

**Minutes**  
State Board of Education  
Monday, October 14, 2002

The State Board of Education met on Monday, October 14, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Education Building. Shelby Hillman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The following members were present: Shelby Hillman, Chairman; JoNell Caldwell, Vice-Chairman; Luke Gordy; Robert Hackler; Peggy Jeffries; and Lewis Thompson, Jr.

The following member was absent: Dr. Calvin King.

**SPECIAL REPORT**

Dr. James Herndon was recognized to present a summary and recommendations from the work of the Task Force for the Creation of Knowledge-Based Jobs. Dr. Herndon's comments were parallel to those distributed in the Agenda materials.

**WORK SESSION**

**Implementation of *No Child Left Behind*: A Progress Report:** Janinne Riggs and Dr. Charles Watson were recognized to provide information pursuant to the implementation of the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. The presentation highlighted progress to date for implementation of the legislation in Arkansas and a projection of actions that are yet to come for full compliance. The major work yet to be accomplished is in the area of assessment at additional grade levels and the development of working descriptions of Adequate Yearly Progress based on the State's accountability system. It was emphasized that before these components can be fully defined, the State must receive final program guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

**Presentation – Test Scores:** Dr. Charity Smith and Dr. Gayle Potter were recognized to present this report. Summary scores from the Spring 2002 administration of the Benchmark Exams were provided along with progress reports for Grades 4 and 8. Points of clarification were made regarding combined vs. general populations; consistent progress over time; and the expectation for improvement is scores as more teachers and staff participate in professional development, specifically Smart Start and Smart Step. Issues raised included the impact of block scheduling on test performance, linkage with the norm-referenced testing, developing new test times to replace those that are released each year and the need for consistency of the level of difficulty over time.

Mr. Gordy expressed his congratulations to the staff and to schools for the focus on accountability and the early demonstration that student performance is improving.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Hillman announced that Mr. Simon was recently appointed as a member of the National Assessment Governing Board. This Board provides administrative guidance and oversight for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Simon recognized Dan Farley, Arkansas School Boards Association, to announce a new series of Study Circle events in various districts across the state. Mr. Simon noted that a goal of Study Circles was meaningful participation in public schools by local school board members, parents, and community leaders.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hackler moved approval of the Consent Agenda as published. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 9, 2002
- Minutes – Teleconference Meeting, August 28, 2002
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations
- Arkansas School Self-Insurance Program Rate Correction
- Commitment to Principles of Desegregation Settlement Agreement: Report on the Execution of the Implementation Plan
- Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field for Longer than Thirty (30) Consecutive Days, Act 1623
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Approval of Revised Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks
- Approval of English Language Acquisition Framework

## ACTION AGENDA

### **Approval of Revised Version of the Arkansas Department of Education Guidelines for Ark. Code Ann. 12-12-901 Et Seq or “Megan’s Law”**

Scott Smith was recognized to present this item. Mr. Smith noted that revisions in previous guidelines are suggested to bring the policy to compliance with current statutes. He indicated that these revisions provide guidance for the responsibility of local districts to inform staff, students and parents when a known sexual offender assumes residence in the area. Mr. Gordy moved adoption of these guidelines and that they be distributed to all local districts. Mr. Hackler seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Praxis III Performance Assessment Cut-Score Recommendation**

Paulette Blevins was recognized to present this item. Ms. Blevins indicated that the Department was revising the recommendation made in the printed Board materials. Mr. Simon distributed a revised set of recommendations. (Attachment 1) Mr. Simon explained that a revised recommendation was made after staff fully examined the initial proposal. The ultimate minimum score for passing remains the same as the advisory committee’s proposal. However, he reported that staff believes that there is inadequate data to support a cut score for each of the domains as well as a different cut score for the entire battery. Mr. Simon stated that additional recommendations for minimum scores on the domains could be brought to the Board at a future time.

Ms. Jeffries moved adoption of the revised recommendation. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Hackler moved adjournment. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The minutes were recorded and reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson

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Raymond Simon, Director

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Shelby Hillman, Chair