum Salary Schedule

Dr. Heyburn presented this item. She stated that the Board was required by law to adopt an annual salary schedule. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-3-306, the Commissioner of Education is required to annually formulate and submit to the State Board of Education, for approval, a state salary schedule for licensed personnel. The salary schedule must include a base salary for licensed personnel with a bachelor’s degree and zero years of experience. Licensed personnel with more training and experience must receive more than the established base salary.

Dr. Wright asked if this item needed to be decided today. **Dr. Heyburn** replied that a state minimum salary schedule had to be adopted before the school year begins. **Dr. Wright** then expressed concerns on erroneous information that has been sent and misunderstandings about the schedule and stated that language should be included to address the perception that compensation stops after eleven (11) years.

Chairman Rolston stated that he was very distressed about misleading information being distributed and the lack of understanding that this information has generated.

Chairman Rolston suggested that the following items be included to clarify the salary schedule.

- The State Board of Education strongly supports the need to increase teacher salaries to be competitive with other states and other professions.
- The State Board of Education believes that in order to achieve increases in salaries for teachers, LEAs should be given more flexibility for LEAs to meet their individual needs.
- The State Board of Education believes that many LEAs will continue to recognize advanced degrees and experience; we will encourage them to do so.
- The State Board of Education will monitor the implementation of the new minimum salary schedule and differentiated pay policy to determine its effectiveness in accomplishing our goal of increasing teacher salaries. If it is not effective, the State Board will amend the rules.

Dr. Wright expressed concerns about the new schedules causing confusion among teachers in the field.

Dr. Rogers stated that there are two documents that say two different things which may be causing the distrust and misunderstanding.

Chairman Rolston reiterated the importance of giving the LEAs more flexibility.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval of the item with **Chairman Rolston's** points integrated into the document. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice		X	
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers		X	
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright		X	

The motion passed by majority vote.

B. High School Equivalency Testing Program, Rule

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, presented this item. He explained statute changes to the adult education program resulting in the development of the HiSET program to develop an option to the GED. He also described the process for developing the task force partners that researched the issues leading to the recommendation provided by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. **Dr. Nixon** also mentioned that ETS plans to develop cut scores at the college and career ready level. Cost will be much less compared to GED costs.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Ms. Ayers** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Differentiated Pay Plan Guidelines

Dr. Heyburn presenting this item and explained the current law and history of non-implementation. Full implementation is described with these guidelines to aid in staffing hard to staff subject areas and schools and in hiring and retaining highly qualified teachers.

Dr. Rogers asked if experience or degrees qualified as meeting the guidelines. **Dr. Heyburn** responded that it would not fully meet the intention of the law based solely on experience and degrees.

ACTION: **Ms. Sloyan** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		

	Yes	No	Absent
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

D. Special Education Guidelines and Standards

Mr. Joey Hassell, Department of Education presented this item. He stated that LEAs no longer have to use a discrepancy model. RTI program will now be used moving forward. It is a Tier model serving different student populations at different levels. Beginning July 1, 2014, it will essentially be prevention and intervention instead of "wait to fail."

Dr. Rogers asked about students with visual processing problems and where that would be addressed. **Mr. Hassell** explained when and how these students are addressed. Additionally, he stated an interest in meeting with **Dr. Rogers** to get further information and suggestions for improvement of this topic in the guidelines.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on July 26, 2013 for its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____