

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION  
August 7, 2014  
10:00 a.m.

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was called to order by Chairman Phil Taylor. The meeting was held at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 525 W. Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Phil Taylor, Chairman  
Mr. John Riggs, Vice Chairman  
Ms. Margarita Solórzano  
Dr. Ann Bain  
Ms. Martha Dixon

Mr. William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary

ABSENT

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Richard Smith -  
(medical procedure)

Mr. Tony Wood  
Mr. Shane Broadway

Mr. Phil Taylor, Chairman, announced that Mr. Richard Smith would not attend the meeting because he is undergoing a medical procedure.

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Solórzano, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the minutes of June 5, 2014.

B. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO GED® RETEST POLICY

Mr. Jim Smith, deputy director of adult education, asked the board members to approve placing the revised GED® retest policy on public review for 30 days.

The current policy reads as follows:

Test-takers scoring at least 149 points on each area of the first official GED® test may retest at the next scheduled test date without retaking the GED Ready™ practice test.

If the score is 130-148 on any area of the test or the test-taker has been retested one or more times, the test-taker must wait three months **OR** complete 30 hours of instruction through an approved adult education program **AND** pass the GED Ready™ with a score of 155 in each area to be retested.

If the score is 129 or below on any area of the test, the test-taker must wait six months **OR** complete 60 hours of instruction through an approved adult education program **AND** pass each part of the GED Ready™ with a score of 155 in each area to be retested.

The revised policy would read as follows:

The Adult Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Career Education will set retest requirements for GED® testing based on GED® data, policy, and research analysis and shall report any changes to the board at the next scheduled board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Riggs and second by Ms. Dixon, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved that the revision to the GED® retest policy be placed on public review for 30 days.

C. ACTION ITEM – NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POSTSECONDARY WELDING PROGRAM FOR THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY

Ms. Sandra Porter, interim deputy director of career and technical education, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the proposal for a welding technology program at Northwest Technical Institute.

Dr. Blake Robertson, president of Northwest Technical Institute, stated there is a high demand in Northwest Arkansas and nationwide for highly trained, experienced, and educated welders.

Dr. Robertson asked Mr. Mark Mansell, welding technology instructor, to provide further information to the board members. Mr. Mansell stated that surveys by Northwest Technical Institute and industry strongly indicate a critical need for a welding technology program in Northwest Arkansas.

On motion by Ms. Solórzano and second by Mr. Riggs, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the proposal of the welding technology program at Northwest Technical Institute.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jonathan Bibb, interim commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), informed the board members that construction at the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) is on schedule and even ahead of schedule in some areas. The elevator has been installed in the armory building. The first phase of the armory project is nearing completion and should be completed the first part of September.

Mr. Bibb informed the board that ACTI was approved for Council on Occupational Education (COE) accreditation for six years.

Mr. Bibb informed the board that installation of water mains throughout campus is 80 percent complete. In addition, approval has been received to put new sprinkler systems in the dormitory areas, Building 1, and Ross Hall.

Mr. Robert Treviño, ARS deputy commissioner, briefed board members on the renovation of the building at 900 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Little Rock. This facility will house several ARS programs in a "storefront" concept. Renovation should be complete by October.

Ms. Judy Smith, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services transition director, provided board members information on the Promise Grant, a \$32.5 million research grant that is expected to assist 2,000 families over the five-year duration of the grant.

Ms. Smith also provided board members information on the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Project SEARCH grant and Transition Employment Program (TEP).

Director Walker made the following announcements:

October is Disabilities Awareness Month, and the Governor usually issues a proclamation in the middle of October. Director Walker stated that consideration is being given to requesting the Governor to also issue an executive order promoting the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

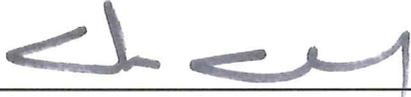
October 2, 2014 – State Board Meeting – Hot Springs (ACTI)

October 2014 – Ribbon-Cutting at the 900 7<sup>th</sup> Street facility

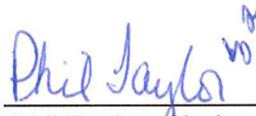
Director Walker introduced Dustin Barnes as the newest member of the communications office.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.



William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Ex-Officio Secretary  
State Board of Career Education



Phil Taylor, Chairman  
State Board of Career Education