

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 2, 2012**

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 1:00 p.m., CST, on March 2, 2012.

Present..... 6	Absent.....5
Ms. Carolyn Pearre, Vice Chair	Fielding Rolston, Chairman
Mr. Mike Edwards	Mr. Jim Ayers
Ms. Vernita Justice	Ms. Teresa Sloyan
Mr. Lonnie Roberts	Ms. Lauren Haley
Dr. Jean Anne Rogers	Dr. Richard Rhoda
Dr. Melvin Wright	

Others Present

- Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBE)**
- Dr. David Sevier, SBE**
- Dr. Scott Eddins, SBE**
- Ms. Dannelle Walker, SBE**
- Ms. Phyllis Childress, SBE**

Vice Chair Pearre welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. Charter School Appeal – SMART Schools, Inc.

Dr. Nixon presented the details of the appeal and explained the recommendation to the Board to remand the decision back to the Hamilton County Board of Public Education with instructions to approve the charter application contingent upon SMART Schools Inc.’s ability to satisfy the concerns of Hamilton County Schools cited in the business operations section of the charter application.

Mr. Edwards asked whether the SMART Schools application submitted in Hamilton County was different than the one in Knox County.

Dr. Nixon stated that the two applications were similar, which left him with some concerns, but that he was confident that with collaboration

between Hamilton County and SMART Schools, a quality charter school would emerge.

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

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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		
Lauren Haley			X

The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools Policy*

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, formerly known as No Child Left Behind or NCLB) Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) model of accountability, some schools that were consistently struggling were not identified to receive the most rigorous interventions. In 2011, efforts were refocused on the “persistently lowest-achieving” schools. The Tennessee State Board of Education approved at that time that “persistently lowest-achieving” schools could be either:

Tier I – Any Title I high priority school (a Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring as defined in ESEA) that is either in the lowest five percent of all Title I high priority schools in the ALL subgroup for math and reading/language arts combined achievement or is a Title I secondary school (defined as a high school in TN) with a graduation rate of less than 60% (for two out of the last three years).

Tier II – Any Title I secondary school eligible but not “served” by Title I that is either in the lowest five percent of these schools in the ALL subgroup for math and reading/language arts combined achievement or has a graduation rate of less than 60% (for two out of the last three years).

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.

ACTION: **Dr. Rogers** moved approval on first reading. **Vice Chair Pearre** seconded and a roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Jim 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
Chip Woods	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Rolston thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone and reminded them of the upcoming SBE workshop and meeting on April 19-20, 2012 in Nashville. The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: _____ Date _____