

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APRIL 19, 2013**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Parkway Towers, Nashville, Tennessee, at 9:00 a.m. on April 19, 2013.

**Present..... 9      Absent..... 1**

<b>Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chairman</b>	<b>Ms. Vernita Justice</b>
<b>Ms. Janet Ayers</b>	
<b>Mr. Mike Edwards</b>	
<b>Ms. Carolyn Pearre</b>	
<b>Mr. Lonnie Roberts</b>	
<b>Dr. Jean Anne Rogers</b>	
<b>Ms. Teresa Sloyan</b>	
<b>Dr. Melvin Wright</b>	
<b>Dr. Richard Rhoda</b>	

**Chairman Rolston** called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the audience.

**I. Consent Items (Voice Vote)**

- A. Adoption of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2013**

**ACTION:** **Vice Chair Pearre** moved acceptance. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Report Items**

**A. Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition**

**Mr. Mike Koprowski**, Department of Education, presented this item and **Commissioner Kevin Huffman** recognized the special guests.

The U.S. Department of Education annually recognizes schools that demonstrate outstanding student achievement results. This prestigious program is the *Blue Ribbon Schools Program*.

Blue Ribbon Schools must first be nominated by the chief state school officer (CSSO) as eligible. Based on state data, the CSSO certifies that the nominated schools meet one of two criteria:

- 1) Exemplary High Performing Schools: Schools that are ranked among the state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or assessments referenced against national norms in

both reading (English/language arts) and mathematics in at least the most recent year tested.

- 2) Exemplary Improving Schools: Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that have made the most progress in improving student performance on state assessments or assessments referenced against national norms in reading (English/language arts) and mathematics in the most recent five years.

The nominated schools must successfully complete an intensive application process which is reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Tennessee had six schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools for 2012.

1. **Cascade Elementary School**, Principal: Mrs. Martha Fisher  
School District: Bedford County Schools
2. **The Discovery School at Reeves Rogers Elementary School**,  
Principal: Dr. Linda Clark  
School District: Murfreesboro City Schools
3. **E. E. Jeter Elementary School**, Principal: Mrs. Paulette Bond  
School District: Shelby County Schools
4. **Glenwood Elementary School**, Principal: Dr. Pearl Goins  
School District: Oak Ridge Schools
5. **John Hay Elementary School**, Principal: Dr. Matthew Drinnon  
School District: Hamblen County
6. **Merrol Hyde Magnet School**, Principal: Mrs. Brad Schreiner  
School District: Sumner County Schools

**B. *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition***

**Mr. Koprowski** presented this item and **Commissioner Huffman** recognized the special guests.

The *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program* is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors. It provides an opportunity for Title I schools from every state to be publicly recognized for positive educational achievements.

The purpose of the Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program is to identify schools that are ensuring that all children have access to effective instructional strategies and challenging academic content; and that are demonstrating success in ensuring that all children, particularly

educationally deprived children, make significant progress toward learning that content.

Two schools in Tennessee have been recognized at the national level as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2012-13.

**1. Thomas Magnet School**, Principal: Ms. Mindi DeWitt  
School District: Bedford County Schools

**2. Montgomery Central Elementary**, Principal: Ms. Nancy Grant  
School District: Montgomery County Schools

### **III. Action Items (First Reading)**

#### **A. *Approved High School Courses***

**Dr. Scott Eddins**, State Board of Education, introduced the Department of Education's new mathematics content coordinator, **Mr. David Williams** who presented the mathematics course substitutions item.

This proposed change allows students who have met the ACT and/or SAT college readiness mathematics benchmark to meet the intended rigor of the mathematics course of study by allowing the following courses to satisfy the requirement for being enrolled in a mathematics course for a fourth (or more) credit option: Physics, Advanced Placement Physics B, C, or Advanced Placement Computer Science.

Students who opt to select these courses for mathematics credit or to fulfill the requirement of being enrolled in a mathematics course shall not be able to count these courses as additional science or Computer Science credits.

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

#### **B. *Career and Technical Education Rule Updates***

**Ms. Dannelle Walker**, State Board of Education, presented this item noting a change in the bodies that serve as accrediting agencies.

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

#### **C. *2013-14 State Minimum Salary Schedule***

**Dr. Sara Heyburn**, Department of Education, presented this item. She stated that the Tennessee Code Annotated requires the Commissioner to submit a minimum salary schedule each year for approval.

**Dr. Rogers** asked who pays the difference if districts pay above the schedule and if there was going to be a criteria for those who pay above the schedule. **Dr. Heyburn** stated that there is wide latitude for districts to differentiate.

**Vice Chair Pearre** asked if existing schedules are changed automatically. **Dr. Heyburn** replied that the districts now have the flexibility to do things differently with this schedule.

**Chairman Rolston** stated that it is important to recognize that this schedule gives the district the flexibility to consider its own needs but does not force them to do anything.

**Mr. Edwards** expressed appreciation to the Department for responding to the request by the Board to improve the salary schedule and said that it does provide a tool to address the issues moving forward but stated that salaries for teachers are grossly insufficient.

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

**D. *High School Equivalency Testing Program, Rule***

**Dr. Gary Nixon**, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, presented this item. He stated that the HiSET program is an alternative for an equivalency exam. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has recommended this test as an alternative to the GED; however, the GED will continue to be offered at this time. The HiSET will also be aligned to the Common Core. Additionally, there will be a college ready cut score available.

**Dr. Rhoda** confirmed that colleges will likely recognize the college-ready cut score.

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

**E. *Differentiated Pay Plan Guidelines***

**Dr. Heyburn** presented this item. She stated that to ensure compliance with the TCA and the 2007 State Board of Education policy, this revision gives more flexibility to districts to fund specific needs of their district. Technical assistance will be provided to help districts develop plans. The plans will not be required until the 2014-2015 year. Feedback from stakeholders will be appreciated before final reading.

**Dr. Rogers** stated that without a pay increase, teachers may not have an incentive to obtain advanced degrees.

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

**F. *Social Studies Standards Revision***

**Ms. Tammy Shelton**, Department of Education, presented this item. She stated that the last revision in these standards was 2001 and that as we approach textbook adoption this year, the standards are in need of revision. Extensive feedback was received from the January course proposal and then revised in February to incorporate that feedback. There are significant revisions in terms of organization, use of primary documents, and cognitive demand. She stated that the Department will continue to ask for feedback especially in the area of modern Geography during the process.

**Mr. Edwards** asked that the Department take another look between now and second reading to address Geography concerns.

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

**G. *Special Education Guidelines and Standards***

**Mr. Joey Hassell**, Department of Education, presented this item. He stated that *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, or IDEA, provides that when determining whether a child has a specific learning disability, a local educational agency shall not be required to take into consideration whether a child has a severe discrepancy between achievement and intellectual ability in oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skill, reading comprehension, mathematical calculation, or mathematical reasoning, but may use a process that determines if the child responds to scientific, research-based intervention as a part of the evaluation procedures. Therefore, states, when developing eligibility criteria and evaluation procedures, are free to prohibit the use of a discrepancy method as criteria for determining whether a child has a specific learning disability.

On February 1, 2013, the State Board of Education approved the proposed guidelines and standards on first reading. Subsequent to February 1, Department staff revised the effective date and edited the proposed guidelines and standards for purposes of clarity with regard to the responsiveness to intervention (RTI) method. The recommendation is made to continue the current guidelines and standards through June 30, 2014 and to effectuate the proposed guidelines and standards on July 1, 2014.

A rule making hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed guidelines and standards amendment, including the effective date of July 1, 2014, did not result in additional recommendations for changes to the proposed guidelines and standards.

Chairman Rolston stated that this item was actually approved on first reading, but brought back with changes.

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

**H. *Special Education Programs and Services, Rule***

**Mr. Hassell** presented this amendment to the rule regarding the definition of an Individual Education Plan.

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

**I. *Teacher and Principal Evaluation***

**Dr. Heyburn** presented this item and stated that it clarifies the fact that the evaluator will have to complete a certification process.

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

**IV. *Action Items (Final Reading)***

**A. *Teacher Licensure Standards***

**Ms. Heather Justice**, Department of Education, presented technical corrections to teacher licensure standards in various career and technical endorsement areas for final reading.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. *Career and Technical Education, Rule***

**Ms. Justice** presented this item stating that it was a technical language correction.

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

**C. *Work-Based Learning Guide of Policies and Procedures***

**Ms. Casey Haugner Wrenn**, Department of Education, presented the final updates to the 2007 Work-Based Learning Guide of Policies and Procedures.

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

**D. *Identification of the Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools Policy***

**Ms. Erin O’Hara**, Department of Education, presented this item. She stated that in February 2012, Tennessee was awarded Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waivers. Under the waivers, Tennessee is allowed to modify the definition of “persistently lowest-achieving” to be defined as Title I “priority” schools. The definition of “priority” schools was approved by United States Department of Education in the waiver. This policy aligns our State policy with the approved “priority” definition.

The approved flexibility waivers and the previously approved definition of “persistently lowest-achieving” were inconsistent on the use of at least two and up to three years of data as available to identify “priority” schools. This technical correction updates the previous approved definition.

**ACTION:** **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. *Annual Measurable Objectives***

**Ms. O’Hara** presented this item which addresses gap closure changes and adds Algebra II and English III to gap closure measures. She stated that it also address changes to the Achievement School District target to Memphis City Schools.

**F. *Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards (TILS)***

**Dr. Heyburn** presented this item. She stated that these revisions tighten the focus of the standards and help to focus on the principal’s role in leading the school.

**Ms. Sloyan** said that she likes the focus on instructional leadership..

**ACTION:** **Mr. Edwards** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. *Project COACH Conversion Scale***

**Dr. Heyburn** presented this item which is a conversion methodology correction to address inflation in some districts with certain models.

**ACTION:** **Ms. Ayers** moved approval. **Ms. Sloyan** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**H. *State Agency Evaluations***

**Dr. Heyburn** presented this item which clarifies the process for state agency schools to advance licensure advancement by allowing any

charter or state agency school interested in proposing its own evaluation model to submit an application for approval to the Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall have the authority to approve the use of the evaluation model.

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

**I. *Special Education Programs and Services Initial Evaluations, Rule***

**Mr. Hassell** presented this item which aligns Tennessee policy with IDEA requirements.

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. *Teacher License Actions***

**Ms. Walker** presented these items.

**A. *Gregory N. Alford – Restoration***

**ACTION:** **Dr. Wright** moved approval. **Dr. Rogers** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion tied and Mr. Alford's restoration will be presented with more information at the July meeting.

**B. Jennifer Dickey – Suspension, concurrent**

**ACTION:** Dr. Wright moved approval. Dr. Rogers seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

**C. Valerie Humphrey – Revocation**

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Dennis R. Kinnaird – Suspension, one (1) year, contingency**

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		

<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Louis J. Levine – Revocation**

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**F. Peter Benjamin Natale – Revocation**

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**G. James M. Perdue – Restoration**

**Chairman Rolston** asked that this item be removed from the agenda and more information be provided at the July meeting.

**H. Thomas M. Roussin – Revocation, concurrent**

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

**I. Shaunica D. Scott – Revocation**

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Teresa Sloyan	X		
Melvin Wright	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

**J. Shantell Shaw – Revocation**

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Janet Ayers	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Vernita Justice			X
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		

<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**K. Byron J. Smith – Restoration**

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**L. Felippia Turner-Kellogg – Revocation**

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**M. Michael Williams – Formal Reprimand**

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

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Janet Ayers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mike Edwards</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Vernita Justice</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Carolyn Pearre</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Lonnie Roberts</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jean Anne Rogers</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Fielding Rolston</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Teresa Sloyan</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Melvin Wright</b>	<b>X</b>		

The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Adjournment**

**Chairman Rolston** then thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet next for a special called meeting on June 21, 2013.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_