

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
January 30, 2014**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 11:02 a.m. on Thursday, January 30, 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.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

(Board agenda page IV-1)
[Consent agenda item #(3)]

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives regarding appointments to the Boys Ranch 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 Ms. Sharon Miner and Mr. Mark Strother, each to serve a two-year term of office, from January 31, 2014 through January 30, 2016, on the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees. (Mrs. Cargill and Mrs. Knight were absent for the vote.)*

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

(Board agenda page IV-9)
[Consent agenda item #(4)]

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented to the Committee on School Initiatives regarding appointments to the Randolph Field 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 reappointment of Ms. Sharon Holland, and the appointments of Dr. Jennifer Stangle and Ms. Helen King, each to serve a two-year term of office, from January 31, 2014 through January 30, 2016, on the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees. (Mrs. Cargill was absent for the vote.)*

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discussion of 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members, and the Framework for School Board Development
(Board agenda page IV-25)

Ron Rowell, director, enforcement coordination and governance, presented background information regarding the current requirements for continuing education for school board members in the state of Texas, as requested by committee members.

4. Discussion on Information Regarding Open-Enrollment Charter Schools by the Committee on School Initiatives
(Board agenda page IV-35)

Heather Mauzé, director of the division of charter school administration, updated the committee on the status of the Generation 19 open-enrollment application. She provided a timeline for the Generation 19 request for application (RFA), the dates for the two applicant information sessions, the method of delivery for the RFA, information on external reviewer training, and the dates for applicant interviews.

Ms. Mauzé introduced Melodie Wahlert, consultant, administrative support services, Education Service Center (ESC) Region 11; Arturo Serna, director of training services, Texas Charter School Association (TCSA); and Chris Busse, vice president of quality services, TCSA. TEA, ESC 11, and TCSA provided information to the committee on the status of the Charter School Technical Assistance Network, an initiative that began in September 2012.

5. Update on the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium
(Board agenda page IV-37)

Highland Park Superintendent Dawson Orr, Coppell Superintendent Jeff Turner, and Lewisville Superintendent Steve Waddell, representatives of the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium, provided the committee with an update on the consortium's work. The discussion focused largely on the consortium's efforts to create examples of high quality, focused curriculum standards that would result in a greater depth of learning and its work to develop digital learning techniques. The speakers noted that some teachers in their districts had developed online digital courses that are being used worldwide.

6. Long-Range Challenges Facing Public Education

(Board agenda page IV-39)

Cornelio Gonzalez, Rick Alvarado, Pam Wells, Clyde Steelman, and John Bass, executive directors of ESC Regions 1, 2, 4, 11, and 16 respectively, as well as Brent Hawkins, deputy director of ESC Region 6, spoke to the committee about long-range issues facing districts and charter schools in their areas. Frequently mentioned topics were implementation of the HB 5 graduation requirements, the need to reduce the number of the state's curriculum standards, and access to and effective use of digital technology.

The committee discussed various ways it could move forward with creating some kind of long-range education strategy for the state. They agreed to continue this discussion at the April board meeting.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 3:18 p.m.