

MINUTES - MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CAREER EDUCATION
1:30 p.m.

October 11, 2011

The State Board of Career Education (SBCE) was called to order by Vice Chairman John Riggs. The meeting was held at the Governor's Mansion, 1800 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. John Riggs, Vice Chairman
Mr. John Yates
Mrs. Lucy Ralston
Dr. Thomas Flowers
Mrs. Martha Dixon

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

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

ABSENT

Mr. Phil Taylor, Chairman
Mr. Richard Smith

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Tom Kimbrell
Mr. Shane Broadway

A. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2011

On motion by Mrs. Dixon and second by Dr. Flowers, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the minutes of August 4, 2011.

B. ACTION ITEM – REVISION OF STANDARDIZED TESTING INSTRUMENT IN THE ADULT EDUCATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Mr. Jim Smith, deputy director of adult education, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the revised changes to the standardized testing instrument.

Mr. Smith stated that the levels of performance will be expressed in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form and will show the progress of the state toward continuously improving in performance. According to the National Reporting System (NRS) for Adult Education Implementation Guidelines, states must require local programs to measure educational gain with standardized assessments that are appropriate for measuring educational gains within the NRS framework and conform to accepted psychometric standards for validity and reliability.

Mr. Smith informed the board members that the 2011 changes comply with the guidance from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The revised Standardized Testing Instrument Policy and Procedures change was on public review from August 29, 2011, to September 30, 2011.

On motion by Mrs. Ralston and second by Mrs. Dixon, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the revision to the standardized testing instrument.

C. ACTION ITEM – APPROVAL OF GED TESTING PROGRAM POLICIES

Mr. Jim Smith, deputy director of adult education, recommended that the State Board of Career Education approve the revised changes to the GED Testing Program Policies.

Ms. Janice Hanlon, GED administrator, stated that the GED Testing Program Policies have been updated to bring state policies and terms into accordance with those of the national GED Testing Service. The revised policies will also allow, but not require, fees to be charged to individuals taking the GED Tests in Arkansas, as well as allow fees to be charged for duplicate copies of transcript and/or diplomas.

Mr. Smith informed the board members that the GED Testing Program Policies were on public review from August 4, 2011, to September 6, 2011.

On motion by Mr. Yates and second by Mrs. Ralston, the State Board of Career Education unanimously approved the revised GED Testing Program Policies.

Mr. John Riggs asked that Mr. Robert Treviño, commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), to address the ARS state audit.

Mr. Treviño said the audit finding number one states that ARS bills patient for medical services, but, in actuality, ARS does not bill patients. Finding number two, which states that a fixed asset was purchased for \$41,941 without a sealed bid process, is an accurate finding. The Arkansas Career Training Institute administrator was new at the time and, for lack of training, did not following the proper purchasing laws. ARS self-disclosed the error and sent a letter to Jane Benton, director of Office of State Procurement, and Ms. Benton provided a waiver on this issue. On finding number three, two administrative employees working the Booneville field office received excessive mileage reimbursement. That finding is also correct. The excessive mileage charge was caused by a miscalculation of three miles each day for two employees for picking up the mail in the morning and for dropping off the mail in the afternoon. ARS have asked for restitution from both of the employees. One has paid restitution, and the other has been sent a letter of collection.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

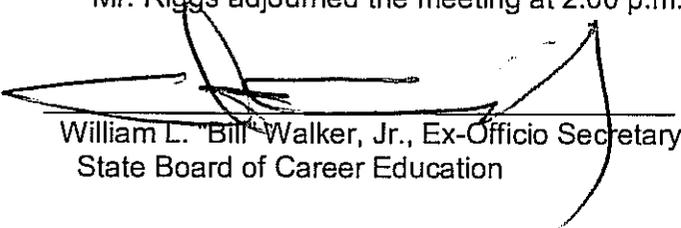
Mr. Walker stated that he had a very good meeting with Governor Beebe on four critical issues: adult education funding, future of Arkansas Works, funding and rule changes relating to the secondary centers and modification/closure of the hospital at the Arkansas Career Training Institute.

Mr. Walker announced the following date:

Next board meeting— December 8, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Riggs adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.


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


Phil Taylor, Chairman
State Board of Career Education