

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
April 12, 2018**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2018, in Room #1-111 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Barbara Cargill, chair; Marisa B. Perez-Diaz, vice chair; Ruben Cortez, Jr.; Keven Ellis; Marty Rowley

Public Testimony

The Committee on School Initiatives heard public testimony on agenda items #2, #3, and #4. Information regarding the individual who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

CONSENT ITEM

1. Recommendation for Two Appointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-1)
[Consent agenda item #(8)]

Jeff Cottrill, director of governance and investigations, presented information regarding appointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Cortez, seconded by Dr. Ellis, and carried unanimously to recommend that based on Colonel David L. Raugh's recommendation, the State Board of Education approve the appointments of Christopher L. Armijo and Karyn R. Shelnett to serve the terms of office from April 13, 2018, through April 13, 2020, on the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.*

ACTION ITEM

2. Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members

(Second Reading and Final Adoption)
(Board agenda page IV-23)
[Official agenda item #16]

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Phil Gore
AFFILIATION: Texas Association of School Boards

A.J. Crabill, deputy commissioner, governance, provided an overview of the public comments and possible changes to proposed amendments to the rules.

MOTION: *It was moved by Ms. Perez-Diaz and seconded by Mr. Rowley 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 proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members, with an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Perez-Diaz, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(b)(4)(F) to read:*

"If the training is attended by an entire school board and its superintendent, includes a review of local school district data on student achievement, and otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b)(2) of this section, the training may serve to meet a school board member's obligation to receive training under subsection (b)(2) and (4) of this section, as long as the training complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act."

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Perez-Diaz and seconded by Mr. Cortez to recommend that the State Board of Education strike §61.1(l). The motion failed.*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Perez-Diaz, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(l) to insert after "§11.182" the phrase, "or any other tool approved by the commissioner."*

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Dr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education amend §61.1(j) to strike "Annually."*

VOTE: *A vote was taken on the original motion 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 proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.1, Continuing Education for School Board Members, as amended by the Committee on School Initiatives, with an effective date of 20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register. The motion carried unanimously (Attachment A).*

CONSENT ITEMS

3. Ratification of the School Board Member Trainings on Evaluating Student Academic Performance for the Months of February through April 2018

(Board agenda page IV-33)

[Consent agenda item #(9)]

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Phil Gore

AFFILIATION: Texas Association of School Boards

Mr. Crabill presented information regarding the authorized trainer and board member trainer opportunities that have occurred this spring.

MOTION AND VOTE: *The committee on school initiatives, by unanimous consent, recommended that the State Board of Education ratify the School Board Member Trainings on Evaluating Student Academic Performance that occurred in the months of February through April 2018 that were offered by the Texas Association of School Boards, education service centers, or another registered provider*

that becomes an authorized provider, and allow team building credit regardless of whether the training included a review of local school district data on student achievement.

DISCUSSION ITEM

4. Review of 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship (Board agenda page IV-105)

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Phil Gore
AFFILIATION: Texas Association of School Boards

Mr. Cottrill discussed the requirements of the four-year rule review and provided a brief overview of Chapter 61, Subchapter A. Mr. Cottrill also addressed rulemaking expected to occur related to this subchapter at upcoming SBOE meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

5. Review of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs, and Subchapter B, Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility

(Board agenda page IV-35)

[Official agenda item #17]

Tim Miller, director of educator preparation and program accountability, presented information regarding the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Perez-Diaz, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs, and Subchapter B, Preliminary Evaluation of Certification Eligibility, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register.*

6. Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter C, Assessment of Educators, §230.21, Educator Assessment

(Board agenda page IV-53)

[Official agenda item #18]

Marilyn Cook, director of educator certification and testing, presented information regarding the proposed amendment.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Ms. Perez-Diaz, 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 C, Assessment of Educators, §230.21, Educator Assessment, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register.*

7. **Review of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements, §232.11, Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours**

(Board agenda page IV-79)

[Official agenda item #19]

Dr. Miller presented information regarding the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 232.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Rowley, seconded by Dr. Ellis, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements, §232.11, Number and Content of Required Continuing Professional Education Hours, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register.*

8. **Review of Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter B, Elementary School Certificate Standards**

(Board agenda page IV-91)

[Official agenda item #20]

Grace Wu, project manager for educator support, presented information regarding proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 235.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Perez-Diaz, seconded by Mr. Rowley, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on proposed new 19 TAC Chapter 235, Classroom Teacher Certification Standards, Subchapter B, Elementary School Certificate Standards, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register.*

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Text of Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC

Chapter 61. School Districts

Subchapter A. Board of Trustees Relationship

§61.1. Continuing Education for School Board Members.

- (a) Under the Texas Education Code (TEC), §11.159, the State Board of Education (SBOE) shall adopt a framework for governance leadership to be used in structuring continuing education for school board members. The framework shall be posted to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website and shall be distributed annually by the president of each board of trustees to all current board members and the superintendent.
- (b) The continuing education required under the TEC, §11.159, applies to each member of an independent school district board of trustees. The continuing education requirement consists of orientation sessions, an annual team-building session with the local board and the superintendent, and specified hours of continuing education based on identified needs. The superintendent's participation in team-building sessions as part of the continuing education for board members shall represent one component of the superintendent's ongoing professional development.
 - (1) Each school board member of an independent school district shall receive a local district orientation and an orientation to the TEC.
 - (A) Each new board member shall participate in a local district orientation session within one year before or 120 [60] days ~~[before or]~~ after the board member's election or appointment. The purpose of the local orientation is to familiarize new board members with local board policies and procedures and district goals and priorities. The local district orientation shall be at least three hours in length for each new board member. Any sitting board member may attend or participate in the local district orientation. The local district orientation shall address local district practices in the following, in addition to topics chosen by the local district:
 - (i) curriculum and instruction;
 - (ii) business and finance operations;
 - (iii) district operations;
 - (iv) superintendent evaluation; and
 - (v) board member roles and responsibilities.
 - (B) A sitting board member shall receive a basic orientation to the TEC and relevant legal obligations. The orientation shall have special but not exclusive emphasis on statutory provisions related to governing Texas school districts. The orientation shall be delivered by regional education service centers (ESCs) and shall be no less than three hours in length. Topics shall include, but not be limited to, the TEC, Chapter 26 (Parental Rights and Responsibilities), and the TEC, §28.004 (Local School Health Advisory Council and Health Education Instruction). A newly elected or appointed board member of an independent school district shall receive the orientation to the TEC within the first 120 days of service. The orientation to the TEC shall be open to any sitting board member who chooses to attend.
 - (C) After each session of the Texas Legislature, including each regular session and called session related to education, each school board member shall receive an update from an ESC or any registered provider to the basic orientation to the TEC. The update session shall be of sufficient length to familiarize board members with major changes in the code

and other relevant legal developments related to school governance. A board member who has attended an ESC basic orientation session that incorporates the most recent legislative changes is not required to attend an update.

- (2) The entire board, including all board members, shall annually participate with their superintendent in a team-building session facilitated by the ESC or any registered provider. The team-building session shall be ~~(of a length deemed appropriate by the board, but generally at least)~~ at least three hours in length . The purpose of the team-building session is to enhance the effectiveness of the board-superintendent team and to assess the continuing education needs of the board-superintendent team. The session shall include a review of the roles, rights, and responsibilities of a local board as outlined in the framework for governance leadership. The assessment of needs shall be based on the framework for governance leadership and shall be used to plan continuing education activities for the year for the governance leadership team.
- (3) In addition to the continuing education requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, each board member shall receive additional continuing education on an annual basis in fulfillment of assessed needs and based on the framework for governance leadership. The continuing education sessions may be provided by ESCs or other registered providers.
 - (A) In a board member's first year of service, he or she shall receive at least ten hours of continuing education in fulfillment of assessed needs. Up to five of the required ten hours may be fulfilled through online instruction, provided that the training is designed and offered by a registered provider, incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner, and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor. The registered provider shall determine the clock hours of training credit to be awarded for successful completion of an online course and shall provide verification of completion as required in subsection (g) of this section.
 - (B) Following a board member's first year of service, he or she shall receive at least five hours of continuing education annually in fulfillment of assessed needs. A board member may fulfill the five hours of continuing education through online instruction, provided that the training is designed and offered by a registered provider, incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner, and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor. The registered provider shall determine the clock hours of training credit to be awarded for successful completion of an online course and shall provide verification of completion as required in subsection (g) of this section.
 - (C) A board president shall receive continuing education related to leadership duties of a board president as some portion of the annual requirement.
- (4) Each school board member shall complete continuing education every two years on evaluating student academic performance.
 - (A) The purpose of the training on evaluating student academic performance is to provide research-based information to board members that is designed to support the oversight role of the board of trustees outlined in the TEC, §11.1515.
 - (B) A candidate for school board may complete the training up to one year before the candidate is elected. If a newly elected or appointed school board member did not complete this training in the year preceding the member's election, the member must complete the training within 120 days after election or appointment. A returning board member shall complete the training by the second anniversary of the completion of the trustee's previous training.
 - (C) An authorized provider for training on evaluating student academic performance is a provider who is registered pursuant to subsection (f) of this section and has demonstrated proficiency in the content required by subsection (b)(4)(E) of this section. Proficiency may be demonstrated by completing a TEA-approved train-the-trainer course and evaluation on the topic, by being certified as a Lone Star Governance coach, through a

review of the provider's qualifications and course design, or through other means as determined by the commissioner of education.

(D) The training on evaluating student academic performance shall be at least three hours in length.

(E) The continuing education training required by this subsection shall ~~be approved by TEA and~~ include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) instruction in school board behaviors correlated to improved student outcomes with emphasis on inputs, outcomes, and collaborative student outcome goal setting;

(ii) instruction in progress monitoring to improve student outcomes with emphasis on progress monitoring practices, formative assessments, interim assessments, and summative assessments; and

(iii) instruction in state accountability with emphasis on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, state assessment instruments administered under the TEC, Chapter 39, and the state accountability rating system.

(F) If the training is attended by an entire school board and its superintendent, includes a review of local school district data on student achievement, and otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (b)(2) of this section, the training may serve to meet a school board member's obligation to receive training under subsection (b)(2) and (4) of this section, **as long as the training complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act** .

- (c) No continuing education shall take place during a school board meeting unless that meeting is called expressly for the delivery of board member continuing education. However, continuing education may take place prior to or after a legally called board meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Government Code, §551.001(4).
- (d) An ESC board member continuing education program shall be open to any interested person, including a current or prospective board member. A district is not responsible for any costs associated with individuals who are not current board members.
- (e) A registration fee shall be determined by ESCs to cover the costs of providing continuing education programs offered by ESCs.
- (f) A private or professional organization, school district, government agency, college/university, or private consultant shall register with the TEA to provide the board member continuing education required in subsection (b)(1)(C) and (2)-(4) [~~(2), and (3)~~] of this section.
- (1) The registration process shall include documentation of the provider's training and/or expertise in the activities and areas covered in the framework for governance leadership.
- (2) An updated registration shall be required of a provider of continuing education every three years.
- (3) A school district that provides continuing education exclusively for its own board members is not required to register.
- (4) An ESC is not required to register under this subsection.
- (g) The provider of continuing education shall provide verification of completion of board member continuing education to the individual participant and to the participant's school district. The verification must include the provider's registration number.
- (h) At least 50% of the continuing education required in subsection (b)(3) of this section shall be designed and delivered by persons not employed or affiliated with the board member's local school district. No more than one hour of the required continuing education that is delivered by the local district may utilize self-instructional materials.
- (i) To the extent possible, the entire board shall participate in continuing education programs together.

- (j) ~~[Annually, at]~~ At the last regular meeting of the board of trustees before an election of trustees ~~[held during a calendar year]~~, the current president of each local board of trustees shall announce the name of each board member who has completed the required continuing education, who has exceeded the required hours of continuing education, and who is deficient in meeting the required continuing education as of the anniversary of the date of each board member's election or appointment to the board ~~[date of the meeting]~~. The announcement shall state that completing the [annual] required continuing education is a basic obligation and expectation of any sitting board member under SBOE ~~[State Board of Education]~~ rule. The minutes of the last regular board meeting before an election of trustees must reflect whether each trustee has met or is deficient in meeting the training required for the trustee as of the first anniversary of the date of the trustee's election or appointment. ~~[In any year in which an election of board members will not be held, the annual announcement should be made at the regular meeting preceding the uniform election date at which board members are regularly elected for the school district.]~~ The president shall cause the minutes of the local board to reflect the announcement ~~[information]~~ and, if the minutes reflect that a trustee is deficient in training as of the anniversary of his or her joining the board, the district shall post the minutes on the district's Internet website within 10 business days of the meeting and maintain the posting until the trustee meets the requirements ~~[shall make this information available to the local media]~~.
- (k) Annually, the SBOE shall commend those local board-superintendent teams that receive at least eight hours of the continuing education specified in subsection (b)(2) and (3) of this section as an entire board-superintendent team.
- (l) Annually, the SBOE shall commend local board-superintendent teams that effectively implement the commissioner's trustee improvement and evaluation tool developed under the TEC, §11.182, **or any other tool approved by the commissioner**.