

Item 6:

Discussion and Action on Election of State Board for Educator Certification Officers

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

DESIRED OUTCOME: The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) will elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

SUMMARY: Texas Education Code (TEC) requires that the State Board for Educator Certification elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years and allows the board to elect other officers from among its membership. The Board Operating Policies and Procedures (BOPP) mandates that the board elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary according to the terms of the BOPP.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.036 and Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 17.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At the August 2016 SBEC meeting, the board directed TEA staff to prepare an agenda item for the reorganization of officers given the replacement of board member and Chairperson, Dr. Bonny Cain. Given that these elections are in response to a vacancy, officer elections will still take place at the last regularly scheduled meeting of 2017 to comply with the BOPP.

TEC §21.036, Officers, requires the board to elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years and allows the board to elect other officers from among its membership.

According to the BOPP:

- The Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the board, have signature authority for disciplinary orders, officially represent the board in communicating policy and procedures, determine meeting agendas, and appoint members to serve on board committees.
- The Vice-Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson in the event of absence or disability of the Chairperson during that absence or disability. In case of vacancy of the office of Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson until the position of Chairperson is filled.
- The Secretary shall serve as presiding officer of the board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson in the event of absence or disability of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson during that absence or disability. In case of vacancy of the office of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary shall serve as presiding officer of the board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson until the position of Chairperson is filled.

According to the BOPP, officers shall serve for two years, or until a successor has been duly elected in the event of a vacated position. Elections shall take place at the last regularly scheduled board meeting of each odd-numbered calendar year. The officer-elect assumes office at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the following calendar year.

Under the BOPP, Robert's Rules of Order, and prior SBEC practice, board officers are nominated and seconded from the floor. If there is more than one nominee for a position, paper ballots are used, with the winner being the person who receives a plurality of the votes, that is, more votes than any other candidate, whether or not that number constitutes a majority of all votes cast. If the vote results in a tie for the most votes between two or more candidates, the chairperson reopens the floor for additional nominations, if any, and a second vote is taken. If there is still a tie for a plurality of the votes, the election is then postponed to the next SBEC meeting.

PROJECTED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon board approval.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: At the October 2015 SBEC meeting, Bonny L. Cain, Ed.D. was elected Board Chairperson, Jill Druesedow was elected Board Vice-Chairperson, and Suzanne McCall was elected Board Secretary.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that the State Board for Educator Certification:

- Elect a Chairperson to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled board meeting of 2017, or until a successor is elected.
- Elect a Vice-Chairperson to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled board meeting of 2017, or until a successor is elected.
- Elect a Secretary to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled board meeting of 2017, or until a successor is elected.

Staff Member Responsible: Christie Pogue, SBEC Manager
Educator Leadership and Quality

Attachment: Statutory Authority

ATTACHMENT

**Statutory Authority
Relating to Election of State Board for Educator Certification Officers**

Texas Education Code, §21.036, Officers:

The board shall elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years. The presiding officer is entitled to vote on all matters before the board. The board may elect other officers from among its membership.

Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 17, Officers to Serve Until Successors Qualified:

All officers within this State shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified.