MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
APRIL 25, 2008

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the First Floor Conference Room, Andrew Johnson Towers, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m. CST, on April 25, 2008.

Present..... 8
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair
Mr. Jim Ayers
Mr. Flavius Barker
Ms. Carolyn Pearre, Vice Chair
Mr. Richard Ray
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Dr. Melvin Wright
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio

Absent.....3
Dr. Valerie Rutledge
Ms. Sharon Thompson
Miss Brittni England, Student Mbr.

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

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda
B. Approval of Minutes January 25, 2008; February 19, 2008 and March 24, 2008.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Rolston recognized **Miss Caroline Hadley** and thanked her for her service over the past year. He noted that she has been replaced by **Ms. Brittni England** who was not in attendance. Because Miss Hadley has been replaced, she did not vote on the agenda's action items.

Blue Ribbon & Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition

Dr. Julie McCargar, Department of Education, stated that 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 be first nominated by the chief state school officer as eligible. Based on state data, the CSSO certifies that the nominated schools meet one of two criteria:

1) Schools that draw at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds show dramatic improvement in test scores to high levels in at least the past three years in reading (language arts or English) and mathematics.

2) Regardless of its demographics, the school achieves in the top 10 percent of schools in the state in the school's grade category as measured by state tests of reading (language arts or English) and mathematics in at least the last grade tested in the last year tested.

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

Tennessee had four schools recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools for 2007. They are:

Schools in the Top 10 Percent of the State with at least 40 Percent Disadvantaged Students

1. Holston View Elementary
   Bristol City Schools
   Thomas Parker, Principal
   1840 King College Road
   Bristol, Tennessee 37620

2. Jacks Creek Elementary
   Chester County Schools
   LaTasha Phillips, Principal
   65 State Route 22A S
   Jacks Creek, Tennessee 38347

Schools in the top 10 percent of the State with fewer than 40 percent disadvantaged students

3. Harpeth High School
   Cheathem County School
   Jenny Simpkins, Principal
   170 East Kingston Springs Road
   Kingston Springs, Tennessee 37082

4. Jefferson Middle School
   Oak Ridge School
   Bruce Lay, Principal
   200 Fairbanks Road
   Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

These schools were recognized with the other national Blue Ribbon Schools for 2007 in Washington, D.C. in November, 2007.

Dr. McCargar then reported on The *Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition Program*, 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 the 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 demonstrating success in ensuring that all children, particularly educationally deprive children, make significant progress toward learning that content.

Each state may select two schools for national recognition; a maximum of one from each of the following categories:

- Category 1: School that has exceeded its adequate yearly progress for two or more years NCLB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(ii)

- Category 2: School that has significantly closed the achievement gap between students groups NLCB, Section 1117(b)(1)(B)(i)

Selected school must have a poverty rate of at least 35% for the selected year and:

- Demonstrated high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years

- Met or exceeded state standards for making adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years

Four schools in Tennessee have been recognized as Title I Distinguished Schools for 2007-2008, two national awardees and two state awardees.

National Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option Elementary
Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Sandra Moorman, Principal
510 Wedgewood Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

National Title I Exceptional Student Performance

Unity School
Lincoln County Schools
Dennis Eakin, Principal
259 Boonshill Petersburg Road
Petersburg, Tennessee 37144

State Title I Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Balmoral/Ridgeway Elementary
Memphis City Schools
Robyn Liebenhaut, Principal
5905 Grosvenor Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38119

State Title I Exceptional Student Performance

STAR Academy Charter School
Memphis City Schools
Kia Young Tate, Principal
3260 Stage Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38128

These schools are unique, but share common characteristics of dedicated staff, effective community, and parental engagement as well as excellent district and school leadership. National Title I Schools were recognized at the National Title I Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in February, 2008.

Chairman Rolston conveyed the Board's congratulations and appreciation for the results achieved by these schools and stated that they needed to share the good things they are doing.

II. Report Items

A. Teach Tennessee Annual Report

Ms. Becky Kent, Department of Education, presented the report. She stated that Teach Tennessee is in its fifth cohort and gave details regarding numbers of fellows, placement, and anecdotes from past fellows in the program.

Chairman Rolston asked about placement data as it relates to retention. **Ms. Kent** responded that there are many aspects at play in determining whether a placement has been successful including life stage of the fellow and other family and home factors.

Mr Ray asked about rural vs. urban placement and **Mrs. Kent** responded that while most are in urban centers, rural areas are well-represented.

B. Tennessee Learning Centered Leadership System Report

Dr. Mary Jo Howland, State Board of Education, presented the report. She explained the policy was designed and approved by the Instructional Leadership Redesign Commission. The final policy will replace current leadership policies. The system will change the way instructional leaders are currently selected, prepared, licensed, evaluated and supported.

The system is based on the Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards (TILS) approved by the board January 25, 2008 on final reading. The entire report is available on the board's web site. Comments and recommendations are welcome.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. *English as a Second Language (ESL) Program Policy 3.207*

Dr. Julie McCargar presented this item. She noted that these changes came about from the work of a task force dedicated to examining Tennessee's ESL program policy. The recommendations include increasing the number of allowed service delivery models, requiring beginning students to receive ESL services daily, deceasing the ESL student-staff ratio, and revising the criteria ELLs need to be identified as proficient and to exit from ESL services.

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

B. *Virtual School Policy*

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this item and stated that currently there are examples across the State of districts that utilize technology to enhance student leaning. Other districts, perhaps without similar capacities, are interested in incorporating similar programs into their instructional programs. This policy will serve as a guiding document for districts and clarifies issues regarding approval, evaluation, and funding.

Mr. Ayers expressed concerns about full day programs and the inability of these programs to serve the social interaction needs of students, the lack of sports opportunities and the lack of development of leadership skills.

Mr. Ray commended **Dr. Sevier** for his work on this policy.

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

C. *Alternative Teacher Licensure, Rule*

Dr. Sevier presented this item. This rule change would allow for the approval of programs not necessarily associated with institutions of higher education. This rule would also allow for candidates in these approved programs to serve as the teacher of record. It also clarifies issues regarding program approval, candidate induction, progress toward teacher licensure, and teaching experience as it relates to the salary schedule.

Chairman Rolston noted that this item would be brought before the Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Certification for comment before the next reading.

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

D. ***Category II Non-Public Accrediting Agencies***

Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education, noted that these agencies, approved by the Board for five year terms, are reviewed by the Department of Education. Department staff also conduct a random site visit of one of each agency's accredited schools.

The Department of Education recommended acceptance of:

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Catholic Diocese of Knoxville
Catholic Diocese of Nashville
E. A. Sutherland Educational Association
Harding Academy of Memphis
Mississippi Private School Association
Southern Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist
Tennessee Association of Christian Schools (TACS)
Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools (TANAS)

as accrediting agencies recognized by the State Department of Education on first reading.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved acceptance on first reading of all the agencies with the exception of E.A. Sutherland Association which was not ready for approval. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. ***Alternative Education Programs, Models and Standards***

Mr. Mike Herrmann, Department of Education, presented this item. He gave a brief history of the Governor's Advisory Council on Alternative Education and the current law as it relates to alternative schools. The alternative education programs standards are advisory in nature.

Mr. Herrmann then introduced **Mr. James Witty** from the Department of Education who has overseen this initiative. **Mr. Witty** noted the highlights of the programs standards and model.

Vice Chair Pearre asked about approval for alternative education programs.*

Mr. Witty responded that this was a factor for consideration before the Advisory Council.

*Alternative schools with school numbers are held accountable and are reported on in the same manner as other schools.

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

F. ***ISTE NETS•S***

Dr. Barbara Denson, Department of Education, presented. She gave information about the process for adopting these standards and noted that these serve as a guiding document focused on higher order thinking, creative and critical thinking, and digital citizenship.

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

G. ***Physical Education: PreK-12 Curriculum Standards***

Ms. Susan Brotherton, State Board of Education, presented this item. She stated that these standards are a revision of the standards approved in 2000 and that these are now aligned with national standards and include Pre-Kindergarten.

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

H. ***Health Education: PreK-8 Curriculum Standards***

Ms. Rebecca Johns-Womack, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that this revision puts Tennessee in line with national standards and includes Pre-Kindergarten. The standards are focused on healthy lifestyles and behaviors rather than health literacy.

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

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. License Restoration Policy 5.500 Revision

Mr. Haglund explained that the amended policy reflects the fact that suspension is now an option for the Board in licensure actions.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve. **Mr. Ray** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Category IV School Approvals, Apostolic Christian School, Al-Noor Islamic School

Mr. Haglund noted that these are schools that, rather than affiliate with one of the associations listed in T.C.A. 49-50-801, are applying directly to the Board for approval. The Board does not regulate curriculum or

faculty, but the schools must show compliance with health, immunization and attendance reporting requirements.

Mr. Haglund added that Al-Noor Islamic School is operated by the Islamic Association of Greater Memphis and representatives of the Apostolic Christian School (ACS) -- Bishop Billy McCool and Jason Lambert -- were present.
Mr. Ray said that his visit to ACS was impressive, with a capital "I" and that he wished all kids could attend a school with such great faculty, students and facilities.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. ***Teacher Education Units and Program/Licensure Areas***

Mr. Martin Nash, Department of Education, presented this item. He presented the following recommendations:

Joint NCATE/State Continuing Unit and Licensure Program Approval Visits:

Austin Peay State University
Belmont University

Joint NCATE/STATE Focused Unit Accreditation Visit:
Christian Brothers University

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. ***License Actions, Rule***

Mr. Haglund explained that this revision made clearer the fact that criminal proceedings resulting in "judicial diversion" constitute "conviction" for purposes of the rule governing license denial, suspension, or revocation.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	X		
Flavius Barker	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Dick Ray	X		
Jean Anne Rogers	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		
Valerie Rutledge			X

	Yes	No	Absent
Sharon Thompson			**X**
Melvin Wright	**X**		
Brittni England			**X**

The motion passed unanimously.

E. Education Leadership Redesign Commission, Rules

Dr. Howland requested the Board accept the Instructional Leadership Redesign, Rules on final reading. Approval will provide preparation programs and LEA's with a timeline and framework to start planning learning-centered leadership programs.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	**X**		
Flavius Barker	**X**		
Carolyn Pearre	**X**		
Dick Ray	**X**		
Jean Anne Rogers	**X**		
Fielding Rolston	**X**		
Valerie Rutledge			**X**
Sharon Thompson			**X**
Melvin Wright	**X**		
Brittni England			**X**

The motion passed unanimously.

F. Trade & Industrial Education Professional Salary, Rule

Mr. Ralph Barnett, Department of Education, explained that this rule corrects an unintentional disparity between teachers in occupational education and others. The rule provides that occupational education teachers receive credit for advanced degrees for salary purposes as teachers in other areas.

Vice Chair Pearre asked how many teachers would be affected by this rule.

Mr. Barnett answered that it would be very few.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	**X**		
Flavius Barker	**X**		
Carolyn Pearre	**X**		
Dick Ray	**X**		
Jean Anne Rogers	**X**		
Fielding Rolston	**X**		
Valerie Rutledge			**X**
Sharon Thompson			**X**
Melvin Wright	**X**		
Brittni England			**X**

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Teacher License Actions

A. Kenneth E. Anderson, Jr. (revocation, permanent)
B. Deborah L. Foster (suspension, concurrent with probation)
C. Kenneth G. Green (denial, until at least 2009)
D. James A. McGill (suspension, one year, automatic reinstatement)
E. Deborah K. Sharpe (revocation, permanent)
F. Sheree R. Slagle (revocation, permanent)

Mr. Haglund thanked the Office of Teacher Licensing for allowing Brandon Williams to begin conducting initial investigations into licensure cases, preparing them for review by the Board review committee. He explained that all six teachers on the agenda received notice of the recommendation by the review committee and chose not to contest that action.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve. **Dr. Wright** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim Ayers	**X**		
Flavius Barker	**X**		
Carolyn Pearre	**X**		
Dick Ray	**X**		
Jean Anne Rogers	**X**		
Fielding Rolston	**X**		
Valerie Rutledge			**X**
Sharon Thompson			**X**
Melvin Wright	**X**		
Brittni England			**X**

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Chairman Rolston thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet on August 22, 2008.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____