

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 25, 2008**

The State Board of Education met for its regular meeting in the Old Supreme Court Chamber, First Floor, State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee, at 8:30 a.m. CST, on January 25, 2008.

Present..... 11 Absent.....0
Mr. Fielding Rolston, Chair
Mr. Jim Ayers
Mr. Flavius Barker
Ms. Carolyn Pearre
Mr. Richard Ray
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers
Dr. Valerie Rutledge
Ms. Sharon Thompson
Dr. Melvin Wright
Dr. Richard Rhoda, Ex-Officio
Ms. Caroline Hadley, Student Mbr

Chairman Rolston called the meeting to order and welcomed Governor Phil Bredesen and members of the audience. He invited Governor Bredesen to make some opening remarks.

Governor Bredesen thanked the members of the Board for agreeing to hold the meeting in the State Capitol and made the following remarks:

"First of all, Id like to thank you for the opportunity to drop in. I know you've got a lot on your plate today, and I truly appreciate your sharing this time with me. I'll try to be brief and let you get back down to business.

I'm here, first and foremost, to say thank you for your work ... and you've done so much ... from Pre-K pilot programs nearly a decade ago ... to the recent fundamental changes in the BEP. No other State Board has a more significant role in advancing public education than you. And I've said it before and you'll hear it again ... education is and will continue to be our State's number one priority.

We had a great year last year ... we made a record investment in education. This created a responsibility to get down to business quickly ... and with your help, we did.

This Board is truly focused on the stuff that matters high standards, teacher quality ... the fundamentals that we must get right in order to see real academic improvement.

High standards. As a Board, you have always emphasized them ... and that is why I am here today. Specifically, I want to thank you for being such an integral part of the Diploma Project.

The project has been a truly productive partnership... bringing together the State Board... the Department...higher ed and the education-minded business community.

It has taken over a year ... but we've done it right ... and gathered thoughtful and specific insights from folks on the ground. We now have a clear view of what we need to do, moving forward.

Today marks a milestone ...Today we make a big step towards the goal of graduating students who are truly prepared as they move on to the next chapter of college and careers.

You are approving a new set of high standards ... new graduation requirements ... and creating the single track diploma. But what you are really doing is charting a new course for Tennessee's students ... setting the bar at a level that will enable them to be successful ... and at a level that I know they will rise to meet.

But today we also need to start some heavy lifting ... to make sure we don't just stop there.

We now need to move towards aligning our curriculum, to make sure that children are learning what they need to at each stage of their education in order to meet these standards.

And we need to make sure we assess our students in realistic and appropriate ways ... ways that tell us the real story about where they are in terms of learning. The real story of how good a job we're doing to see that they meet those new standards we've set.

I'm here to thank you, in advance, for continuing to chart that course towards excellence in education. It is a course that will require a continued partnership ...the continued efforts of teachers, students, parents, as well as higher ed and our community and business leaders ... to be successful."

I. Consent Items

A. *Adoption of Agenda*

B. *Approval of Minutes November 2, 2007 & December 19, 2007*

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

II. Report Items

A. *Annual Joint Report on Pre-Kindergarten through Higher Education*

Mr. Art Fuller, State Board of Education, reviewed the *Annual Joint Report on Pre-Kindergarten through Higher Education* emphasizing the following points.

Priority 1: Student Learning

The language of the report begins to reflect some of the larger initiatives associated with

- ❖ High School Transition Policy (increased expectations)
- ❖ the Teacher Quality Initiative, and
- ❖ the Tennessee Diploma Project.

Priority 2: Student Access and Transition

The state of Tennessee has been noted for its transition policies related to pre-kindergarten and the lottery scholarships.

Pre-Kindergarten

133 of 136 school systems

- ❖ 257 new classrooms
- ❖ Total of 934 classrooms impacting 17,308 students

Financial Aid Award per FTE undergraduate.

- ❖ Since 2003 has increased from \$211 per FTE to \$815 per FTE

ACT

- ❖ This is the first year for the statewide administration of the Explore, PLAN, and ACT.
- ❖ ACT for entering freshman increased from 21.9 to 22.5
- ❖ ACT scores have remained at 20.7, the national average is 21.2
- ❖ Slight increase from 17 to 18 percent of Tennessee students meeting the readiness benchmarks

AP Exams

- ❖ Number of students taking AP exams has increase from 18,400 to 21,250

Developmental Studies Rate

- ❖ There has been a slight increase in the number of high school graduates enrolled in developmental studies (2,080 vs. 2,131).

Priority 3: Supply and Retention of Teachers

Preparing more teachers, but not in the shortage areas

- ❖ We continue to prepare more teachers, increasing from 3,367 in 2003 to 3,746 in 2005.

- ❖ Since 2003 the number of teachers prepared in the shortage areas has gone down

Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, ESL, and Special Education

- ❖ Mathematics 103 to 99
- ❖ Science 125 to 111
- ❖ Foreign Language 70 to 48
- ❖ ESL 20 to 38 (exception)
- ❖ Special Education 460 to 391

Priority 4: Teacher Development

- ❖ The Department of Education has trained over 15,000 teachers in Teacher Quality workshops related to NCLB including the areas of Reading, Mathematics, Science, Gateway Exams, Health & Physical Activity, Teacher Mentoring, Middle Grades Education, Advanced Placement Courses, Transition to Teacher Grants, and the Arts.
- ❖ The Teach Tennessee program recruits mid-career professionals with a particular focus on finding professionals with experience in mathematics and the sciences. Since 2005, five cohorts of Governor's Fellows (25 to 30 professionals) have completed the Teach Tennessee training program.
- ❖ E4TN, innovation related to technology
- ❖ In the fall of 2007, 15 course pilot course offerings were made available to participating districts.
- ❖ From the technical path and university path to a default diploma that provided the academic rigor needed for all students, whether preparing for the university or for work-force training.

Mr. Ray asked why the task force was skirting around the issue of requiring all 8th grade students to have Algebra I?

Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education, stated that he would address **Mr. Ray's** concern with the Department and report their response at the next meeting.

III. Action Items (First Reading)

A. Course Substitution of JROTC for Personal Finance

Dr. Susan Bunch, Department of Education, presented this item. She noted that the curriculum for JROTC currently contains the information found in the Personal Finance curriculum and that having students in both courses would be redundant.

Discussion among Board members centered on the number and appropriateness of current courses substitutions allowed.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve on first reading. **Ms. Thompson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *License Actions, Rules*

Mr. Rich Haglund, State Board of Education, 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. Even though a guilty plea is required prior to entry of such an order, and such an order is therefore covered, the revision removes any possibility of confusion.

C. *License Restoration Policy Revision*

Mr. Haglund explained that this revision includes suspension as an option when discussing restoration procedures. The policy was originally passed before suspension was an option for discipline.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to approve Items III.B. and III.C. on first reading. **Ms. Thompson** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. *Category II Non-Public School Accrediting Agency Renewal*

THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED UNTIL THE APRIL MEETING

E. *Leadership Redesign Rules*

Dr. Mary Jo Howland, State Board of Education, presented the Leadership Redesign Rules. These rules are necessary to implement the recommendations of the instructional leadership redesign commission. Commission and task force members will review and revise these rules based on the input of practitioners and other constituency groups. Before being presented to the Board for final reading these rules will be further developed and clarified.

ACTION: **Mr. Dick Ray** moved to accept on first reading. **Dr. Wright** seconded. The motion passed by majority vote on voice vote with **Ms. Thompson** abstaining.

IV. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. *Family & Consumer Sciences Curriculum Standards*

B. *Agricultural Education Curriculum Standards*

C. *Technology Engineering Education Curriculum Standards*

D. *Career and Technical Course Title Changes*

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** made the motion that these items be considered as a block. **Dr. Wright** seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

- E. Science Curriculum Standards, 9-12**
- H. English Curriculum Standards, K-8**
- I. English Curriculum Standards, 9-12**
- J. Mathematics Curriculum Standards, K-8**
- K. Mathematics Curriculum Standards, 9-12**
- N. High School Transition Policy, Rule**

Dr. Nixon presented these items for consideration as a block. He pointed out that this package of items has come about through a long and thoughtful process involving multiple stakeholders from across the state.

Dr. Susan Bunch noted that the curriculum revisions were an integral part of the Tennessee Diploma Project. She then introduced **Dr. Scott Eddins, Ms. LaQuisha Oliver** and **Ms. Linda Jordan**, who, in turn, introduced and thanked those in attendance who had worked on the Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science standards respectively.

Chairman Rolston thanked everyone that worked on the project and referenced a proclamation formalizing the Board’s appreciation for their tireless efforts.

ACTION: **Mr. Ray** moved to approve Items **IV.E., IV.H., IV.I., IV.J., IV.K., IV.N.** **Vice Chair Pearre** 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		
Caroline Hadley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

After the vote, **Governor Bredesen** made the following statement:

"Today's vote solidifies the work of the past year of raising education standards to more adequately prepare Tennessee students for 21st century success. These improvements are essential stepping stones to Tennessee's students possessing the knowledge and skills to be at the top of their chosen professions. Adequately educating our young people is, and always should be, Tennessee's top priority."

F. *Education Leadership Redesign: Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards*

The Instructional Leadership Commission approved the Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards (TILS) and is requesting the Board approve these rules on final reading. **Dr. Howland** explained the TILS will provide the framework for recruiting, selecting, preparing, preparing, licensing, mentoring, evaluating and providing professional development and support for Tennessee instructional leaders. The TILS are aligned to national standards and based on current research. The TILS will provide for a cohesive, well articulated, standards based-system of instructional leadership development.

G. *Education Leadership Redesign: Professional Development for Instructional Leaders*

Effective instructional leaders must be lifelong, self-directed learners who have access to high quality, relevant, standards-based professional development.

Dr. Howland explained the instructional leadership redesigned requires every instructional leader to continuously demonstrate professional competency. Continued licensure requires meeting the Tennessee Instructional Leadership Standards performance indicators at increasingly higher levels. To meet these challenging standards requires leaders have access to focused, high quality professional learning opportunities.

Dr. Howland stated, "Tennessee Code now requires superintendents to set performance goals for school leaders. Sanctions are required if the goals are not met." The Instructional Leadership Redesign Commission approved the High Quality Instructional Leadership Professional Development Policy to guide for the development and delivery of high quality professional learning. Professional development is essential for instructional leaders to develop and maintain highly effective learning communities focused on improving the learning of all students

L. *2007 Report on Student, Teacher & School Performance*

Dr. David Sevier, State Board of Education, presented this item. He noted that this report was an annual requirement for the Board and that it was, in essence, a compilation of information gleaned from the Department of Education Report Card, the Annual Joint Report, and information found within the Department of Education.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** made the motion to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

M. Pre-Participation Sports Physicals, Rule

Dr. Sevier presented this item and introduced **Dr. Veronica Gunn** from the Governor’s Office of Coordinated Children’s Care. **Dr. Gunn** laid out the purpose for the rule change and the proposed timeline for implementation.

Concern was raised by **Dr. Jean Anne Rogers** regarding the fact the examination under consideration is a vision screening rather than an eye examination. **Dr. Gunn** noted that this examination is parallel to an annual check-up and that any indicators that raise concern would be referred to a health care specialist for follow up.

ACTION: **Dr. Wright** made the motion to approve. **Dr. Rutledge** seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with **Dr. Jean Anne Rogers** abstaining.

O. Algebra I Employment Standards, Rule

Dr. Nixon presented this item. Concern was raised by **Mr. Ray** that this action could negatively impact middle school math instruction by moving excellent teachers into Algebra I, consequently leaving lower grade courses with less effective teachers.

Dr. Nixon noted that this action was intended to allow local districts the flexibility to utilize exiting personnel to meet instructional demands. The item was amended to allow for monitoring of those schools that choose to implement this option to check for unintended consequences in other grades.

ACTION: **Dr. Rutledge** moved to approve. **Mr. Barker** 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		
Caroline Hadley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Teacher Licensure Actions

A. Frederick P. Dallava: 1 year suspension, automatic reinstatement

- B. Dominick J. Francesconi: Revocation, permanent**
- C. John T. Greene: Revocation, permanent**
- D. Charles E. Hardee: Voluntary surrender, may reapply in 3 years**
- E. Buffy R. House: Suspension, concurrent with Kentucky suspension**
- F. Johnny L. McElroy: Revocation, permanent**
- G. Rachael (Poston) Smith: Revocation, permanent**

Mr. Haglund reminded members that the reasons for the proposed actions were in the background material and the recommendations were made by the staff review committee for the suspensions, revocations and voluntary surrender.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved to adopt all of the recommendations. **Dr. Rutledge** 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		
Caroline Hadley	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Nixon stated that before the meeting was adjourned he wanted to thank **Dr. Lana Seivers** for her dedication and commitment to the education of Tennessee children. **Dr. Seivers** resigned her position as Commissioner of Education to enter the private sector and this was to be her last meeting with the State Board of Education.

Chairman Rolston echoed **Dr. Nixon's** statements and **Dr. Seivers** was given a round of applause from Board members, staff and the audience.

Chairman Rolston thanked the Board members for their thoughtful deliberations and announced that the Board will meet on April 24-25, 2008.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____