

Item 5:
**Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to
Approve July 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes**

ACTION

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the July 26, 2019 Board meeting minutes.

STATE BOARD FOR EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION MEETING AGENDA

JULY 26, 2019 AT 8:30 AM
1701 N. CONGRESS AVE. ROOM 1-104

The Board will meet in open session and after determining the presence of a quorum, deliberate and possibly take formal action, including emergency action, on any of the following agenda items:

1. Call to Order

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) convened its meeting at 8:35 AM on Friday, July 26, 2019, in Room 1-104 of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas.

Present: Ms. Laurie Bricker, Ms. Rohanna Brooks-Sykes, Dr. Arturo Cavazos, Mr. Tommy Coleman, Ms. Jill Druessedow, Dr. John Kelly, Ms. Courtney MacDonald, Ms. Shareefah Mason, Ms. Sandie Mullins, Dr. Rex Peebles, Mr. Jose Rodriguez, Dr. Laurie Turner, and Mr. Tim Regal.

Absent: Dr. Edward Hill, Mr. Carlos Villagrana

2. Associate Commissioner's Comments Regarding the SBEC Agenda

Associate Commissioner Ryan Franklin welcomed the members and thanked them for their attendance at the work session. Mr. Franklin noted the time the Board and staff spent on the broad range of issues the Board oversees. Mr. Franklin thanked the Board for their questions and feedback and the team for the work that goes into the preparation for the Board meeting and work session.

Mr. Franklin recognized the passing of former SBEC member Dr. Susan Simpson Hull. Mr. Franklin spoke to Dr. Hull's impact on the Board and the staff. He noted her legacy as a tireless and passionate advocate and innovator for Texas students.

3. Public Comment

The Board shall allocate up to thirty (30) minutes at the beginning of each regularly scheduled meeting of the full Board for public comment on non-agenda and consent agenda items. In accordance with SBEC Board Operating Policies and Procedures, late registration for providing oral or written comment will be accepted up to 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the Board meeting.

Public Comment was provided by:
Dr. Rae Queen

CONSENT AGENDA**4. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve April 25, 2019 Work Session Minutes**

The April 25, 2019 work session minutes were approved.

5. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve April 26, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

The April 26, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION**6. Update on Divisions of Educator Leadership and Quality Department**

Ms. Cook presented updates on behalf of the Division of Educator Certification and highlighted the number of certification and renewal applications processed during the second and third quarter months of December 2018 through February 2019 and March 2019 through May 2019.

Ms. Wu presented the division updates for the Division of Educator Standards, Testing, and Preparation. She commented close to a thousand candidates will be taking the Principal as Instructional Leader examination this summer. She also presented the Board with an update on the year to date certification deactivation numbers.

Mr. Rodriguez presented updates on behalf of the Division of Educator Investigations.

Ms. Moriarty presented updates on behalf of the SBEC Enforcement Division.

7. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Adoption of Review of 19 TAC Chapter 233, Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates

Ms. Cook presented this item to the Board. She explained that 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 233, Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates, sets out the SBEC's authority to issue classroom teaching certificates in various content areas and grade levels. Ms. Cook stated while no public comments were received regarding the four-year rule review, rules that allow for the issuance of classroom teaching certificates still needed to exist. There were no questions from the Board.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to adopt the proposed review of 19 TAC Chapter 233, Categories of Classroom Teaching Certificates, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

8. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Adoption of Review of 19 TAC Chapter 244, Certificate of Completion of Training for Appraisers

Ms. Pogue presented this item to the Board. Ms. Pogue explained this item closes the four-year rule review for 19 TAC Chapter 244, Certificate of Completion of Training for Appraisers. She explained the chapter establishes the certification requirements for appraisers performing appraisals of educators, and the requirements point back to the commissioner rules in 19 TAC Chapter 150. She stated there were no public comments received during the public comment period. There were no questions from the Board.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to adopt the proposed review of 19 TAC Chapter 244, Certificate of Completion of Training for Appraisers, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

9. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, Subchapter C, Grades 6-8 Assignments, Subchapter D, Electives, Disciplinary Courses, Local Credit Courses, and Innovative Courses, Grades 6-12 Assignments, Subchapter E, Grades 9-12 Assignments, and Subchapter H, Assignments for Teachers Certified Before 1966

Ms. Cook presented this item to the Board. She explained Chapter 231 provides guidance to school districts for how to place teachers into various teaching and administrative assignments. Ms. Cook stated there were no public comments received for this item and confirmed no changes have been made to the rule text since proposed. There were no questions from the Board.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to approve the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 231, Requirements for Public School Personnel Assignments, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

10. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Adoption of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter A, General Provisions, §230.1, Definitions, Subchapter C, Assessment of Educators, §230.21, Educator Assessment, Subchapter D, Types and Classes of Certificates Issued, §230.36, Intern Certificates, and §230.37, Probationary Certificates, and Subchapter G, Certificate Issuance Procedures, §230.101, Schedule of Fees for Certification Services

Ms. Cook and Ms. Wu presented this item to the Board. They thanked the Board for their and the stakeholder feedback from prior meetings. Ms. Wu stated that outside of the technical changes, there were no other changes made to this item since proposed in April 2019.

Mr. Coleman recommended staff make additions to the Texas Administrative Code to reflect the edTPA pilot and a date for the pilot to be reviewed by the Board to memorialize the Board's intention of the edTPA pilot. Dr. Kelly agreed with the recommendation.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if ESL could be added to the certification requirements for intensive pre-service.

Ms. Bricker asked when TEA would review the edTPA pilot data.

Dr. Cavazos recommended the language reflect a two-year pilot.

Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Druesedow stated the rule text as presented represents the pilot because Board action would be required to remove either option for certification purposes.

Dr. Turner asked for staff to bring back additional data to revisit the 45-day wait between re-takes at a future meeting.

Mr. Rodriguez agreed with Ms. MacDonald and Ms. Druesedow and cited the need for well-prepared candidates.

Dr. Cavazos made a motion to move into executive session. Second was made by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The Board went into executive session at 10:12 AM.

The Board reconvened from executive session at 10:34 AM.

The Board directed staff to include a pilot exam definition as it refers to edTPA with a date to review the pilot on or around June 2021.

Public Comment was provided by:

RaeJean Noschese

Katie Eisel

Dr. Gina Anderson

Aletha Williams

Brooke Lucero

Emily Nolen Garcia

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to approve for adoption the proposed revision to 19 TAC Chapter 230, Professional Educator Preparation and Certification, Subchapter A, General Provisions, §230.1, Definitions, Subchapter C, Assessment of Educators, §230.21, Educator Assessment, Subchapter D, Types and Classes of Certificates Issued, §230.36, Intern Certificates, and §230.37, Probationary Certificates, and Subchapter G, Certificate Issuance Procedures, §230.101, Schedule of Fees for Certification Services, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Mullins.

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to amend §230.1 to add the definition for pilot exam with subsequent definitions renumbered accordingly and that all references to edTPA in Figure

§230.21 (e) include the phrase pilot exam. Second was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion.

The SBEC recessed at 12:19 PM.

The SBEC reconvened at 1:00 PM.

11. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Adoption of Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs

Dr. Jones presented this item to the board. Dr. Jones highlighted three sets of changes for the Board in Chapter 228 including: (1) the optional intensive preservice pathway to certification that included a definition and programmatic requirements, (2) language to guide EPPs that change ownership and where new ownership wants a name change, and (3) support for candidates seeking certification in an additional teaching field to ensure they will have supervision and support in the second teaching field.

Ms. Brooks-Sykes thanked Dr. Jones and staff for listening to stakeholder input and incorporating the input into rule text.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to approve for adoption, subject to State Board of Education review, the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 228, Requirements for Educator Preparation Programs, with an effective date of 20 days after filing the adoption notice with the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Mullins, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

12. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 229, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs

Dr. Olofson and Ms. Pogue presented this item to the board. Dr. Olofson explained the six categories of changes to Chapter 229, which would provide for commendations for high-performing EPPs, adopt the accountability manual into rule, clarify the determination of EPP accreditation status, allow for the SBEC to require EPP action plans, clarify the accreditation status of a certification class or category, allow for a contested case hearing of a certification class or category, and provide technical changes to remove outdated provisions, clarify processes, and update language to align with other chapters.

Dr. Olofson noted that based on feedback from the Board and stakeholders, staff had further developed options for scoring the principal and teacher surveys, which were presented during the work session. He also presented to the Board additional feedback from the Education Preparation Advisory Committee and Data Workgroup about the option to have the principal survey be report-only for the 2018–2019 reporting year and the option to retain the 85% pass rate for ASEP Indicator 1a.

Ms. Bricker commented on the importance of recognizing EPPs for exceeding standards. Mr. Franklin noted the recommended commendations would be provided by the new rule text.

Mr. Franklin clarified for the Board about the optional amendment motions available for the Board's consideration. Ms. Druesedow reiterated this process for the Board.

Ms. MacDonald asked for additional clarification about the scoring of the principal survey and asked for the substitute rule text to be distributed to the Board.

Dr. Cavazos further asked about the process for discussing the survey scoring process. Ms. MacDonald clarified she wanted to discuss it with the Board. Dr. Cavazos asked for staff to present scoring methods to the Board. Dr. Olofson presented the two methods that had the most support from the Data Workgroup, including potential scenarios.

Dr. Kelly recommended finding a way to retain the 70% pass rate and finding a compromise where five categories would need to be passed. Ms. MacDonald recommended a minimum of 50% in each category. Mr. Franklin clarified the alternative average method was originally recommended by staff to address these concerns. Ms. MacDonald noted the outcomes of an example case. Dr. Turner voiced support for the alternatively proposed method.

Dr. Peebles asked how low a score could be on any given portion in the average weighted method. Ms. MacDonald provided additional related questions. Dr. Turner noted the alternatively weighted method takes care of this. Dr. Peebles reiterated his question about how low a score could be. Dr. Olofson clarified a survey with four categories with all questions at the highest score could balance out two categories at the lowest score.

Ms. MacDonald asked about benefits and challenges of the alternatively proposed method and the additional condition proposed by Dr. Kelly. Dr. Olofson noted challenges with additional complexity and presented to the board the two scoring methods discussed at the work session. Dr. Kelly clarified which method was named which. Dr. Cavazos asked about a scenario raised by Dr. Kelly. Dr. Olofson clarified which scenario was which. Dr. Kelly noted the alternatively presented method met his standard.

Ms. Pogue noted to the Board they had discussed an amendment to make the principal survey report-only for the 2018–2019 reporting year. The Board asked for the amendment motion to be distributed.

Dr. Kelly voiced support for holding the PPR pass rate at 85% based on differences in the pass rate for different demographic groups. Dr. Peebles asked about the current pass rate, and Mr. Franklin noted it is currently 85% and is scheduled to increase.

Dr. Olofson noted a report-only year for the principal survey would not be inconsistent with what the Board has done with the teacher survey.

Public Comment was provided by:
Dr. Diann Huber
Dr. Rae Queen

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to approve the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 229, Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. MacDonald.

Amendment was made by Dr. Cavazos to amend proposed §229.4(a)(1)(B) to add the December 26, 2016 admittance date in order to maintain the provision in §229.4(a)(1)(A) that qualifies that the performance standard shall be based on the percent of individuals admitted after that date. The amended rule text reads as follows: for the 2020–2021 academic year and following, the performance standard shall be the percent of individuals admitted after December 26, 2016 who passed an examination within the first two attempts, including those attempted after the individual has completed the EPP or when the EPP has not recommended the individual for a standard certificate. The pass rate is based solely on the examinations approved by the EPP. Examinations taken before admission to the EPP or specific examinations taken for pilot purposes are not included in the pass rate. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

Amendment was made by Dr. Kelly to amend proposed §229.1(c) to reflect the amended figure, which contains a different calculation for the principal and teacher surveys in the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP) Manual 2018–2019, as seen on pages 41, 43, 44, 55, 56, and 57. Second was provided by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

Amendment was made by Dr. Kelly to amend proposed §229.4(a)(1)(C) to maintain the 2017–2018 academic year performance standard for Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities examinations of 85%. The amended rule text reads as follows: (C) For examinations of PPR, the pass rate will be calculated as described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for the 2018-2019 and 2019–2020 academic years and subparagraph (B) of this paragraph beginning with the 2020–2021 academic year. The performance standard shall be a pass rate of 85%. Second was provided by Dr. Cavazos, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

Amendment was made by Dr. Cavazos to amend proposed §229.4(a)(2) to establish the 2018–2019 academic year as a reporting year only for the results of appraisals of first-year teachers, and will not be used to determine accreditation status to align with the provisions in §229.4(a)(5) regarding the teacher survey. The amended rule text reads as follows: the results of appraisals of first-year teachers by administrators, based on a survey in a form to be approved by the SBEC. The performance standard shall be the percentage of first-year teachers from each EPP who are appraised as "sufficiently prepared" or "well prepared." The performance standard shall be 70%. The 2018–2019 academic year will be a reporting year only and will not be used to determine accreditation status. Second was provided by Mr. Coleman, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion.

13. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs

Dr. Jones presented this item to the board. Dr. Jones updated the Board about request the Board made at the April 26, 2019 meeting related to the impact of an earlier implementation date of January 1, 2020 versus a later implementation date of September 1, 2020 of the proposed revisions in Chapter 227. He explained the impact on the areas in question was the same for both implementation dates and using the later start date would delay the revisions for another year.

Dr. Jones highlighted the revisions to Chapter 227 that included: (1) a revision that came at the request of a Board member regarding criminal background checks that are required before a candidate moves into a role with students, (2) changes to PACT that allow a subject-matter test to be used for admission to a program and a content pedagogy test to be used for certification at the end of the program, (3) a new figure that lists all initial certification areas with the pre-admission content test that should be taken, (4) additional language for the Trade and Industrial Workforce Training Grades 6–12 Certificate and (5) admission requirements for the Early Childhood through Grade 3 (EC–3) certificate that align the certificate to both SB 1839 and HB 2039.

Ms. Bricker asked how candidates were notified regarding the criminal background check and stressed the importance of this revision so people will avoid spending time and money if they know they cannot get a certificate at the completion of a program.

Dr. Turner indicated as written the revision does not say the candidate won't get a certificate, but there's the potential a candidate may not get a certificate.

Ms. Moriaty indicated the revision recommended by a board member was to force programs to give people an early indication that finishing a program and getting certified may not be possible if a candidate has something surface as a result of a criminal background check.

Dr. Kelly indicated his district hires a number of alternative certified teachers who do a good job for the district and indicated the earlier implementation date for PACT seemed reasonable to him.

Dr. Turner inquired about start dates students are entering EPPs.

Public Comment was provided by:

Dr. Diann Huber

Calvin Stocker

Dr. Rae Queen

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to approve the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 227, Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates, Subchapter A, Admission to Educator Preparation Programs, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Bricker.

Motion was made by Dr. Kelly to amend proposed §227.10(g) to reference the specific course of instruction in §228.35(i)(2) to clarify that the Early Childhood–Grade 3 certification is offered for initial certification by c §228.35(i)(2) for an applicant to eligible to enroll in an EPP. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the amended motion.

14. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans

Ms. Cook presented this item to the Board. She explained this agenda item is moving right to proposal to support the timely implementation of legislation passed during the recent legislative session. Ms. Cook stated Senate Bill 1200 requires the Board to adopt rules by December 1, 2019 to allow military spouses to teach in Texas for a period of three years utilizing certificates from another state. She also explained the proposed rules include technical edits and further clarification test exemption provisions in Commissioner's Rules also apply to members of the military community. Ms. Cook thanked the Board for their ongoing support and requested the Board's support of a revised motion to correct a minor numerical reference to Commissioner's Rules included in the proposed rules. Mr. Coleman commented that as a military veteran himself, this rulemaking makes sense and he expressed appreciation for the legislation.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to approve the proposed revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Mullins, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

15. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on the Proposed Repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter E, Master Teacher Certificate

Ms. Cook presented this item to the Board. She shared this was another agenda item moving right to proposal due to provisions in House Bill 3 that specifies effective September 1, 2019, SBEC shall no longer issue or renew master teacher certificates. Ms. Cook assured the Board TEA staff continues to do everything possible to ensure candidates completing requirements for certificate issuance or renewal have the information and support needed through this transition to successfully obtain a certificate or complete certificate renewal before the specified deadline.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to approve the proposed repeal of 19 TAC Chapter 239, Student Services Certificates, Subchapter E, Master Teacher Certificate, to be published as proposed in the Texas Register. Second was made by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

16. Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Approve New Class of Certificate at Region 13 Education Service Center

Ms. Wu presented this item to the Board. Erica Garza and Alexis Juusola were present for questions and gave an overview of the proposal to the Board.

Mr. Rodriguez underscored the need for reading specialists in the state.

Ms. Brooks-Sykes asked how the program was working with the candidates currently in the program.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to approve the Reading Specialist class of certificate at Region 13 Education Service Center as presented. Second was made by Ms. MacDonald, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

17. Discussion and Approval of Standards Advisory Committee

Ms. Wu presented this item to the Board. Ms. Wu explained this item provided the Board the opportunity to approve the standards advisory committee for the certifications recommended by the Special Education Forums held in the winter of 2018.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to approve the members of the Standards Advisory Committee as presented. Second was made by Ms. Mason, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

DISCIPLINARY CASES**18. Pending or Contemplated Litigation, including Disciplinary Cases****A. Defaults****No Answer Defaults**

1. In the Matter of Lori L. Boyd; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
2. In the Matter of Andrew Caleb Braley; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Suspension of Probationary certificate through expiration on August 28, 2019

4. In the Matter of Delaine Nichole Carter; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of One-Year certificate through expiration on August 1, 2019
5. In the Matter of Cheyara S. Collier; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of Intern certificate through expiration on February 5, 2020
6. In the Matter of Cordelia Collins; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of Intern certificate through expiration on September 11, 2019; 1-year suspension of Paraprofessional certificate
7. In the Matter of Zachariah Curry-McDougald; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of Intern certificate through expiration on August 27, 2019
8. In the Matter of Hope Melanie Davis; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
10. In the Matter of Jean Hee Goff; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
11. In the Matter of Maricruz Ramirez Gonzalez; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
12. In the Matter of Curtis Gary Halvorson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

13. In the Matter of David Lapinsky; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
14. In the Matter of Jacob A. Leatherwood; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
15. In the Matter of Tamaka Mann; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of Intern certificate through expiration on August 27, 2019
16. In the Matter of Meredith Mattern; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
18. In the Matter of Rosa I. Olivares; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
19. In the Matter of Timothy J. Olson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
20. In the Matter of James E. Opolot, Jr.; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
21. In the Matter of Kirstin Renee Otey-Lewis; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
22. In the Matter of Belle Beatrice Pierce; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

23. In the Matter of Reny J. Roy; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
24. In the Matter of Fatimah Siddiqi; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
25. In the Matter of Tony Sloan; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
26. In the Matter of Michael J. Soto; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
27. In the Matter of Constance J. Spurlock; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Suspension of Intern certificate through expiration on August 13, 2019
28. In the Matter of Beverly Vega; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
29. In the Matter of Lelawrence Washington; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
30. In the Matter of Shayna R. Webb; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
31. In the Matter of Antoinette Willis; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

32. In the Matter of Sharouq Ali Zabarah; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension
33. In the Matter of David Jeremiah Banks; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
34. In the Matter of LaJuanis Jamall Jones; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
37. In the Matter of Deverick Shavonne Stubblefield; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
38. In the Matter of Victoria Louise Toms; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
39. In the Matter of Brian David Towne, Sr.; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
40. In the Matter of Luciano P. Villar; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
43. In the Matter of Shellby Nicole Basha; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
44. In the Matter of Kody Steven Brown; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation

45. In the Matter of Kristin Ally Dudley; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
46. In the Matter of Victoria Gordon; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
47. In the Matter of James Craig Gower; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
48. In the Matter of William Hankins Maksoud; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
49. In the Matter of Pablo L. Parravicini; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation
54. In the Matter of Anthony Maurice Barnes, Sr.; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
56. In the Matter of Cylinda Colarelli; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
57. In the Matter of Austin Blake Darby; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
58. In the Matter of Selina DeLuna; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation

59. In the Matter of Desiree Espinoza; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
62. In the Matter of Bria Jenae Johnson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 2-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment program
63. In the Matter of Jorge Antonio Montes; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
65. In the Matter of Rudolph Owens, Jr.; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 4-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment program
66. In the Matter of Garrett L. Pollard; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
67. In the Matter of Jesse Gerald Santillan; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
69. In the Matter of Shirley Dickerson Freeman; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: 2-year suspension
72. In the Matter of Ruby Nell Porter; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation
73. In the Matter of Latisha Shorthair; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment
Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment on the above numbered cases 1–73, with the exception of 3, 9, 17, 35, 36, 41, 42, 50, 51, 53, 55, 60, 61, 64, 68, 70, and 71 and issue final orders consistent with staff's recommendation. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

35. In the Matter of Thomas Quinn Jones; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

36. In the Matter of Michelle Charlene Kennedy; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment program

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Turner to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Mr. Coleman, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

41. In the Matter of Lorenzo E. Williams; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

42. In the Matter of Joshua Woodard; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Mr. Coleman, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

50. In the Matter of Angela Greer Richardson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Ms. Mason recused herself from voting on this matter.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

52. In the Matter of Emily Amber Kasa; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order consistent with staff's recommendations on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Mullins, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

53. In the Matter of Natalie Alaniz; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of permanent revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

55. In the Matter of Matthew Blankenship; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 4-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment classes

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Bricker, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

60. In the Matter of Wylie Hachey; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 3-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment classes

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of consistent with staff's recommendation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos, and the motion passed with Dr. Cavazos, Ms. Bricker, Ms. Brooks-Sykes, Ms. Mullins, Dr. Kelly, Ms. MacDonald, and Mr. Rodriguez voting in favor; Mr. Coleman voted against the motion.

61. In the Matter of David Robert Jabs; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 2-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment program

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of revocation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Dr. Kelly, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

64. In the Matter of Rachel R. Ochoa; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension and proof of successful completion of substance abuse treatment program

Mr. Rodriguez recused himself from voting on this matter.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order consistent with staff's recommendation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

68. In the Matter of Wendy Ann Carlson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of a one year suspension on the above numbered case based on the mitigating factors in §249.17(c): the seriousness of the violation, whether or not the educator intended to default on this loan, this incident imposed no danger or potential danger to students and does not impact the educator's good moral character or ability to instruct, that a harsher sentence would not deter other educators from committing this act, and all other relevant facts discussed. Second was made by Ms. Mullins, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

70. In the Matter of Paula Marie Allen; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of a five year suspension on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

71. In the Matter of Monica Stella Gonzalez; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 4-year suspension

Dr. Turner recused herself from voting on this matter.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Mr. Coleman to grant staff request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order of revocation on the above matter. The motion failed with lack of a second.

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to grant staff's request for Issuance of Default Judgment and enter a final order consistent with staff's recommendation on the above numbered case. Second was made by Ms. Bricker and the motion passed with Dr. Cavazos, Ms. Bricker, Ms. Brooks-Sykes, Ms. Mullins, Dr. Kelly, Ms. MacDonald, and Mr. Rodriguez voting in favor, and Mr. Coleman voting against the motion.

The following cases were pulled by TEA staff and no action was taken:

3. In the Matter of Jonathan N. Burton; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

9. In the Matter of Florence Elizabeth Garvey; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

17. In the Matter of Laura Moreno; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

51. In the Matter of Michael Howard Rose; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation

SOAH Defaults

1. In the Matter of Cathryn Morgan; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

2. In the Matter of Lamont D. Taylor; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

3. In the Matter of Eric Owen Johnson; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Permanent Revocation

4. In the Matter of Melissa Pena; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: Revocation

5. In the Matter of Gabriel Gabe Rivera; Action to be taken: Consideration of Issuance of Default Judgment

Staff recommendation: 1-year suspension

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to grant staff's request for Issuance of SOAH Default Judgment and enter final orders consistent with staff's recommendations on the above numbered cases. Second was made by Mr. Coleman, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

B. Contested Cases

Proposals for Decision

1. Docket No. 701180639.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Yolanda Jackson Clark; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: Revocation

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ Recommendation

Ms. Gokhale represented TEA staff. Respondent did not appear.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Cavazos to accept the Proposal for Decision and issue a final order consistent with ALJ's recommendation and that Ms. Clark's educator certificates be revoked. Second was made by Dr. Turner, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Docket No. 701192165.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Angelita Yanez; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: 1-year suspension

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ recommendation

Ms. Patton represented TEA staff; Respondent represented herself.

The SBEC entered into Executive Session at 3:00 PM pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 to obtain the advice of legal counsel.

The SBEC entered in open session at 3:17 PM. No action was taken in closed session.

Motion and Vote:

Motion was made by Dr. Kelly to accept the Proposal for Decision and issue a final order consistent with ALJ's recommendation and that Ms. Yanez's educator certificates be suspended for one (1) year. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos, and the motion passed with Dr. Kelly, Dr. Cavazos, Ms. Mullins, Ms. Bricker, and Mr. Rodriguez voting in favor, and Mr. Coleman, Ms. Brooks-Sykes, and Ms. MacDonald voting against the motion.

3. Docket No. 701191689.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Shante L. Jones; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: 4-month suspension

Staff Recommendation: 8-month suspension

Ms. Gokhale represented TEA staff; Respondent did not appear.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker that the Board adopt the Proposal for Decision including Findings of Fact Nos. 1–25 and Conclusions of Law Nos. 1–7. I move that the Board modify Conclusion of Law No. 8 as follows:

8. Shante L. Jones’s educator certification should be SUSPENDED FOR EIGHT (8) MONTHS.

This is modification of sanction is necessary because the Administrative Law Judge did not properly apply Board rules.

The SBEC rules set out a one-year minimum sanction for contract abandonment.

The SBEC rules also set out specific mitigating factors that can reduce a sanction for contract abandonment below the one-year minimum.

As the Administrative Law Judge noted in Conclusion of Law 7, Ms. Jones met four of those mitigating factors:

- she submitted her resignation prior to 30 days before the first day of instruction,*
- she sought to assist the district in finding a replacement educator,*
- she showed good faith in her communications and negotiations with the school district,*
and
- she provided lesson plans for classes following her resignation.*

The Administrative Law Judge recommended a four-month suspension, but that is insufficient to deter other educators from abandoning their contracts without good cause.

An eight-month suspension is the appropriate sanction because:

- it provides a one-month reduction in suspension time for each of the mitigating factors in Conclusion of Law 7, and*
- will better deter other educators from abandoning their contracts.*

I move that the Board order Ms. Jones’s educator certification SUSPENDED for EIGHT MONTHS. Second was made by Dr. Cavazos and the motion passed with Ms. Bricker, Dr. Cavazos, Dr. Kelly, Ms. Mason, Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Druesedow voting in favor and Dr. Turner, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Brooks-Sykes, Mr. Coleman and Ms. Mullins voting against the motion.

4. Docket No. 701191449.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Montwanette Taylor; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: 1-year probated suspension

Staff Recommendation: 1-year suspension

Ms. Gokhale represented TEA staff. Mr. Conners represented Respondent.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Bricker that the Board accept the Proposal for Decision and Issue a Final Order consistent with the ALJ's recommendations and that Ms. Taylor's Educator Certificate be SUSPENDED for ONE (1) YEAR and that the SUSPENSION be PROBATED. Second was made by Dr. Kelly, and the motion failed.

The SBEC entered into Executive Session at 4:14 PM pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 to obtain the advice of legal counsel.

The SBEC entered in open session at 4:36 PM. No action was taken in closed session.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes accept the Proposal for Decision including Findings of Fact numbers 1 – 20 and Conclusions of Law Nos 1-5, and 8, and strike Conclusions of Law Nos 6 and 7. I move that the Board modify Conclusion No. 9 as follows:

9. *Montwanette Taylor's educator certificate should not be sanctioned.*

This is modification of sanction is necessary because the Administrative Law Judge did not properly apply Board rules and statutes. The ALJ did not properly apply TEC §21.160(b) because Ms. Taylor received consent for her resignation from the superintendent. I move that no disciplinary action be taken against Ms. Taylor's educator certificates. Second was made by Ms. Mullins, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Docket No. 701191409.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. LeMardre Miller; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: Permanent application denial

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ recommendation

Mr. Crabtree represented TEA staff. Respondent did not appear.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes that the Board accept the Proposal for Decision and Issue a Final Order consistent with the ALJ's recommendations. Mr. Miller's application for Texas Educator Certificate Numbered XXX-XX-25-97 should be PERMANENTLY DENIED. Second was made by Mr. Coleman, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

6. Docket No. 701184780.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Reginald Eugene Taylor; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: Inscribed Reprimand

Staff Recommendation: 2-year suspension

Mr. Ybarra represented TEA staff. Mr. Fallon represented Respondent.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Mullins to accept the Proposal for Decision and Issue a Final Order consistent with the ALJ's recommendations. Mr. Taylor's educator certificates numbered XXX-XX-16-23 should be issued an inscribed reprimand. Second was made by Mr. Coleman, and the motion passed with Ms. Mullins, Mr. Coleman, Dr. Kelly, Ms. Brooks-Sykes, Ms. MacDonald voting in favor and Mr. Rodriguez voting against the motion.

7. Docket No. 701165088.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Wakesha Ives; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: No disciplinary action to be taken

Staff Recommendation: 2-year probated suspension

Mr. Crabtree represented TEA staff. Mr. Darnell represented Respondent.

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes to accept the Proposal for Decision and Issue a Final Order consistent with the ALJ's recommendation and that no disciplinary action be taken against Ms. Ives educator certificates numbered XXX-XX-46-62. Second was made by Dr. Kelly, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

8. Docket No. 701183430.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Phillip Harper Howard; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: 5-year suspension

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ Recommendation

9. Docket No. 701185079.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Marcos De La Garza; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: No disciplinary action to be taken

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ Recommendation

10. Docket No. 701191710.EC, Texas Education Agency, Educator Leadership and Quality Division v. Kimberly Smith; Action to be taken: Consideration of Proposal for Decision and Issuance of Final Order.

ALJ Recommendation: No disciplinary action to be taken

Staff Recommendation: Accept ALJ Recommendation

Motion and vote:

Motion was made by Ms. Brooks-Sykes that Board adopt the Proposals for Decision on cases 8, 9, 10 and Issue Final Orders consistent with the ALJs recommendations. Second was made by Dr. Kelly, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

C. Court Cases

District Court Cases

1. David Turner v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. D-1-GN-17-002298, In the 250th District Court of Travis County, Texas.
2. Bradley Keith Bowen v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. D-1-GN-18-004203, In the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas.
3. Blake Tittle v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. D-1-GN-18-007716, In the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas.
4. Cynthia Maria Garcia v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. D-1-GN-18-007719, In the 250th District Court of Travis County, Texas.
5. Leo Joseph Tran v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. 03-18-00855-CV, In the Court of Appeals, Third District of Texas.
6. Anna Luisa Kell v. Texas Education Agency, Educator Certification and Standards Division; Cause No. 03-19-00051-CV, In the Court of Appeals, Third District of Texas.

DISCUSSION ONLY**19. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 249, Disciplinary Proceedings, Sanctions, and Contested Cases**

Ms. Moriarty presented this item to the Board. Ms. Moriarty noted the draft language for the Board to consider for proposal at the next meeting would reflect board members' requests to amend the definition of "good cause" for contract abandonment to include promotion of the educator to a higher position within education and the educator's reliance on a statement by a person with authority to accept resignations delegated by the school district board of trustees. Mr. Coleman requested the draft text at the October meeting also include language in the definition of "good cause," allowing the Board flexibility to determine good cause on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Druesedow adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.

20. Discussion of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Continuing Approval Reviews of Educator Preparation Programs

This item was not discussed by the Board due to meeting adjournment.

21. Discussion of Test Development Updates

This item was not discussed by the Board due to meeting adjournment.

22. Update and Report of Legislation Related to the State Board for Educator Certification

This item was not discussed by the Board due to meeting adjournment.

INFORMATION ONLY**23. Board Operating Policies and Procedures (BOPP)**

Information only.

24. 2019-2022 Rule Review Plan for State Board for Educator Certification Rules

Information only.

25. Requests from Board Members for Future Agenda Items

This item was not discussed by the Board due to meeting adjournment.

26. Requests Received from the Board Since Last Meeting

This item was not discussed by the Board due to meeting adjournment.

27. Adjournment

Ms. Druesedow adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.

The Board may go into closed session regarding any item on the agenda to the extent it is authorized to do so pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.