

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
August 16, 2013
2:00 p.m., CDT

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 3:15 p.m., CDT, on August 16, 2013.

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 8-44-108, the State Board of Education conducted this meeting by electronic means because a necessity existed to transact business of a timely nature. T.C. A. § 49-1-602 requires the State Board of Education to approve a list of priority, focus, and reward schools by September 1. The Board's next regularly-scheduled Board meeting fell beyond that date, which is why an electronic meeting was necessary.

Present..... 10	Absent.....1
Ms. Janet Ayers	Dr. Richard Rhoda
Ms. Allison Chancey	
Mr. Mike Edwards	
Ms. Carolyn Pearre, Vice Chair	
Mr. Lonnie Roberts	
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair	
Ms. Teresa Sloyan	
Dr. Melvin Wright	
Ms. Katie Mitchell	

Chair Rolston welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. He welcomed new District 3 member, **Ms. Allison Chancey** and new student member, **Ms. Katie Mitchell**.

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION: **Dr. Melvin Wright** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rolston stated that Item II.A. would be divided into two parts with part A. being Praxis Policies & Rules and Item II.E. being Educator Licensure and Preparation.

II. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. Praxis Policies & Rules

Dr. Sara Heyburn, Department of Education, described the item and told members that these were reconstituted teacher licensure exams with accompanying recommended cuts scores that are aligned with through the multi-state standard setting process.

Dr. Rogers asked about the transition period and **Dr. Heyburn** responded that candidates will have a grace period that will allow candidates options during the interim.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie Mitchell			X

The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Teacher and Principal Evaluation Policy 5.201*

Dr. Heyburn presented this item. She informed Board members that this item has three parts. The first is related to the range of acceptable evaluation scores and the supports that would go to schools that fall into the bottom 10% of those schools that show evaluations results outside the acceptable range.

Ms. Sloyan asked about the types of supports available to schools. **Dr. Heyburn** responded that these would be the same as those currently in place and include retraining from TEAM coaches who will work with the support schools around norming practices, information sessions, and other types of support.

Next **Dr. Heyburn** discussed the World Languages alternate growth measures and that it is similar to the Fine Arts model approved earlier. It involves a peer review process and creates results similar to current TVAAS results. **Dr. Heyburn** also told members about the process to date on a similar growth model for physical education. That model will most likely be ready in 2014-15.

Ms. Pearre asked about changes to Social Studies and **Dr. Heyburn** responded that since new standards were just approved for these courses there had been a timeline determined for any new assessments.

Finally, **Dr. Heyburn** turned to the topic of alternate observation models; the addition of a new framework for the Achievement Schools District. She noted that it is developed around constructs and inputs from other evaluation systems that have been successful in charter schools and charter networks. The model includes observations that are weighted differently throughout the school year.

Ms. Ayers asked about why “content knowledge” was being eliminated in the TEM model, and **Dr. Heyburn** replied that districts were struggling to find appropriate assessments to vet content knowledge and have decided to utilize a professionalism rubric in place of this. Likewise, the ASD model reflects this same change as well due to the fact that so many ASD schools are within the Memphis/Shelby district.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie Mitchell			X

The motion passed unanimously.

C. *Annual Measurable Objectives*

Ms. Erin O’Hara, Department of Education, explained the process to set and approve the AMOs for both the state and local school districts. The ESEA waiver allows us to set and approve each year the state achievement and gap closure targets which translate into school-level targets.

Ms. Sloyan asked to clarify the process about the AMOs for Shelby County. **Ms. O’Hara** explained that the state currently has the information needed and is working with the Shelby County Schools administration to give them a chance to review as they merge the two school systems, their AMOs will be available in October. Additionally, she clarified the process for those schools included in the Achievement School District.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie Mitchell			X

The motion passed unanimously.

D. 2013 List of State Identified Reward Schools

Ms. O’Hara presented for final reading the list of schools in the top 5% in terms of achievement gap closure and overall student learning performance.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie Mitchell			X

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Educator Licensure & Preparation

Dr. Heyburn presented this item. This item relates to the licensing of professional educators including types of licenses, duration of licenses and appeal processes.

Chairman Rolston stated that he and other Board members had received numerous concerns that educator licenses are going to be based on TVAAS data and felt that all of the concerns regarding this issue had not been addressed. He proposed that the item be passed but that the implementation date be delayed for one (1) year. He stated that this would allow additional discussions on the full impact of this. He went on

to say that this would need to be approved prior to August 2015 and directed the State Board of Education staff to study this issue.

Commissioner Kevin Huffman, Department of Education, stated that this made a lot of sense and said that the Department would provide Board staff with TVAAS data. He said that the goal was to do this as well as possible.

Dr. Wright stated that **Chairman Rolston's** recommendation comes at a very important time and that he feels this would alleviate present concerns and thanked the Chairman for this proposal.

Ms. Ayers asked if the implementation date were delayed if this would mean that the Board does not support the policy in its entirety and asked if we would really go back and study this data.

Chairman Rolston responded that we would and that it would give the Board a chance to open this up and make changes if needed.

Ms. Sloyan stated that she felt the policy should be approved with the implementation date delayed for one year.

Dr. Rogers said that she had a problem with this recommendation because it sounded like the Board was voting for the policy and the policy was the policy and just delaying the date presents real problems for her because of a couple of issues.

Chairman Rolston said that he already knew of several changes that needed to be made.

Ms. Ayers stated that some specific concerns of hers made her uncomfortable in voting for the policy.

Chairman Rolston said that there were two options: not take action or take action with his recommendation to delay implementation for a year and that he felt that we needed to get this on the table so that a study could be done.

Mr. Edwards stated that he was in general agreement that we have a policy that needs to be changed and that he was not certain of some components in the proposed policy. He said he was not convinced that they are wrong and suggested that if we were to adopt the policy and delay implementation we could invite people who have been vocal about their dislikes to come up with what a solution could be for this, i.e., if not this, what? He said that we have a whole lot of "don't likes" so what do we like?

Dr. Rogers suggested that the policy be voted down and then take it piece by piece to revise it.

Ms. Ayers stated that she supported accountability 110% but that the licensure issues were giving her angst and that she was uncomfortable voting for a policy with pieces that she was not comfortable with.

Ms. Chancey said that as a teacher she feels that this is a very important issue and that she is not satisfied with TVAAS being tied to licensure.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers		X	
Allison Chancey		X	
Mike Edwards	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers		X	
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		
Katie Mitchell			X

The motion passed by majority vote of 6 to 3 with one absence.

Chairman Rolston thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone and reminded them of the upcoming workshop and meeting on October 24-25, 2013 in Nashville. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: _____ Date _____