

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
April 10, 2014**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 10:20 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014, in Room #1-111 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. All members of the committee were present, as follows:

Presiding: Donna Bahorich, chair; Marty Rowley, vice chair; Barbara Cargill; Ruben Cortez, Jr.; Mavis B. Knight

Public Testimony

This item provides an opportunity for the public to present testimony at the time the related item comes up for committee discussion or action. The procedures for registering and taking public testimony at State Board of Education committee meetings and general board meetings are provided at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=25769804094> or in the information section (yellow pages) of the agenda.

The Committee on School Initiatives heard public testimony on agenda #6. Information regarding the individual who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements, §232.11, Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours

(Board agenda page IV-1)

[Official agenda item #15]

Marilyn Cook, interim director, educator testing and certification, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding proposed amendment to 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 232, Subchapter A, §232.11.

MOTION AND VOTE: *By unanimous consent, the Committee on School Initiatives recommended that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements, §232.11, Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours.*

2. Review of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter E, Grades 9-12 Assignments; Subchapter F, Special Education-Related Services Personnel Assignments; and Subchapter G, Paraprofessional Personnel, Administrators, and Other Instructional and Professional Support Assignments

(Board agenda page IV-9)

[Official agenda item #16]

Marilyn Cook, interim director, educator testing and certification, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Subchapters E-G.

MOTION AND VOTE: *By unanimous consent, the Committee on School Initiatives recommended that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter E, Grades 9-12 Assignments; Subchapter F, Special Education-Related Services Personnel Assignments; and Subchapter G, Paraprofessional Personnel, Administrators, and Other Instructional and Professional Support Assignments.*

3. Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases, Subchapter B, Enforcement Actions and Guidelines, §249.16, Eligibility of Persons with Criminal Convictions for a Certificate under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53

(Board agenda page IV-17)
[Official agenda item #17]

Von Byer, deputy general counsel, legal services, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Subchapter B, §249.16.

MOTION AND VOTE: *By unanimous consent, the Committee on School Initiatives recommended that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases, Subchapter B, Enforcement Actions and Guidelines, §249.16, Eligibility of Persons with Criminal Convictions for a Certificate under Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53.*

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Recommendation for Appointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-25)
[Consent agenda item #(6)]

Ron Rowell, director, school governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives regarding appointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried by unanimous vote to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the reappointments of Dr. Eustace S. Lewis and Ms. Anita Jeanne Warren, each to serve a two-year term of office, from April 11, 2014 through April 10, 2016, on the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

5. Recommendation for Appointment to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-53)
(Consent agenda item #(7))

Ron Rowell, director, school governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives regarding appointments to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mr. Cortez, and carried by unanimous vote to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the appointment of SMSgt Michael Garcia, to serve a two-year term of office, from April 11, 2014 through April 10, 2016, on the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

ACTION ITEM

6. Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)
(Board agenda page IV-71)
[Official agenda item #18]

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Mr. Bill Nemir
AFFILIATION: Texas Association of School Boards

Ron Rowell, director, school governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives regarding adoption of 19 TAC Chapter 61 regarding school districts and board of Trustees relationships

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend language in §61.1(b)(1)(A) to read as follows:*

“Any ~~Each~~ sitting board member may attend or participate in the ~~is also required to receive annual training on~~ local district orientation. The local district orientation shall address local district practices in the following, in addition to topics chosen by the local district ~~must include:~~”

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mrs. Knight, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(1)(B) to strike the phrase, “and received within 60 days of re-election.”*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(2) to add the sentence, “The session shall include a review of the roles, rights, and responsibilities of a local board as outlined in the framework for governance leadership.”*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mrs. Knight, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(3) to strike the phrase, “including governance training.”*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mrs. Knight, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(3)(B) to strike the proposed requirement for eight hours of continuing education and maintain the five-hour requirement.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mrs. Knight, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(C)(j) to add the sentence, “The announcement shall state that completing the annual required continuing education is a basic obligation and expectation of any sitting board member under State Board of Education rule.”*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Mrs. Cargill, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(1) to strike subparagraph (C) and add language to subparagraph (B) to read as follows:*

“A newly elected or appointed board member of an independent school district shall receive the orientation to the TEC within the first 120 days of service. The orientation to the TEC shall be open to any sitting board member who chooses to attend.”

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Knight, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members, as amended and shown in Attachment A.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Review of 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship (Board agenda page IV-79)

The Texas Government Code, §2001.039, establishes a four-year rule review cycle for all state agency rules, including State Board of Education (SBOE) rules. Ron Rowell, director of school governance, presented this item, 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, as part of the four-year rule review process. The review is intended to ensure that the need for the rule still exists.

8. Long-Range Planning Efforts for Texas Public Schools (Board agenda page IV-87)

The Committee on School Initiatives discussed whether to pursue a long-range planning effort for public education. Mrs. Bahorich asked Mr. Cortez and Mr. Rowley to discuss the issue further and come back with suggestions at the next meeting. Mr. Cortez suggested that they seek input from school administrators.

9. Discussion of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 100, Charters, Subchapter A, Open-Enrollment Charter Schools

(Board agenda page IV-89)

Heather Mauzé, director, division of charter school administration, explained the need to amend board rules in 19 TAC Chapter 100, Charters, Subchapter A, Open-Enrollment Charter Schools to conform to new statutory language in Texas Education Code, §12.101.

ACTION ITEM

10. Consideration of Funds for Charter School Fact Finding Trips

(Board agenda page IV-77)

[Official agenda item #19]

Heather Mauzé, director, division of charter school administration, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information that would allow the committee to create a process for allowing board members to use monies donated by a foundation to conduct onsite visits of out of state charter operators. David Anderson, chief general counsel, legal services, provided options for the committee to consider regarding this item.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Mr. Cortez, and carried unanimously, to recommend that the State Board of Education postpone this item until the next board meeting in July.*

DISCUSSION ITEM

11. Discussion on Information Regarding Generation 19 Open-Enrollment Charter School Application Process

(Board agenda page IV-103)

Heather Mauzé, director, division of charter school administration, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding the number of Generation 19 applications received, the timeline for review and interviews, the reviewer evaluation template, external reviewer training, and access to the online portal.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 1:33 p.m.