

## Item 19:

### SBEC Board Discussion

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION

**SUMMARY:** This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) an opportunity to discuss Board meeting times, attendance, travel options, and Board member feedback.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The statutory authority for the establishment of the SBEC is Texas Education Code (TEC), Sec. 21.031, to recognize public school educators as professionals and to grant educators the authority to govern the standards of their profession. TEC, §21.031(a) authorizes the Board to regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators. TEC, §21.031(b) requires the SBEC to propose rules to ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse population of this state.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The SBEC Chair, Jill Druesedow, requested an agenda item to discuss Board meeting times, attendance, travel options, and Board member feedback. The following attachments have been included at the request of Ms.Druesedow to help inform the Board's discussion.

- Attachment I includes the statutory citations relating to the SBEC's purpose and authority.
- Attachment II reflects the SBEC's mission statement and core principles.
- Attachment III includes the SBEC meeting dates, times, and attendance for Fiscal Year 2017 and travel options for Fiscal Year 2018.
- Attachment IV reflects summaries of feedback provided by SBEC members.

**SBEC Member Responsible:** Jill Druesedow, Chairperson  
State Board for Educator Certification

**Attachments:**

- I. Statutory Citations
- II. SBEC Mission Statement and Core Principles
- III. SBEC Fiscal Year 2017 Meeting Dates, Times, Attendance, and Travel Options for Fiscal Year 2018
- IV. SBEC Member Feedback Summaries

**ATTACHMENT I****Statutory Citations Related to the State Board for Educator Certification Purpose and Authority****Texas Education Code, §21.031, Purpose:**

- (a) The State Board for Educator Certification is established to recognize public school educators as professionals and to grant educators the authority to govern the standards of their profession. The board shall regulate and oversee all aspects of the certification, continuing education, and standards of conduct of public school educators.
- (b) In proposing rules under this subchapter, the board shall ensure that all candidates for certification or renewal of certification demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

**ATTACHMENT II****SBEC Mission Statement and Core Principles****Mission Statement:**

SBEC is dedicated to improving student achievement and ensuring the safety and welfare of Texas school children by upholding the highest level of educator preparation, performance, continuing education, and standards of conduct.

**Core Principles:**

We believe...

1. student success is primary.
2. we must ensure the safety and welfare of Texas's diverse student population.
3. well-prepared educators are essential.
4. high certification standards are essential for ensuring consistency and effectiveness among educator preparation programs.
5. standards should be measured by rigorous, relevant, valid, and reliable assessments.
6. certification programs should be held to the same accountability standards.
7. certification programs should have transparent systems for continuous improvement.
8. we are accountable to all Texas stakeholders and their input is essential.
9. we must continually improve our policies and processes in response to changing needs.
10. certified educators hold a unique position of trust with students; therefore, educators must be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

**ATTACHMENT III**

**SBEC Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 Meeting Dates, Times, Attendance, and Travel Options for Fiscal Year 2018**

<b>Fiscal Year 2017</b>			
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	
		<b>Absent</b>	<b>Left Early</b>
October 7, 2016	9:07 AM – 4:03 PM	One Absent	
December 9, 2016	9:05 AM – 2:19 PM	Two Absent	
March 3, 2017	9:04 AM – 4:16 PM		Three Left Early
June 9, 2017	9:05 AM – 4:05 PM	Four Absent	One Left Early
August 4, 2017	9:04 AM – 1:05 PM	Three Absent	

<b>Fiscal Year 2018</b>			
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	
		<b>Absent</b>	<b>Left Early</b>
October 6, 2017	9:05 AM – 3:48 PM	Two Absent	Six Left Early

**Fiscal Year 2018 Travel Options:**

<b>TEA Staff Schedule Travel</b>	<b>SBEC Member Schedule Travel</b>
TEA staff currently books, confirms, and reimburses SBEC members for hotel lodging. TEA staff works to accommodate individual preferences. If a member notifies staff 24 hours in advance of cancellation of hotel, staff cancels the hotel and member is not charged.	SBEC members could choose to book and confirm hotel arrangements, and TEA staff will reimburse up to the state rate. SBEC member will call to cancel hotel reservation up to 24 hours in advance to not get charged.

## ATTACHMENT IV

## SBEC Member Feedback Summaries

**Background Information:** At the conclusion of SBEC meetings, Board members are asked to complete and submit a feedback form to provide valuable input on how the staff can continually improve to serve the Board in carrying out SBEC's administrative functions. The staff have made changes in response to input received by the SBEC (i.e., streamlining contested case presentations and providing more information in table/timeline format). Ms. Druesedow requested that TEA staff place some of the feedback summaries on this item to allow the Board and staff to provide further clarification. The first table provides the TEA staff response to SBEC member feedback and, where applicable, an opportunity to receive further clarification. The second table provides the Board an opportunity to address SBEC member feedback.

SBEC Member Feedback	TEA Response
Recommended improvements for preparing for meetings as timing of materials due to volume of reading; handouts prior to the meeting.	Currently, TEA staff sends out materials to be delivered 10 days in advance of meeting. Staff will work more diligently to ensure the Board receives all materials in the time frame.
Recommended the presentations more accurately reflect the printed agenda.	Much of the beginning of each agenda item is legal authority, and TEA staff tries to present items in such a way for understandability. Staff would like direction from the Board on this.
Surprised by lack of bottled water at meeting.	Statute does not allow for public funds to pay for snacks, water, etc. The TEA staff have been providing this from personal funds as a courtesy. Staff recommends SBEC follow SBOE's practice of members donating to fund to provide snacks and drinks.
Concerned with too many cases in one meeting and recommended designating a number for each meeting.	Due process requires that all cases be completed in the shortest amount of time possible. Both educators and students will suffer if case decisions are delayed any longer than necessary. If the Board would like shorter case dockets, more frequent meetings are likely the best options.
Recommended specifying at the beginning of each case the board rule that applies.	There are many rules that are relevant to each case. To the extent possible, staff mentions the most relevant and important rules for each case in its presentations on PFDs. It is key, however, that Board members take the time to review and become familiar with TAC 249.17, which sets out the Board's sanctioning guidance. If the Board would like a review of TAC 249.17, it can be added to the agenda for the next work session.

**SBEC Member Feedback for Board Discussion**

Recommended moving disciplinary cases first on the agenda to allow attorneys and educators a clear idea of when to arrive at meeting.

Recommended SBEC members limit time on computers, phones, and iPads.

Recommended that SBEC members need to stay to the conclusion of meetings. Concerned about loss of quorum in October: taxpayers and government pays for travel and for Board to complete service.

Encouraged SBEC members to be well prepared for meetings by careful reading of agenda materials to advance rich dialogue and provide clear direction to TEA staff.