

**ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING NOTES**  
**Monday, September 28, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Arizona Department of Education**  
**1535 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

The Arizona State Board of Education held a regular meeting on September 28, 2015 at the Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson Street, Room 122 , Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:  
Charles Schmidt  
Tim Carter  
Dr. James Rottweiler  
Amy Hamilton  
Greg Miller  
Reginald Ballantyne  
Roger Jacks  
Jared Taylor

Members Absent:  
Superintendent Diane Douglas  
Michael Crow  
~~Chris Deschane~~

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND ROLL CALL

President Miller stated that the Agenda will be discussed out of order, after an Executive Session to discuss the Litigation, they would then move to matters relating to 4M first, then to the Business reports. Vice President Ballantyne made the motion, seconded by Member Schmidt. None opposed to going into Executive Session.

Meeting Recessed and convened to Executive Session at 9:03 a.m.

Meeting of the State Board of Education reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

4. General Session

M. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding consideration to fill existing vacancies in the positions of administrative assistant to the investigative unit and executive assistant to the Board.

Executive Director Christine Thompson started the discussion for the application process of the open position for Administrative Assistant 3 to the Investigative Unit. Ms. Thompson recommended Ms. Ana Rodriguez for this position. Ms. Thompson recommended Ms. Christa Clay as Executive Assistant to the Board upon her resignation. Mr. Ballantyne started the motion to hire the two aforementioned individuals, seconded by Member Schmidt, and the Board voted unanimously to hire them. President Miller requested that the Superintendent be moved to approve the hire of the two individuals in conduct with A.R.S. 15-203.A5.

## 5. Business Reports

- A. President's Report: President Miller had no report.
- B. Superintendent's Report: No Report as not present
- C. Board Members:

Member Anna Hamilton discussed the Teacher Evaluation Framework 9:41 a.m.

### D. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Thompson spoke on the Standards Development—the Math and English Language Arts feedback has been launched.

Member Jared Taylor requested contact info for the consultants mentioned by Ms. Thompson.

## 3. Call to the Public

- Timothy Lawless—President of NAAP, was concerned over the fact that 1 out of 4 students have sub-par eyesight, which significantly affects their grades. He was concerned to discover that we are one out of 8 states in the union that do not do vision testing. Vision Quest 20/20 was the vendor that he recommended we partner with to do these vision tests. It would be roughly \$1/scan per child.
- Jennifer Johnson—Executive Director of Support Our Schools AZ, spoke to an event run by her organization October 24<sup>th</sup> at Salt River Fields, before the ball game, and also requests that Board members advertise this event.

## 2. Consent Agenda

- A. Consideration to approve the following contract abstracts:
  - National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant 2015 – 2nd Round.
  - Adult Education Services in Maricopa County for FY2016.
- B. Consideration to reappoint members to the Professional Practices Advisory Committees
- D. Consideration to permanently revoke any and all teaching certificates held by James Giannopoulos, pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-550

- E. Consideration to accept voluntary surrender of the teaching certificates held by the following:
  - 1. Kathleen Jardine
  - 2. David Pandone
  - 3. Jasmine Smith
  
- F. Presentation, discussion and consideration to approve qualification scores for the Move On When Ready (MOWR)/Excellence for all Cambridge International Examinations IGCSE English Literature and Mathematics (Extended), articulate the qualification scores for the Cambridge systems using the Cambridge letter grading system, and approve the refinements to the structure of the qualifications system within Cambridge for the Grand Canyon Diploma

Motion by Member Rottweiler and seconded by Member Carter to move Item 2C to general session, and approve the rest. No opposed. Motion Passed Unanimously.

#### 4. GENERAL SESSION

- A. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration to approve the Move on When Reading (MOWR) LEA literacy plans which have been reviewed for release of K-3 Reading Base Support funds.

Ms. Thompson stated that literacy plans must be submitted to the SBE by individual districts. She advised that the plans that have been submitted so far have been reviewed. There are 41 school districts who have met the necessary requirements thus far, with October 1<sup>st</sup> being the deadline. Vice president Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Taylor, to approve the MOWR LEA Literacy plans for release of K-3 Reading Base Support Funds. Motion passed unanimously

- B. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding amendments to the April 27, 2015, Board policy for the development of the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards

Ms. Thompson advised that the standards have been recommended to the Board by ADE staff. Language has been proposed that the Superintendent shall recommended employees to present final recommendations of standard changes in each of the statewide standards areas to the SBE subcommittees. Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Carter to adopt the proposed amendments. No opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. Presentation, discussion and consideration to initiate rulemaking procedures for proposed amendments to rule R7-2-302 and repeal rule R7-2-302.10 regarding high school graduation requirements.

Ms. Thompson that there were two pieces of legislation that were passed last session that affected high school graduation requirements:

1. That students take a civics test in order to graduate
2. Legislation that removed the requirement of the statewide test to graduate.

Dr. Rottweiler raised concerns over ADE involvement and the accountability of school districts.

Christine Thompson informed the Board that local education agencies decide how the civics test is administered. The policy is adjusted so that it subscribes to the law. Member Carter made the motion, seconded by Vice President Ballantyne, to initiate the rulemaking procedures for proposed amendments to Rule R7-2-302 and repeal rule R7-2-302-.10 regarding High School Graduation requirements. No opposed, motion passed unanimously.

- D. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration to close the rulemaking procedures and adopt proposed amendments to rules R7-2-615(L) Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsements.

Ms. Thompson advised that this was opened last month by board, changed from one year to three year endorsement. She requested that it be closed. Vice President Ballantyne made a motion to close the rulemaking procedures and adopt amendments. Member Jacks seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- E. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Department's recommended application, application procedures and selection criteria for the technology provider for the K-6 technology based language development and literacy intervention pilot program pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-217, including direction to the Department to take all steps necessary to implement the pilot program and report to the Board by August 1, 2016, regarding recommendations concerning the pilot program.

Christine Thompson advised late legislation prevented this program from being implemented last year. The Recommendations were given by the Department of application procedures and the selection criteria to be adopted by the program. Mr. Jacks stated that he was concerned over the accountability of ADE involvement. Ms.

Thompson recommended that ADE implement this program and report back by August 1, 2016, allowing the SBE to then report to Legislation. She stated that the statute gave the Board the program but advised that the Department should run. The Board had concern that no Department Representative was present. Member Taylor proposed approval of the Department's recommendations of pilot programs, and further direct ADE to implement and monitor pilot program and give report by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President Ballantyne seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Consent Agenda

- C. Consideration to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to grant the application for certification for Joseph Vela.

Mr. Charles Easaw of the SBE Investigation Team provided a complete document to grant the application for certification of Joseph Vela, who was present by phone. Mr. Charles Schmidt raised concerns of allegations of Mr. Vela's involvement with relationship of student and their family. Ms. Thompson advised that Board has option to approve applicant, or deny and have PPAC look into specific concerns of Board, but Mr. Vela could appeal and then have another hearing. Mr. Schmidt raises motion to deny applicant and then allow applicant to appeal. Roger Jacks advised that teacher showed lack of professional behavior. Joseph Vela addressed Board to counter. Member Ballantyne recommended that further investigation be taken. Christine Thompson advised that the motion is to deny application, not take further investigation. Mr. Carter raised concerns over offending PPAC, and asked if it is possible to take no action against applicant but instead ask PPAC to research further. Mr. Schmidt raised concerns over structured formality. Ms. Thompson advised that the Board could send it back to PPAC for more investigation w/o denying application. If Board denies applicant, then he could still appeal. Mr. Schmidt was concerned that the investigative unit did not have the resources to give the best investigation because of access limitations to the Certification database. Mr. Easaw stated that it was not an issue. Ms. Hamilton seconds due to unprofessional behavior. Christine said there may be the option to remand back to PPAC for full hearing without having to deny his application, but if it is denied, Mr. Vela may have to wait 5 years before he could reapply. The Board voted unanimously to deny his application. The Investigative unit will contact him for the appeal process. Mr. Vela requests that he be given chance to deny so that the denial would not be reported to NASDAQ. Ms. Thompson advised that the denial is not reported to NASDAQ until the appeal process is completed.

- F. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to approve the application for certification for Jana Schrock.

Mr. Easaw advised that Mr. Schrock had been convicted of a felony offense. PPAC unanimously voted his approval. Mr. Ballantyne advised that he was concerned over a Weapon's Charge and Check Forgery charge. Mr. Schrock advised that they were earlier charges. Member Rottweiler made a motion to recommend that the certification be approved for Jana Schrock. Seconded by President Miller, motion passed unanimously.

- G. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration to accept the recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to approve the settlement agreement for Jeff Williamson.

Eric Schwartz, Assistant AG, advises that Jeff Williamson was denied employment due to incorrect contact information given for a previous employer. Mr. Williamson has offered a Settlement in which he will take 6 months suspension of his Superintendent's Certificate due to unprofessional conduct and will withdraw application for renewal of his Principal's certificate until after the Superintendent's certificate is renewed. Vice President Ballantyne made a motion to approve the proposed settlement agreement, which was seconded by Member Jacks. Motion for settlement passed unanimously.

- H. Presentation, discussion and possible action to accept the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the Professional Practices Advisory Committee to revoke the certification for David Mielke.

Mr. Schwartz advised that Mr. Mielke is not present and did not call in. The PPAC concluded unanimously that his actions displayed unprofessional conduct and his certifications should be revoked. Vice President Ballantyne made a motion, seconded by Member Schmidt, to revoke the Certification of David Mielke, following the recommendation of the PPAC. The Board unanimously voted to revoke his certification.

- I. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the Request for Information (RFI) to determine the status and qualifications of current vendors for High School Equivalency (HSE) assessments.

Ms. Thompson stated that the Department was requested to give recommendations to Board, but alleged that the Board has not received formal recommendations from Superintendent's office. Dr. Rottweiler and Vice President have concerns regarding participation from ADE. Christine Thompson advised of two people who wish to give Public Comment. She also advised that a person who meets the minimum course of study can obtain diploma through college credit.

- Dennis Nelson—Member of Cochise Community College Governing Board. He requests that more vendors be invited in to provide tests for high school diploma or equivalent tests.
- Jane Strain—Cochise Community College Governing Board—She advised that she hears public comments on frustration with GED programs.

Dr. Rottweiler advises of AALL request to give review of alternative options to the GED test. President Miller expressed concern over lack of Department and Superintendent response. He requested a motion that Department gives a complete presentation of this subject at the next Board meeting or it will be added to the lawsuit. Vice President Ballantyne made this motion, seconded by Member Rottweiler. Motion passed unanimously.

- J. Presentation, discussion and possible consideration of the Department's procedures related to the issuance of authenticated copies of educator certificates.

Christine Thompson advised of concern of Superintendent that her name was on Certifications when she was not in office. Dr. Rottweiler advised of concerns over consistency between college certifications matching the State's. Tim Carter, County School Superintendent, voiced concerns of legality. President Miller requested a legal opinion to be forthcoming, as he feels the issue is in question. Member Rottweiler made a motion for the Department to present their side of the issue of the issuance of authenticated copies of Certificates at the next Board meeting, seconded by Vice President Ballantyne. The motion passed unanimously.

- K. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding the Alternative Teacher Development Program Grant, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-552 and appropriations to the Department for the program in Laws 2015, Chapter 8, Section 34.

Ms. Thompson advised that the ATDP Grant is overseen by the Board but administered by the ADE. The motion was raised that the SBE require ADE to provide a timeline and action plan to implement this program. Member Rottweiler made a motion requiring the Department to present on information, implementation and potential recommendations regarding Alternative Teacher Development Program Grant. The motion was seconded by Vice President Ballantyne and the Board voted to pass the motion unanimously.

- L. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding local education agency (LEAs) declaration of curricular and instructional alignment.

Christine Thompson alleged that the Superintendent is no longer requiring that LEAs give the declaration of curricular and instructional alignment. Miller raised concerns that on the webpage it says that schools are no longer required to complete the declaration. He is concerned that the Superintendent made this decision without Board approval. Jared Taylor stated that a declaration to follow the law is a duplication of efforts, as they are, by nature, legally committed to uphold the curricular alignment. President Miller advised that LEAs should be consistently committed to AZ C&CR standards. He has concerns Superintendent is not counseling the board. Dr. Rottweiler moved for clarification on whether this is to remove common core or streamline

process. Member Jacks seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Afterwards, concerns were raised over schools potentially being penalized for not filing. For instance, Title 1 grant requires filing. It is unclear. They hope to have all implications of removing the declaration of the curricular and instructional alignment presented to them at the next Board meeting.

6. BOARD COMMENTS AND FUTURE MEETING DATES. The executive director, presiding officer or a member of the Board may present a brief summary of current events pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K), and may discuss future meeting dates and direct staff to place matters on a future agenda. The Board will not discuss or take action on any current event summary.
  - Mr. Ballantyne requests that a presentation on Vision Quest 20/20 Presentation on Vision Screening be given on the next Board meeting
  - Tim Carter advised that he would like to see some sort of student presentation at the beginning of each Board Meeting to celebrate achievement. He requested that 2-3min at the beginning of each meeting be given to actually interact with the students they affect.
  - President Miller advised that he would like to start holding this meeting off-site instead of at ADE to allow for more interaction with locational Boards.

Vice President Ballantyne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Taylor. The motion passed unanimously at 12:17PM.