

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
September 19, 2013**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2013, 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 item #6. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Recommendation for Appointments to the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-1)
[Consent agenda item #(4)]

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding appointments to the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Knight, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried by unanimous vote to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the reappointment of Mr. George Owen and Mrs. Suzanne Wright, each to serve a two-year term of office, from September 20, 2013 through September 19, 2015, on the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

2. Recommendation for Appointment to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-11)
[Consent agenda item #(5)]

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding an appointment to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Knight, seconded by Mrs. Cargill, and carried by unanimous vote to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the reappointment of Mr. Jimmy D. Cornelius to serve a two-year term of office, from September 20, 2013 through September 19, 2015, on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

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

(Board agenda page IV-29)
[Consent agenda item #(6)]

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding an appointment to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Knight, seconded by Mr. Cortez, and carried by unanimous vote to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the reappointment of Mr. Brian S. Miller to serve a two-year term of office, from September 20, 2013 through September 19, 2015, on the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

ACTION ITEM

4. Review of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases

(Board agenda page IV-45)
[Official agenda item #11]

Andrew Allen, senior counsel for educator certification, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives information regarding proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249.

MOTION AND VOTE: *By unanimous consent, the Committee on School Initiatives recommended that the State Board of Education take no action on the Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Update on the Generation 17 Open-Enrollment Charter Application Cycle

(Board agenda page IV-55)

Heather Mauzé, director, charter school administration, informed the Committee on School Initiatives that Lone Star Scholars Foundation, a Generation 17 open-enrollment charter applicant, did not meet the contingency deadline of August 19, 2013, and was rescinded.

6. Discussion on Information Regarding Open-Enrollment Charter Schools by the Committee on School Initiatives

(Board agenda page IV-57)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Victor Omar Yanar
AFFILIATION: El Paso Leadership Academy

NAME: Katie Peterson Stellar
AFFILIATION: High Point Academy Charter

Donna Bahorich, chair of the Committee on School Initiatives, provided information regarding the Generation 18 open-enrollment charter applicant interviews that were held on September 11 and 12, 2013. Committee members discussed next steps for the authorization of Generation 18 charters by the commissioner of education and provided recommendations for the Generation 19 open-enrollment charter application timeline.

ACTION ITEM

7. Review of the Commissioner of Education's Generation 18 Charter Proposals

(Board agenda page IV-53)

[Official agenda item #12]

The commissioner of education has postponed issuing Generation 18 charter proposals until September 27, 2013.

DISCUSSION ITEM

8. Review of Areas of Oversight for the Committee on School Initiatives

(Board agenda page IV-59)

At the request of the committee chair, Debbie Ratcliffe, director of media relations with the agency's Division of Communications and State Board of Education Support, reviewed with the committee members the areas or topics overseen by the Committee on School Initiatives. The areas of authority are included in the board's operating rules and can always be found on page V-21 in the information section or yellow pages of the agenda. The most active areas of oversight in recent years include reviewing rules proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification, charter school selections, and appointment of trustees to school boards that serve military bases and special school districts. As part of the committee's assignment to oversee long range plans for education, committee members asked that representatives of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium be invited to address the committee in November. They also asked that executive directors who head the regional Education Service Centers in the committee members' districts be invited to discuss challenges and opportunities facing public education.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 11:57 a.m.