

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
Thursday, January 27, 2022**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 9:09 a.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2022, in Room, #1-111, of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Matt Robinson, chair; Aicha Davis, vice chair; Ruben Cortez, Jr; Will Hickman; Jay Johnson

Public Testimony

The Committee on School Initiatives heard public testimony on agenda items #5 and #8. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Special Purpose School District Advisory Board Member for University of Texas at Austin High School

(Board agenda page IV-1)

[Consent Agenda Item #(8)]

Monica Martinez, associate commissioner for standards and programs, explained that as a result of a vacancy on The University of Texas (UT) at Austin special purpose school district advisory board, UT Austin submitted a request for approval of a new member for the special purpose district advisory board.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Dr. Johnson, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education approve the appointment of Michael Griffith to serve a two-year term of office from January 28, 2022, to January 28, 2024, on the UT Austin High School advisory board.*

(Ms. Davis and Mr. Hickman were absent for the vote.)

2. Recommendation for One Appointment to the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-2)

[Consent Agenda Item #(9)]

Christopher Lucas, director, policy, planning, and operations, explained that one member of the board of trustees of Boys Ranch Independent School District (ISD) recently resigned. The president and CEO of Boys Ranch has recommended that Mr. Joshua Sprock be appointed for a two-year term.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Dr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Mr. Mark Strother's recommendation, approve the appointment of Mr. Joshua Sprock to serve a two-year term of office from January 28, 2022, to January 28, 2024, on the Boys Ranch ISD Board of Trustees.*

3. Recommendation for Two Reappointments to the Randolph Field Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-11)
[Consent Agenda Item #(10)]

Mr. Lucas explained that two terms on the board of trustees of Randolph Field ISD are expiring. Colonel Masoner has recommended the reappointments of Mr. Jimmy Cornelius and Mrs. Vanessa Bowden to the Randolph Field ISD Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Colonel James H. Masoner's recommendation, approve the reappointments of Mr. Jimmy Cornelius and Mrs. Vanessa Bowden to serve terms of office from January 28, 2022, to January 28, 2024, on the Randolph Field ISD Board of Trustees.*

4. Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.3, School Safety Training for School Board Members (First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page IV-31)
[Consent Agenda Item #(11)]

Mr. Lucas explained that the new rule would provide clarity to trustees regarding the requirements for taking the school safety training developed by the Texas School Safety Center in coordination with the State Board of Education. Jeffrey Cottrill, deputy commissioner, governance and accountability, explained that requiring trustees to complete the entire training every two years ensures that trustees will stay abreast of current issues in school safety.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.3, School Safety Training for School Board Members.*

DISCUSSION ITEM

5. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 27 Application Updates

(Board agenda page IV-35)

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Kara Belew
AFFILIATION: Texas Public Charter School Association

Marian Schutte, director, charter school authorizing and administration division, presented information on the Generation 27 Open-Enrollment Charter Application cycle, content, improvements, and timeline. Ms. Schutte answered questions regarding the application process.

ACTION ITEMS

6. **Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, §230.11, General Requirements**

(Board agenda page IV-36)
[Official Agenda Item #9]

Marilyn Cook, director, educator certification, explained that the proposed amendment would update the list of countries that permit individuals who have obtained the equivalent of a United States bachelor's or master's degree to be exempt from the Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) to demonstrate English language proficiency; would clarify that individuals who have already demonstrated English language proficiency to receive an SBEC-issued Texas certificate would not have to demonstrate English language proficiency again for purposes of admission into an educator preparation program (EPP) to obtain an additional Texas educator certificate; and would provide technical and grammatical edits.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Dr. Johnson, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter B, General Certification Requirements, §230.11, General Requirements.*

7. **Review of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans**

(Board agenda page IV-43)
[Official Agenda Item #10]

Ms. Cook explained that the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans, would implement House Bill (HB) 139, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021. She further explained that the proposed amendments would add the United States Space Force to the list of branches of the United States Armed Forces and would allow service members, spouses, and veterans to get credit toward educator certification requirements for clinical and professional experience.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans.*

8. **Review of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases, Subchapter B, Enforcement Actions and Guidelines, and Subchapter E, Post-Hearing Matters**

(Board agenda page IV-49)
[Official Agenda Item #11]

Laura Moriarty, director, SBEC enforcement, explained that the proposed amendments would implement HB 2519, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, by amending the SBEC's rules to allow the SBEC to put conditions on a certificate without any additional sanction; to reduce the minimum sanction for contract abandonment that occurs 30–44 days in advance of the first day of instruction for the next school year; to clarify that sanctions for contract abandonment are subject to all mitigating factors and that mitigating factors can reduce a sanction to the point that the SBEC takes no disciplinary action against an educator; and to clarify the notice that the TEA sends sanctioned

educators regarding the necessity of filing a motion for rehearing if the respondent wants to appeal the decision. She further explained that the proposed amendments also reflect the results of the SBEC's July work session on contract abandonment and October meeting by expanding the definition of good cause for contract abandonment to include instances when an educator resigns after receiving written permission from school administration and by adding new mitigating factors that allow lower sanctions for contract abandonment when an educator gets a promotion, is assigned to another campus, has a salary reduction, or faces a threat of immediate physical harm.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases, Subchapter B, Enforcement Actions and Guidelines, and Subchapter E, Post-Hearing Matters.*

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Mark Wiggins
AFFILIATION: Association of Texas Professional Educators

NAME: Julie Leahy
AFFILIATION: Self

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 10:40 a.m.