

**Report of the State Board of Education  
Committee of the Full Board  
January 27, 2021**

The State Board of Education Committee of the Full Board met at 9:04 a.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, in the State Board of Education Room, #1-104, of the William B. Travis Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present: Keven Ellis, chair; Lawrence A. Allen, Jr.; Rebecca Bell-Metereau; Ruben Cortez, Jr.; Aicha Davis; Patricia Hardy; Will Hickman; Jay Johnson; Pam Little; Tom Maynard; Sue Melton-Malone; Georgina C. Pérez; Marisa B. Perez-Diaz (virtual); Matt Robinson; Audrey Young

**Public Testimony**

The Committee of the Full Board heard public testimony on agenda items #5 and #6. Information regarding the individuals who presented public testimony is included in the discussion of that item.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**1. Commissioner's Comments**  
(Board agenda page I-6)

Commissioner Mike Morath shared that, with the start of the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session, he has been speaking with members of the legislature about three primary policy issues: any adjustments to House Bill (HB) 3 that might be necessary and how to sustain funding made available by HB 3; the state accountability system; and the long-term picture for remote instruction. He also provided an overview of the information presented in the *TEA Annual Report 2020*. Commissioner Morath added that last week TEA issued a research analysis on the initial view of academic declines resulting from COVID-19. Finally, he shared an update on Operation Connectivity and closing the digital divide. Even though the internet access gap still exists, recent accounting indicates that at least 4.5 million devices have been provided to students to close the device gap.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2. Proposed Amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, §74.11, High School Graduation Requirements (Second Reading and Final Adoption)**  
(Board agenda page I-7)  
[Official agenda item #3]

Shelly Ramos, senior director, curriculum standards and student support division, explained that the proposed amendment would update the graduation requirements rule to align with the requirement in House Bill (HB) 3, 86th Texas Legislature, 2019, that students complete a financial aid application as

a requirement for high school graduation. Students will have the option to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA), or opt out of the requirement. The proposed amendment would also specify when a student may demonstrate proficiency in certain communication skills required for graduation.

**MOTION:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard and seconded by Dr. Robinson to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, §74.11, High School Graduation Requirements; and*

*Make an affirmative finding that immediate adoption of the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, §74.11, High School Graduation Requirements, is necessary and shall have an effective date of August 1, 2021.*

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Mr. Cortez, and carried to recommend that the State Board of Education add new §74.11(h)(5) to read:*

*“(5) College preparatory English language arts or mathematics courses developed and offered pursuant to the TEC, §28.014.”*

**VOTE:** *A vote was taken on the motion to recommend that the State Board of Education approve for second reading and final adoption the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, §74.11, High School Graduation Requirements, as amended; and*

*Make an affirmative finding that immediate adoption of the proposed amendment to 19 TAC Chapter 74, Curriculum Requirements, Subchapter B, Graduation Requirements, §74.11, High School Graduation Requirements, is necessary and shall have an effective date of August 1, 2021. The motion carried unanimously.*

**3. Consideration of Petition for Adoption of Rule in 19 TAC Chapter 113, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Social Studies**

(Board agenda page I-14)

[Official agenda item #4]

Monica Martinez, associate commissioner for standards and support services, explained that a petition for a rule change had been received requesting that the board adopt United States History Studies Before 1877 and offer the course to all high school students.

**MOTION AND VOTE:** *It was moved by Mr. Maynard, seconded by Ms. Hardy, and carried unanimously to deny the petition to adopt United States History Studies Before 1877 and offer the course to all high school students because all Grade 8 students are required to receive instruction in United States History through 1877.*

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 4. **Discussion of Proposed New 19 TAC Chapter 112, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Science, Subchapter C, High School, §§112.47-112.51**

(Board agenda page I-17)

Ms. Ramos provided an update on the work of the science Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) review work groups. She highlighted the draft recommendations from Work Group D for the Aquatic Science, Astronomy, Environmental Systems, and Specialized Topics in Science courses and the preliminary recommendations from the work group on the Earth and Space Science course (Earth Systems Science). The committee provided recommendations for TEA staff to deliver to the work groups when they reconvene prior to the next SBOE meeting.

### 5. **Discussion of *Proclamation 2023* of the State Board of Education Advertising for Bids on Instructional Materials**

(Board agenda page I-19)

Public testimony was provided by the following individual:

NAME: Leila Cornelius  
AFFILIATION: Self

Melissa Lautenschlager, director of instructional materials and implementation, explained that this item gives the committee an opportunity to provide direction regarding *Proclamation 2023*, specifically, if it should be brought back for issuance in April and if so, which courses it should include.

Ms. Martinez shared an update on the progress of TEKS review work groups and explained the impact of TEKS review on timelines for instructional materials adoption.

The committee recommended that staff not present issuance of *Proclamation 2023* at the April 2021 meeting and that instructional materials for science, grades K–12, and certain CTE courses be included in *Proclamation 2024*. Dr. Ellis requested that stakeholders reach out to board members if there are concerns about postponing *Proclamation 2023*.

## ACTION ITEM

### 6. **Update on Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Review**

(Board agenda page I-23)

[Official agenda item #5]

Public testimony was provided by the following individuals:

NAME: Sandra West  
AFFILIATION: Self

Ms. Ramos provided an update on the review and revision process for the TEKS for science and career and technical education. The SBOE made suggestions to the work group for revisions to the

grades 6-8 science TEKS. The committee asked that staff direct the K-5 science TEKS review work group to add more emphasis on content and background knowledge to the K-5 standards while maintaining scientific investigation.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7. Rule Review of 19 TAC Chapter 101, Assessment, Subchapter A, General Provisions, Subchapter B, Implementation of Assessments, and Subchapter C, Local Option** (Board agenda page I-25)

Julie Cole, director of policy and publications, student assessment division, explained that the rule review involves a discussion regarding whether the reasons for the current SBOE rules related to student assessment continue to exist.

The committee discussed the differences in the roles of the commissioner and the SBOE related to implementation of a statewide assessment program.

Dr. Young asked whether there is a document that shows a crosswalk between commissioner's rules and SBOE rules related to student assessment. Ms. Martinez said that staff would provide a crosswalk in advance of the next meeting.

The board requested that an item be placed on the next agenda to further discuss SBOE rules related to student assessment.

### **8. Discussion of Pending Litigation** (Board agenda page I-31)

The committee did not discuss pending litigation; therefore, no executive session was held.

Dr. Ellis adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.