

Minutes
State Board of Education
Specially Called Session
Thursday, May 22, 2008

The State Board of Education met for a specially called telephone conference call session on Thursday, May 22, 2008. The session was called to order by Diane Tatum, Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Charles Watson called the roll to determine that a quorum of Board members was present.

Board members present on the conference call: Diane Tatum, Chairman; Jim Cooper; Brenda Gullett; Dr. Tim Knight; MaryJane Rebick and Dr. Naccaman Williams.

Board members absent: Sherry Burrow, Randy Lawson, and Dr. Ben Mays.

Consideration for Approval of Instructional Waiver Days – Stuttgart School District

- **Park Avenue Elementary School – two (2) instructional days**
- **Meekins Middle School – two (2) instructional days**
- **Stuttgart Junior High School – three (3) instructional days**
- **Stuttgart High School – three (3) instructional days**

Ms. Rebick questioned the fact that no information was provided regarding days built into the school calendar to be used during the school year for inclement weather. Dr. James noted that there is no requirement for districts to include inclement weather days in the school calendar. He also stated that the severe weather patterns such as tornados and flooding have not been experienced to this extent in past years. He also stated that no school had been approved for waiver days for occurrences of snow and/or ice, which are more common occurrences in the northern part of the state. Ms. Rebick stated that school should have days built into the schedule that could be taken at the end of the school year in situations such as experienced here and for the other districts that were approved waiver days.

Dr. Williams moved to accept the recommended waiver of instructional days for the Stuttgart School District. Ms. Gullett seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Consideration for Approval of Instructional Waiver Days – Earle School District

Ms. Rebick commented about the responsibility that resides in the district to assure that students attend the full 178 days of instruction and that alternate plans should be included in the annual school calendar to accommodate unexpected occurrences such as were experienced this year. Dr. James commented he would present the concerns of the Board to school administrators through the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators Association during their summer conferences. Dr. James also affirmed that setting the school calendar is the responsibility of the local district and there are no statutes that require a district to build in contingency days.

Dr. Knight moved approval of the waiver of instructional days for Earle School District as recommended. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Gullett moved adjournment. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

These Minutes were recorded and reported by Dr. Charles D. Watson.