



**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016
2:00 p.m., CST**

Present.....8
Ms. Allison Chancey
Mr. Mike Edwards
Mr. Gordon Ferguson
Ms. Lillian Hartgrove
Mr. Cato Johnson
Ms. Elissa Kim
Dr. William Troutt
Ms. Wendy Tucker
Mr. Fielding Rolston

Absent.....2
Ms. Tiffany Cook
Mr. Mike Krause

Chairman Rolston welcomed the members and called the meeting to order. He welcomed the newly appointed Board members, **Mr. Gordon Ferguson** and **Ms. Elissa Kim**. **Ms. Kim** and **Ms. Tucker** attended the meeting in person. A roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Chairman Rolston then stated that the Report Card Launch event held earlier this day at the State Capitol was a success and congratulated **Ms. Laura Encalade** and **Mr. Spenser Gwozdzik**, State Board of Education staff, for their great work on this event and the Report Card. **Mr. Edwards** and **Mr. Johnson** echoed the Chairman’s remarks.

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

Statement of Necessity

At its regular July board meeting, the State Board staff presented changes to the State Board’s High School Policy surrounding the weighting of end-of-course examinations, among other items. After the board voted to approve the policy, it received feedback asking to clarify how the end-of-course weighting would apply to block schedules. Based on the feedback, the policy was amended to clarify the weighting of end-of-course examinations on student grades, ACT/SAT graduation requirements, and update credit recovery requirements.

Because the Board had a limited amount of time to review the policy and approve it before the end of the fall semester grading cycle, a special called board meeting was convened. As members of the State Board reside across the State, it was determined that a physical quorum of the members could not be assembled in Nashville for purposes of this meeting. As such, the Board met via telephone conference to review the policy and vote on final reading. Chairman Fielding Rolston made a statement of necessity for the teleconference meeting during the meeting.

II. Report Items

A. A-F School Grading System

Commissioner Candice McQueen introduced this item by stating that In March 2016, the General Assembly passed Public Chapter 680 which requires the Department of Education to develop a school grading system that annually assigns A-F letter grades to schools. The grades must be assigned to schools based on the following:

1. Student performance on the Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) tests or end-of-course exams;
2. Student growth as indicated by Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) data or data from other measures of student growth; and
3. Other outcome indicators of student achievement that the department finds to be reliable measures of school performance.

Additionally, Public Chapter 680 requires the Department of Education to include each school's letter grade on the state report card. The State Board of Education is also required to review the system prior to implementation in the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Nakia Towns and **Ms. Mary Batiwalla**, Department of Education, then explained the report in detail.

Ms. Hartgrove stated that the phrase "opportunity to learn" indicator term could confuse parents and she would like to see clarity with using that phrase to indicate chronic absenteeism. She also asked how teacher absenteeism is measured.

Dr. Towns responded that this data is not collected at the state level but that the system can be updated to collect this information and that care would be given so that unintended circumstances, i.e., maternity leave, would not be counted as teacher absenteeism.

Ms. Tucker stated that she did not feel this report addressed the intent of the legislation.

Chairman Rolston added that he felt growth had to be a part of the equation.

There was lengthy discussion on this issue and it was decided that more discussion would be held at the January meeting.

III. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. High School Policy 2.103

Ms. Encalade presented this item that changes the High School Policy to clarify the ACT/SAT graduation requirement; modify the weighting of End of Course examinations on student grades; and update the credit recovery requirements based on stakeholder feedback.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Ms. Allison Chancey	X		
Mr. Mike Edwards	X		
Mr. Gordon Ferguson	X		
Ms. Lillian Hartgrove	X		
Mr. Cato Johnson	X		
Ms. Elissa Kim	X		
Dr. William Troutt	X		
Ms. Wendy Tucker	X		
Ms. Tiffany Cook			X
Mr. Fielding Rolston	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rolston thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting in person and by telephone and reminded them of the upcoming workshop and meeting on January 26-27, 2017, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: _____ Date _____