Report of the State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board Tuesday, January 28, 2025

The State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board met at 4:53 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2025, in the State Board of Education Room, #2.035, of the Barbara Jordan Building, 1601 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

<u>Present</u>: Aaron Kinsey, chair; Rebecca Bell-Metereau; Evelyn Brooks; Staci Childs; LJ Francis; Brandon Hall; Will Hickman; Keven Ellis; Pam Little; Tom Maynard; Gustavo Reveles; Marisa B. Perez-Diaz; Julie Pickren; Audrey Young; Tiffany Clark

Public Testimony

The Committee of the Full Board heard no public testimony.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Instructional Materials Review and Approval Cycle 2024 Update

(Board agenda page I-1) [Official agenda item #3]

Colin Dempsey, director, district operations, technology, and sustainability supports division, presented part two of an after-action report on the inaugural instructional materials review and approval (IMRA) cycle. The report focuses on the IMRA reviews, including the review process, publisher appeals, and reporting. Mr. Dempsey explained that this was posted as an action item to allow the board to provide staff with directions for potential changes to the SBOE-approved IMRA process. The committee took no action.

2. Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.27, IMRA Reviewers: Eligibility and Appointment; §67.29, IMRA Reviewers: Training, Duties, and Conduct; §67.31, Procedures for Public Access to and Handling IMRA Samples; §67.33, Public Comment on Instructional Materials; §67.39, Updates to Approved Instructional Materials; §67.41, New Editions of Approved Instructional Materials; and Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.61, Sample Copies of Instructional Materials for School Districts; and §67.63, Selection and Local Adoption of Instructional Materials by School Districts

(Second Reading and Final Adoption)

(Board agenda page I-3) [Official agenda item #4]

Mr. Dempsey explained the proposed new sections would implement House Bill (HB) 1605, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, by defining the procedures and policies for the selection, appointment, training, and duties of instructional materials review and approval (IMRA) reviewers; outlining the procedures for IMRA public access and public comment; and specifying procedures for materials to be updated or revised following approval by the board. The proposed new sections would also outline the procedures for local districts to adopt instructional materials. No changes are recommended since approved for first reading.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Little, seconded by Mr. Maynard, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.27, IMRA Reviewers: Eligibility and Appointment; §67.29, IMRA Reviewers: Training, Duties, and Conduct; §67.31, Procedures for Public Access to and Handling IMRA Samples; §67.33, Public Comment on Instructional Materials; §67.39, Updates to Approved Instructional Materials; 367.41, New Editions of Approved Instructional Materials; and Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.61, Sample Copies of Instructional Materials for School Districts; and §67.63, Selection and Local Adoption of Instructional Materials by School Districts; and

Make an affirmative finding that immediate adoption of the proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.27, IMRA Reviewers: Eligibility and Appointment; §67.29, IMRA Reviewers: Training, Duties, and Conduct; §67.31, Procedures for Public Access to and Handling IMRA Samples; §67.33, Public Comment on Instructional Materials; §67.39, Updates to Approved Instructional Materials; §67.41, New Editions of Approved Instructional Materials; and Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.61, Sample Copies of Instructional Materials for School Districts; and §67.63, Selection and Local Adoption of Instructional Materials by School Districts is necessary and shall have an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register. (Per TEC, §7.102(f), a vote of two-thirds of the members of the board is necessary for an earlier effective date.)

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Mr. Maynard, and carried unanimously to create a new §67.27(d) and (p) that reads:

"(d) The following processes applies to IMRA quality reviewers:

(p) The following processes applies to IMRA suitability reviewers:"

and to nest the original $\S67.27(d)$ —(n) under the new $\S67.27(d)$ and the original $\S67.27(p)$ —(v) under the new $\S67.27(p)$.

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Reveles, and carried to amend §67.27(a) to read:

"All instructional materials review and approval (IMRA) reviewers must complete an application. The application will include a resume and supervisor contact information and must request any professional associations, affiliations, and groups in a format approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) chair. The State Board of Education shall have access to all completed applications in their respective district."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried to amend the original $\S67.27(d)(3)$ to read:

"adjunct professors at an accredited institution of higher education in Texas for at least three years; or more experience in the subject area or courses;"

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks and seconded by Mrs. Little to amend the original §67.27(d)(4) to read:

"persons with evidence of strong content knowledge and experience in the grade level(s) and subject area(s) or course(s)."

The motion failed.

MOTION: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mrs. Pickren to amend the original §67.27(e) to read:

"The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may reject a quality reviewer applicant if the candidate does not meet minimum eligibility as outlined in this section with approval of the SBOE member for which the applicant is a district resident. The member has one week to respond to the TEAs decision. If the SBOE member approves applicants who were previously rejected by the TEA, those applications shall be forwarded directly to subsection (F)."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Mr. Reveles, and carried to recommend that the previous amendment be amended to read:

"The Texas Education Agency (TEA) may reject a quality reviewer applicant if the candidate does not meet minimum eligibility as outlined in this section with approval of the SBOE member for which the applicant is a district resident. The member has one week to respond to the TEA's decision. If the SBOE member approves applicants who were previously rejected by the TEA, those applications shall be forwarded directly to subsection (F) reinstated to the applicant pool to be rated."

<u>VOTE:</u> A vote was taken on the amendment as amended and carried.

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Reveles, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original $\S67.27(m)(2)$ to read:

"Position: a variety of positions reflected such as <u>parents</u>, classroom teachers, campus- and district-level administrators/specialists, education service center subject area personnel, representatives from higher education, and community members, including <u>parents and</u> employers."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Reveles to amend the original §67.27(m)(5) to read:

"School districts/charter schools: or open-enrollment charter schools and a variety of local education agencies are represented, including open-enrollment charter schools.

The motion failed.

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Dr. Ellis, seconded by Dr. Young, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original §67.27(r) to read:

"A panel for suitability review consists of three reviewers and shall reflect the political affiliation of the membership of the SBOE. No more than one suitability reviewer per panel may be from any one SBOE district."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Little, seconded by Mrs. Brooks, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original §67.27(o) to read:

"Applicants are exempt from subsection (a) of this section if they have previously served as an IMRA quality reviewer and received an acceptable performance rating however a SBOE member may waive this provision and require all applicants to resubmit their applications in accordance with Subsection a."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Mrs. Little, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original §67.27(d)(3) to read:

"adjunct professors at an accredited institution of higher education in Texas for at least three years; or"

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Mrs. Pickren, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original §67.27(d)(3) to read:

"Professors at an accredited institution of higher education in Texas with for at least three years; or"

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Francis, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend the original §67.29(f) to read:

("IMRA reviewers shall observe a no-contact period that shall begin upon execution of their contract with the initial communication regarding possible appointment to a state review panel and end when they are released from their duties. During this period, IMRA reviewers shall not have direct or indirect communication with any person having an interest in the approval process regarding content of instructional materials under evaluation by the panel."

MOTION AND VOTE: It was moved by Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Francis to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §67.29(g) to read:

"The restrictions in subsections (c)-(f) of this section are not intended to prohibit IMRA reviewers from providing public testimony to the SBOE either at a public hearing or in any regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with the SBOE Operating Rules, §2.12 (relating to Public Hearings). <u>TEA</u> will submit all reviewer survey responses to SBOE members during the no-contact period."

The motion failed.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the original motion to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.27, IMRA Reviewers: Eligibility and Appointment; §67.29, IMRA Reviewers: Training, Duties, and Conduct; §67.31, Procedures for Public Access to and Handling IMRA Samples; §67.33, Public Comment on Instructional Materials; §67.39, Updates to Approved Instructional Materials; §67.41, New Editions of Approved Instructional Materials; and Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.61, Sample Copies of Instructional Materials for School Districts; and §67.63, Selection and Local Adoption of Instructional Materials by School Districts; and

Make an affirmative finding that immediate adoption of the proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 67, State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials, Subchapter B, State Review and Approval, §67.27, IMRA Reviewers: Eligibility and Appointment; §67.29, IMRA Reviewers: Training, Duties, and Conduct; §67.31, Procedures for Public Access to and Handling IMRA Samples; §67.33, Public Comment on Instructional Materials; §67.39, Updates to Approved Instructional Materials; §67.41, New Editions of Approved Instructional Materials; and Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.61, Sample Copies of Instructional Materials for School Districts; and §67.63, Selection and Local Adoption of Instructional Materials by School Districts is necessary and shall have an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register. (Per TEC, §7.102(f), a vote of two-thirds of the members of the board is necessary for an earlier effective date.)

The motion carried without objection.

3. Approval Instructional Materials Review and Approval Cycle 2025 Update

(Board agenda page I-13) [Official agenda item #5]

This item was postponed to the January 30, 2024, meeting of the Committee of the Full Board.

DISCUSSION ITEM

4. Approval Discussion of Local Classroom Review Rubrics

(Board agenda page I-15)

This item was postponed to the January 30, 2024, meeting of the Committee of the Full Board.

ACTION ITEM

5. Approval Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 67, <u>State Review and Approval of Instructional Materials</u>, Subchapter C, Local Operations, §67.69, <u>Local Review of Classroom Instructional Materials</u>

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page I-17)

[Official agenda item #6]

This item was postponed to the January 30, 2024, meeting of the Committee of the Full Board.

DISCUSSION ITEM

6. Ethics Training

(Board agenda page I-21)

This item was postponed to the January 29, 2024, meeting of the Committee of the Full Board.

Chairman Kinsey adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.