

**Report of the State Board of Education
Committee on School Initiatives
Thursday, February 1, 2024**

The State Board of Education Committee on School Initiatives met at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2024, in Room, #1-111, of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Will Hickman, chair; LJ Francis, vice chair; Rebecca Bell-Metereau; Staci Childs; and Julie Pickren

Non-committee members present: Aicha Davis

Public Testimony

The Committee of the Full Board heard public testimony on agenda items #. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Proposed Amendment 19 TAC Chapter 157, Hearings and Appeals, Subchapter D, Independent Hearing Examiners, §157.41 Certification Criteria for Independent Hearing Examiners**
(First Reading and Filing Authorization)
(Board agenda page IV-1)

Christopher Maska, director of hearings and appeals, legal services, explained to the committee that the proposed amendments would reduce the length of time an attorney must be licensed and engaged in a full-time practice to be eligible to serve as an independent hearing examiner and expand the experience requirements to include family law, criminal law, and personal injury law.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Ms. Childs, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for first reading and filing authorization 19 TAC Chapter 157, Hearings and Appeals, Subchapter D, Independent Hearing Examiners, §157.41, Certification Criteria for Independent Hearing Examiners.*

2. **Approval of Revisions to Required School Safety Training for School District Trustees**
(Board agenda page IV-12)

John Scott, chief of school safety and security, introduced the item and explained that the Texas School Safety Center has suggested updates to the school safety training required for school district trustees and that no changes had been made to the suggested updates discussed in November 2023.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Ms. Childs, seconded by Dr. Bell-Metereau, and carried unanimously to table the item until the April 2024 meeting.*

3. Recommendation for One Reappointment to the Boys Ranch Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-13)
[Consent agenda item #9]

Christopher Lucas, director, policy, planning, and operations, explained that the term of one member of the board of trustees of Boys Ranch Independent School District (ISD) is expiring. Mr. Richard Nedelkoff, president and chief executive officer of Boys Ranch ISD, has recommended that Mr. Joshua Sprock be reappointed for a two-year term.

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Joshua Sprock
AFFILIATION: Boys Ranch ISD Board of Trustees

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Childs, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Mr. Richard Nedelkoff's recommendation, approve the reappointment of Mr. Joshua Sprock to serve a term of office, from February 2, 2024, to February 1, 2026, on the Boys Ranch ISD Board of Trustees.*

4. Recommendation for Two Reappointments to the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-17)
[Consent agenda item #10]

Mr. Lucas explained that the terms of two members of the board of trustees of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District (ISD) have expired. Brigadier General Russell Driggers has recommended that Mr. Willie E. White and Ms. Andrea Nicholas be reappointed for two-year terms.

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Andrea Nicholas
AFFILIATION: Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Childs, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Brigadier General Russell Driggers's recommendation, approve the reappointments of Mr. Willie E. White and Ms. Andrea D. Nicholas to serve terms of office from February 2, 2024, to February 1, 2026, on the Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees.*

5. Recommendation for One Appointment to the Lackland Independent School District Board of Trustees

(Board agenda page IV-25)

[Consent agenda item #11]

Mr. Lucas explained that one member of the board of trustees of Lackland Independent School District (ISD) has retired. Brigadier General Russell Driggers has recommended that Mrs. Tonseda Henson be appointed for a two-year term.

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Tonseda Henson
AFFILIATION: Self

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Childs, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education, based on Brigadier General Russell Driggers's recommendation, approve the appointment of Mrs. Tonseda Henson to serve a term of office from February 2, 2024, to February 1, 2026, on the Lackland ISD Board of Trustees.*

6. **Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 61, School Districts, Subchapter A, Board of Trustees Relationship, §61.2 Nomination of Trustees for Military Reservation School Districts and Boys Ranch Independent School District**

(First Reading and Filing Authorization)

(Board agenda page IV-32)

[Consent agenda item #12]

Mr. Lucas introduced the item and explained that the draft rule text adds new subsection (d) that incorporates the changes made by House Bill 4210, 88th Texas Legislature, 2023

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Brian Holt
AFFILIATION: Randolph Field Independent School District

NAME: Merrie Fox
AFFILIATION: Self

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mrs. Pickren, and carried unanimously to table the item until the April 2024 meeting.*

7. **Adoption of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements.**

(Board agenda page IV-39)

[Official agenda item #11]

Marilyn Cook, Director of Educator Preparation and Certification, explained that the proposed amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements would do two primary things: establish a hardship process for teachers to renew certifications and to implement a legislative requirement from HB 2929 that removes the cap on the number of CPE hours that educators can

complete for SBEC renewal. Ms. Cook also explained that teacher have 150 CPE hours that must be completed and non-teaching staff such as counselors have 200 CPE hours that must be completed for renewal every five years.

MOTION AND VOTE: *It was moved by Mr. Francis, seconded by Ms. Pickren, and carried unanimously to recommend that the State Board of Education take no action on the Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 232, General Certification Provisions, Subchapter A, Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements.*

8. Adoption of Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans

(Board agenda page IV-50)

[Official agenda item #12]

Marilyn Cook, Director of Educator Preparation and Certification, explained that the Proposed Amendments to 19 TAC Chapter 234, Military Service Members, Military Spouses, and Military Veterans would align SBEC rules with new legislation regarding certification for military services members, their spouses, and veterans.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Open-Enrollment Charter School Generation 29 Application Updates

(Board agenda page IV-7)

Marian Schutte, Executive Director, Division of Authorizing, presented information on the Generation 29 Open-Enrollment Charter Application process including goals, timeline, summary, and submission information. Ms. Schutte answered questions regarding the application process.

10. Rule Review of 19 TAC Chapter 100, Charters, Subchapter A, Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, and Subchapter B, Home-Rule School District Charters

(Board agenda page IV-8)

Marian Schutte, Executive Director, Division of Authorizing, presented information on the rule review of 19 TAC Chapter 100, Charters, Subchapter A, Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, and Subchapter B, Home-Rule School District Charters including the review process, public comment period, and filing dates. Ms. Schutte answered questions regarding the rules.

11. Discussion of Ongoing State Board for Educator Certification Activities

(Board agenda page IV-61)

Emily Garcia, associate commissioner for educator preparation, certification, and enforcement, shared updates on current and upcoming SBEC activities and proposed SBEC rules and amendments.

The meeting of the Committee on School Initiatives adjourned at 11:09 a.m.