

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on Instruction
July 17, 2014**

The State Board of Education Committee on Instruction met at 9:08 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2014, in Room #1-104 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. The following members of the committee were present:

Presiding: Sue Melton-Malone, vice chair; Martha M. Dominguez; Geraldine “Tincy” Miller; Marisa B. Perez

Absent: Tom Maynard, chair

Non-Committee Members Present: Lawrence A. Allen, Jr.; Donna Bahorich; David Bradley; Barbara Cargill; Patricia Hardy; Mavis B. Knight; Ken Mercer; Thomas Ratliff; Marty Rowley

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 Instruction heard public testimony on agenda items #1, #5, and #7. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Dyslexia Simulation
(Board agenda page II-27)

Public Testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Robbi Cooper
AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Ben Cooper
AFFILIATION: Self

Staff and parents from the Richardson Independent School District provided board members with simulations that demonstrated the challenges faced by students with dyslexia. Board members rotated through six stations where they participated in activities that showed the struggles these students face as they read and write.

At 10:20 a.m., the Committee on Instruction took a break and reconvened at 10:34 a.m., in Room #1-104 with the following committee members present:

Presiding: Sue Melton-Malone, vice chair; Martha M. Dominguez; Geraldine “Tincy” Miller; Marisa B. Perez

ACTION ITEMS

2. **Proposed Repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter B, Adult Basic and Secondary Education**
(Second Reading and Final Adoption)
(Board agenda page II-1)
[Official agenda item #6]

Stacy Avery, Texas initiatives director, federal and state education policy division, explained that the rules in Chapter 89, Subchapter B, are no longer necessary because the adult basic and secondary education program was moved to another agency by statute and is no longer under the authority of the Texas Education Agency and State Board of Education.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Dr. Dominguez, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the board, approve for second reading and final adoption the proposed repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter B, Adult Basic and Secondary Education with an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register.*

3. **Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter C, Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency**
(Second Reading and Final Adoption)
(Board agenda page II-13)
[Official agenda item #7]

Ms. Avery explained that proposed revisions include an amendment to 19 TAC §89.45, Retesting, repeal of 19 TAC §89.46, Examinees with Disabilities, and new 19 TAC §89.46, Accommodations.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Dr. Dominguez, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the board, approve for second reading and final adoption the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter C, Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency, with an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register.*

4. **Proposed Approval of Innovative Courses**
(Board agenda page II-19)
[Official agenda item #8]

Shelly Ramos, curriculum division director, explained that innovative courses are courses that do not fall within any subject area of the foundation or enrichment curriculum. Ms. Ramos explained that the State Board of Education has the authority to decide when the courses will expire.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Dr. Dominguez, seconded by Ms. Perez, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve innovative courses as follows:*

- *General Employability Skills, for a period of two years; and*

- *Aviation Honors Ground School, Peer Assistance and Leadership I and II, and Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities I and II, for a period of five years.*

5. Approval of Updates to Dyslexia Handbook

(Board agenda page II-23)

[Official agenda item #9]

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Debra Levy

AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Sara Furlich

AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Lyn Pollard

AFFILIATION: National Center for Learning Disabilities

NAME: Beth Sheehan

AFFILIATION: Self

Kelly Callaway, K-12 foundation education director, curriculum division, provided an overview of the revisions to *The Dyslexia Handbook: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders* that resulted from public feedback.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Dr .Dominguez, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve The Dyslexia Handbook – Revised 2014: Procedures Concerning Dyslexia and Related Disorders, including the edits that were directed by the committee.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Discussion of Annual Audit Reports for Credit by Examination from Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin

(Board agenda page II-29)

Ms. Ramos discussed the annual audit reports submitted by Texas Tech University and The University of Texas at Austin regarding assessments used for credit by examination.

7. Discussion of 19 TAC Chapter 89, Adaptations for Special Populations, Subchapter D, Special Education Services and Settings, §89.63, Instructional Arrangements and Settings

(Board agenda page II-49)

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Steven Aleman

AFFILIATION: Disability Rights Texas

NAME: Columba Wilson

AFFILIATION: Self

NAME: Rona Statman
AFFILIATION: The ARC of Texas

NAME: Stacy Ford
AFFILIATION: Coalition of Human Rights Policy Advocates (CHRPA)

NAME: Linda Litzinger
AFFILIATION: Self

Gene Lenz, director, federal and state education policy division, shared the issues discussed with a stakeholder group to help inform development of proposed amendments and explained that staff would prepare an item to present proposed amendments at the September meeting.

8. Discussion of the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency
(Board agenda page II-57)

Ms. Avery outlined steps taken and the anticipated timeline for issuance of a Request for Proposals to identify a test provider for the Texas certificate of high school equivalency.

The meeting of the Committee on Instruction adjourned at 12:10 p.m.