

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 10, 2015**

The State Board of Education met for its regular quarterly meeting in Room 12, Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee, at 9:00 a.m. April 10, 2015.

Present.....9

Absent..... 1

Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chairman
Mr. Mike Edwards
Ms. Lillian Hartgrove
Mr. Cato Johnson
Ms. Carolyn Pearre
Mr. Lonnie Roberts
Dr. William Troutt
Ms. Wendy Tucker
Ms. Betty Dandridge Johnson for Dr. Russ Deaton

Ms. Allison Chancey

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience. He then introduced **Dr. William Troutt**, newly appointed District 9 Board member. He also recognized **Ms. Betty Dandridge Johnson**, designee for **Dr. Russ Deaton**, Interim Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Chairman Rolston then thanked Board member **Ms. Wendy Tucker** for arranging charter school visits to Brick Church College Prep and Nashville Academy of Computer Science charter schools the morning before the workshop. He further said that a Board Operations meeting was held after the charter school visits to discuss Board responsibilities and a strategic plan for the Board moving ahead.

Commissioner McQueen then reported on a task force being formed for Assessment Practices. She stated the role of this task force would be to discuss assessment practices at the state and local level and that a report of the results would be prepared by the end of the summer.

Chairman Rolston stated that *Items VI.C.-William S. Haynes, Restoration; VI.G.-Barry Moody, Revocation Concurrent; VI.H.-Jeffrey Murdock, Suspension Retroactive; VI.I.-Cynthia Jill Pierce, Suspension Retroactive; VI.J.-Amber Selman, Suspension concurrent; and VI.K.-Edward B. Snyder, Suspension* were being removed from the agenda pending further discussion.

I. Consent Items

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from January 30, 2015**
- C. Language in Career & Technical Education (CTE) Course Standards**

ACTION: **Mr. Johnson** moved acceptance. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report Items

A. *Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition*

Ms. Meghan Curran, Department of Education, presented this item. She stated that the U.S. Department of Education annually recognizes elementary, middle, and high schools based on outstanding academic achievement. Since its inception in 1982, more than 7,500 schools across the country have received this coveted award.

She described the selection process whereby states are invited to nominate a set number of schools for recognition as Blue Ribbon Schools based on very specific criteria defined by the U.S. Department of Education. Nominated schools must then successfully complete an intensive application process, which is reviewed for approval by the U.S. Department of Education.

Tennessee had six public schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools for 2014.

These schools were recognized with other National Blue Ribbon Schools in Washington, D.C., in November 2014.

Tennessee's 2014 Blue Ribbon Schools are:

Foothills Elementary School

520 Sandy Springs Road
Maryville, TN 37803
Amy Vagnier - Principal
District - Maryville City Schools

Hillsboro Elementary - Middle School

5412 Pinewood Road
Franklin, TN 37064
Kari Miller - Principal
District - Williamson County Schools

Kenrose Elementary School

1702 Raintree Parkway
Brentwood, TN 37027
Dr. Marilyn Webb - Principal
District - Williamson County Schools

Madison Academic Magnet High School

179 Allen Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301
Janice Epperson - Principal
District - Jackson-Madison County Schools

Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet High School for Health Science and Engineering at Pearl High School

613 17th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203
Dr. Angela Carr - Principal
District - Metro Nashville Public Schools

Trinity Elementary School

4410 Murfreesboro Road
Franklin, TN 37067
Chris Schwartz - Principal
District - Williamson County Schools

B. *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition*

Ms. Curran then reported on the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition. She stated that the National Title I Distinguished Schools Program has been selecting examples of superior Title I schools from all states for national recognition since 1996. Each year, Tennessee selects two schools for recognition – one for success in closing achievement gaps, and one for outstanding academic achievement.

Ms. Curran stated that the schools recognized demonstrate a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success, and strong partnerships between the school, parents and the community.

She said that this year's schools were recognized at the National Title I Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in February, 2015. The following two schools in Tennessee have been recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for the 2014-2015 school year.

For Outstanding Academic Achievement

E.E. Jeter Elementary
Shelby County Schools
Paulette Bond - Principal
7662 Benjestown Road
Millington, TN 38053

For Exemplary Work in Closing Achievement Gaps

Cummings School
Shelby County Schools
Lisa Frieson - Principal
1037 Cummings Street
Memphis, TN 38106

Commissioner McQueen stated that these are important recognitions. She further said that her mother led 2 schools to Blue Ribbon status so she is personally aware of the time it takes to achieve this status.

Chairman Rolston said that this is the most enjoyable part of Board work for him as it celebrates these achievements and he wants to see these schools share with others.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *Learning Centered Leadership Policy 5.101*

Dr. Paul Fleming, Department of Education, presented this item. He first echoed the congratulations of the Board to the Blue Ribbon Schools and stated that he was a recipient in 2012 at Hume Fogg High School.

He commented on the good discussions on this item at the workshop and explained that The Learning Centered Leadership Policy (5.101) includes expectations regarding preparation, licensure, professional development and evaluation for instructional leaders in Tennessee. The proposed changes allow applicants from other states to be issued an instructional leader license in Tennessee provided the applicants meet the set of stipulated criteria as outlined in the policy.

Dr. Fleming stated that in addition, policy language and tools related to evaluation and professional development have been deleted because the information is outdated and has been replaced through other policies and guidance and said that The Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership Policy replaces in entirety:

- Policy 5.101 *Principal in Tennessee Schools* July 1994
- Policy 5.102 *Supervisor in Tennessee Schools*
- *Administrator/Supervisor PreK-12 9 (Graduate level) Licensure Standards* (including guidelines and program implementation standards)

ACTION: **Mr. Roberts** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Johnson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Educator Licensure Policy 5.502*

Dr. Fleming presented this item and commended the Department of Education team led by **Ms. Amy Wooten** and said that an outstanding job was done in preparing a cohesive and coherent licensure policy.

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

C. *License Restoration Rule and Policy 5.500*

Ms. Angie Sanders, State Board of Education, presented the policy and rule changes necessary to bring the State Board's policy and rule with regard to license restoration up to date with the State Board's longstanding practice of handling license restoration and to provide further clarity to educators, administrators and the public regarding the process of license restoration.

She stated that the proposed rule change deletes a confusing phrase contained in the rule which states that all applications for restoration will be voted on by the Board when in reality not all license restoration applications are voted on by the State Board.

Ms. Sanders explained that proposed policy change clarifies the difference between restoration after suspension and restoration after denial or revocation of a license.

Mr. Edwards asked that the words “and forwarded to the State Board of Education General Counsel” be added after “Application for such issuance or restoration shall be made to the Office of Educator Licensing”.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved acceptance on first reading with the inclusion of the stated wording. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Parent/Family Involvement and Community Schools Policy 4.207*

Ms. Sanders presented this item and stated that this is a policy change to add the requirement that teachers be permitted to receive in-service credit for teaching classes for parents at community schools into the current Parent/Family Involvement policy, re-naming the policy “Parent/Family Involvement and Community Schools”.

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

E. *School Board Training, Rule*

Ms. Sanders presented this item. This rule change “recommended by the School Board Academy Advisory Committee” requires newly elected school board members to participate in a fourteen (14) hour orientation training in addition to the required seven (7) hour training during their first year in office.

Mr. Edwards asked what happens if school board members do not attend the required training. **Ms. Sanders** stated that they would be out of compliance with the law and would have to make up these hours with the threat of losing the office. She stated that she would see if there were other consequences and report back to the Board prior to final reading.

Mr. Johnson asked if this information has been disseminated to LEAs and how widespread their knowledge is of this rule and how quickly are new elected members notified of this training.

Vice Chair Pearre suggested that a Tennessee School Boards Association representative be invited to a Board meeting to inform Board members of their work.

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

F. *Standards Review Policy 3.209*

Ms. Sanders presented this item. She said that the practice of the State Board is to review each set of curriculum standards at least every six (6) years but that this practice is not included in the policy. This change would place this into Board policy with the possibility of a one year extension included.

Dr. Sara Heyburn, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, stated that this policy change is a transparent way for the public to know when standards are up for review.

Ms. Sanders said that a good tracking system is needed to know when to review the standards.

Dr. Heyburn said that this new process will force us to look at 300 plus standards and that this policy was left intentionally broad to allow the process to look different depending on the type of standard.

Commissioner McQueen stated that this review could cause no change in the standard and said that staggering this review will allow time due to the 6 year timeframe after approval of the Board.

Vice Chair Pearre said that she would like to have a listing of the standards and when they were approved.

ACTION: **Mr. Johnson** moved acceptance on first reading. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

G. *Unsafe School Choice Policy 4.202*

Ms. Sanders stated that this was a small change in the policy to update the definition of aggravated assault.

Vice Chair Pearre asked if we still have no unsafe schools. **Commissioner McQueen** asked **Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Airhart** to check on this and report back to the Board.

Mr. Edwards asked what designates an unsafe school.

Commissioner McQueen gave three criteria:

1. Has violence-related disciplinary actions for actions such as possession/use of a firearm, aggravated assault of a teacher or school employee (including a school resource officer assigned to the school), and possession/use of a weapon other than a firearm.
2. Have students who have been the victim of a violent crime at school.

3. The sum of violence-related disciplinary actions and/or incidents of student victimization identified in criteria # 1 and criteria # 2 above are equal to or greater than 3% of the school's average daily membership.

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

H. *Board Meeting Policy 1.400*

Ms. Sanders presented this item and stated that it clarifies what items may be included on the consent agenda and how many readings are required for items at the State Board meetings among other things as follows unless otherwise decided by the Chairman:

One Reading:

Salary schedules; amendments to the NCLB accountability workbook; course name changes; PRAXIS test scores; Board policy changes, additions and deletions; and teacher license denial, suspension, revocation or restoration requests.

Two Readings:

New Board policies; changes, additions and deletions to Board Rules and Regulations; curriculum standards; and licensure or employment standards.

Consent:

Adoption of the agenda; approval of minutes of prior Board meetings; technical corrections to Board policies or guidance that are strictly grammatical in nature or required by law; and other items which are determined to be appropriate for the Consent Agenda by the Executive Director (with approval by the Chairman).

There were significant discussions on these and other items at the workshop and there will be more discussions on Board operations in future workshops.

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

I. *Charter School Appeals Policy 2.500*

Ms. Tess Stovall, State Board of Education, presented this item. She listed the changes to the policy as:

- Require as a part of the notice of appeal to the State Board two additional documents: 1) copies of the letters informing the sponsor of the local board of education's reasons for denying the initial and amended applications, and 2) a document outlining any corrections made to the application upon appeal.
- Require requested documents from sponsors, LEAs, and/or the Department of Education to be returned to State Board staff within 5 days of the document request.

- Clarify that, in compliance with T.C.A. § 49-13-108(e), the State Board will conduct a separate analysis for each application that was denied based upon substantial negative fiscal impact.

Ms. Tucker stated that she wanted to thank **Tess Stovall** and other staff for all the hard work that has been accomplished since we became an authorizer.

Mr. Roberts asked **Ms. Stovall** to walk through the process and timeline for charter school applications, and she responded by walking through the process step by step.

Mr. Edwards asked if new criteria could be brought up in the second review. **Ms. Stovall** said it could and that the LEA could cite them for different things than in the first review.

Ms. Hartgrove asked that the following addition be made to the sentence on page 4 of the policy under 8. Decision of the Board:

“The findings and recommendations of the executive director of the State Board will be discussed in a work session, if ruling at a regular meeting, or, prior to the vote on the agenda item, if ruling at a special called meeting.”

Ms. Tucker asked for a statement to be included in the policy to indicate that the recommendation from staff was only a recommendation, and the State Board does not have to vote in accordance with the recommendation.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. Charter School Authorizer Policy – 6.110: Charter School Revocation

Ms. Stovall presented this item for final reading. She stated that this policy sets forth the process and criteria the State Board will use when considering the appeal of an LEA’s decision to revoke a charter agreement and when considering the revocation of a charter agreement where the State Board serves as the chartering authority. This policy is in agreement with national standards for authorizing.

Ms. Tucker stated that this policy was very rigorous and that it is important that we hold the charter schools accountable.

ACTION: **Mr. Johnson** moved approval. **Ms. Tucker** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rolston stated that since **Items IV.B.-Architecture and Construction Course Standards; IV.C.-Business Management and Administration Course Standards;** and

IV.D.-Marketing Course Standards were updated standards they would be considered as a block.

Ms. Casey Haugner Wrenn, Department of Education, presented the above items and said that some changes had been made after receiving public comments and had been integrated into the standards.

ACTION: **Ms. Hartgrove** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Career & Technical Education Course Lists in Board Policy 3.205

Ms. Wrenn presented this item. She stated this item would update sections 6 and 12-29 in State Board Policy 3.205 (Approved High School Courses) to reflect new, renamed and revised courses that are being proposed by career cluster, as well as the removal of courses that are being retired or replaced. In addition, the item will also update the course list with course additions to both Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

Mr. Edwards noted that beginning on page 6, the courses seem to be industry specific and asked how we credential teachers for industry specific courses.

Ms. Heather Justice, Department of Education, responded that there are industry certifications and that recruitment is being planned and should be completed by the end of the year. Candidates apply for an apprentice license, and it takes three years to complete a teacher preparation program.

ACTION: **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Cambridge International Education Programme

Ms. Emily Freitag, Department of Education, presented this item. Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is an internationally recognized provider of international education for students ages 5 to 19, offering a continuum of studies from primary levels to upper secondary levels. Ms. Freitag said that Metro Nashville and Bradley County Public Schools are currently offering Cambridge courses and made the philosophical and monetary commitment to offer Cambridge courses by offering the appropriate teacher training and maintaining the Cambridge standards. She also said that the Department has created a 'Cambridge International Examinations Pathway to TN Diploma' document that outlines what courses students enrolled in the Cambridge Pathway will need to take in order to receive a Tennessee high school diploma.

She stated that the courses have been updated and a grading policy added since first reading.

Ms. Freitag reported that students who complete the Cambridge Pathway to TN Diploma should be recognized as graduating with "state distinction."

ACTION: Dr. Troutt moved approval. Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) Default Actions

A. TSAC Defaults

Ms. Joanna Collins presented this item. She explained that these educators have defaulted on student loans and have been notified by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC). TSAC provides 90 days’ notice for educators to come into compliance, and the State Board of Education provides another 30 days’ notice to make arrangements with TSAC. Thus, educators have at least 120 days’ notice before their licenses are suspended. Upon notification of compliance, the State Board of Education requests reinstatement of the educator’s license. Ms. Collins noted that the Board was voting on the amended list that was e-mailed to them.

Vice Chair Pearre said that NPR had reported that there was a move to do away with legislation which took away professional licenses for default on student loans.

Ms. Sanders responded that this may be something we could do in the future.

Mr. Roberts stated that this was the most disturbing part of the work they do and that the Board takes it very seriously. He thanked the staff for the hard work involved with handling these items.

Mr. Johnson echoed Mr. Roberts’ comments and thanked the staff for time well spent.

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Teacher License Actions

Ms. Collins presented this item. She explained that under State Board Rule 0520-2-4-.01(9)(b), the State Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand or refuse to issue or renew a license

for good cause. She stated that the State Board review committee recommends licensure action for the individuals in this item.

A. Carrie L. Cunningham -- Revocation

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Mickey Charles Glass – Revocation

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

C. William S. Haynes -- Restoration

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

D. Patisa Kielau – Formal Reprimand

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| Teresa Sloyan | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Derek Marlow – Restoration

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

F. Franklin Roy Mitchell – Revocation

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

G. Barry Moody – Revocation, concurrent

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

H. Jeffrey Murdock – Suspension, one (1) year retroactive

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

I. Cynthia Jill Pierce – Suspension, one (1) year backdated to October 31, 2014

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

J. Amber Selman – Suspension, concurrent

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

K. Edward B. Snyder – Suspension, one (1) year

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

L. Patrick O. Thompson -- Restoration

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

M. David Michael Walker – Suspension, concurrent

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

| | Yes | No | Absent |
|-------------------|-----|----|--------|
| Allison Chancey | | | X |
| Mike Edwards | X | | |
| Lillian Hartgrove | X | | |
| Cato Johnson | X | | |
| Carolyn Pearre | X | | |
| Lonnie Roberts | X | | |
| Fielding Rolston | X | | |
| William Troutt | X | | |
| Wendy Tucker | X | | |

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next on July 23-24.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____