

**Report of the State Board of Education  
Committee on School Initiatives  
Thursday, January 29, 2026**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 8:20 a.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2026, in room, #2.006 of the Barbara Jordan Building, 1601 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.

Present: LJ Francis, chair; Julie Pickren, vice chair; Staci Childs Davis; Tiffany Clark, and Brandon Hall.

**ACTION ITEM**

- 1. Recommendation for One Appointment and One Reappointment to the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees**  
(Board agenda page IV-1)

Christopher Lucas, Director, Research, Policy, and Information Management, Governance asked the Committee to consider one appointment and one reappointment to the board of trustees of Boys Ranch Independent School District (ISD). The appointment is necessary because one trustee has resigned; the reappointment is necessary because one trustee's term of office is expiring.

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Member Pickren that the Committee on School Initiatives recommend that the State Board of Education:*

*Based on Mr. Richard Nedelkoff's recommendation, approve the reappointment of Mr. Joshua Sprock and approve the appointment of Mrs. Kimberly Reeves to serve two-year terms of office from January 30, 2026, to January 29, 2028, on the Boys Ranch ISD Board of Trustees.*

The motion was adopted.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

- 2. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 31 Application Updates**  
(Board agenda page IV-10)

Marian Schutte, Associate Commissioner, Authorizing and Policy, updated the Committee regarding the Generation 31 Open-Enrollment Charter Application cycle. She reminded the Committee of the Generation 31 goal that the process authorize high-quality charter schools that launch as A or B-rated schools. She reviewed the timeline, noting that the "no-contact" provision ends on April 22. She noted that 18 applications were submitted, and of those, 14 had advanced to the external review process. Of those, 13 are new operators, and 1 is an experienced operator. Seven are returning applicants, while 7 are new applicants. Of the 13, six are located in greater Houston, four in the DFW area, 2 in Austin, and one each in Longview and West Texas.

Ms. Schutte noted that no applications for high-performing entities were received this year.

## ACTION ITEM

3. **Review of Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter A, Criteria for Assignment of Public School Personnel, Subchapter B, Prekindergarten-Grade 6 Assignments, Subchapter C, Grades 6-8 Assignments, Subchapter D, Electives, Disciplinary Courses, Local Credit Courses, and Innovative Courses, Grades 6-12, Subchapter E, Grades 9-12 Assignments, and Subchapter G, Paraprofessional Personnel, Administrators, and Other Instructional and Professional Support Assignments**  
(Board agenda page IV-11)

Trenton Law, Director, Educator Credentialing, Educator Preparation and Certification, reported that the proposed revisions would provide requirements related to the criteria for school districts to make personnel assignments based on the correlating certification requirements. He described the changes in the revision.

A member of the public provided testimony.

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Member Pickren that the Committee on School Initiatives recommend that the State Board of Education:*

*Take no action on the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter A, Criteria for Assignment of Public School Personnel, Subchapter B, Prekindergarten-Grade 6 Assignments, Subchapter C, Grades 6-8 Assignments, Subchapter D, Electives, Disciplinary Courses, Local Credit Courses, and Innovative Courses, Grades 6-12, Subchapter E, Grades 9-12 Assignments, and Subchapter G, Paraprofessional Personnel, Administrators, and Other Instructional and Professional Support Assignments.*

The motion was adopted.

## DISCUSSION ITEM

4. **Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities**  
(Board agenda page IV-162)

Jessica McLoughlin, Associate Commissioner, Educator Preparation, Certification, and Enforcement, updated the Committee on current and upcoming State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) activities and proposed SBEC rules and amendments. She reviewed the SBEC statutory charge and mission, and the rulemaking process. She noted that the December 2025 meeting adopted changes to Chapter 231, which the Committee had reviewed in a previous item. No proposals of note were introduced at that meeting, although a number of items were discussed or taken up which will not require SBOE review.

She noted that the next SBEC meeting would be on February 13, 2026. Information will be posted on the SBEC website.

5. **Committee on School Initiatives Parental Rights Work Group and Parental Rights Handbook Updates**  
(Board agenda page IV-164)

Members of the public provided testimony.

Marian Schutte, Associate Commissioner, Authorizing and Policy, and Member Pickren updated the Committee on the progress of the Parental Rights Work Group. Ms. Pickren provided several recommendations, which will be considered at a later time.

- TEA provide an online training formatted according to the framework presented to the Committee on School Initiatives in November 2025.
- The public have access to the training.
- The TEA Commissioner amend charter school rules to require charter school board members to attend the training.

The Parental Rights Work Group framework is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Schutte noted that TEA staff is working with the Work Group to ensure that the Parental Rights Training for School Board Members Handbook is updated in accordance with the guidance from the Parental Rights Work Group.

SEE ATTACHMENT CSI 1

### **ACTION ITEM**

6. **Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.4, Parental Rights Training for School Board Members**  
(Board agenda page IV-165)

Marian Schutte, Associate Commissioner, Authorizing and Policy, reported that the proposed new rule would reflect changes to the State Board of Education's (SBOE's) duty to provide training courses for independent school district trustees related to parental rights training.

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Member Pickren that the Committee on School Initiatives 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, §61.4, Parental Rights Training for School Board Members.*

The motion was adopted.

Chairman Francis adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.