

## State Board of Education Report January 31 and February 1, 2013

TEA Members in attendance at the State Board of Education Workshop/Joint THEC meeting held on January 31 and the meeting held on February 1 included Melinda Reese (Hamblen/First Congressional District), Eddie Busler (Knox/Second Congressional District), Rachel Price (Hamilton/Third Congressional District), Laura Ingram (Bedford/Fourth Congressional District), Rick Highsmith (Robertson/Sixth Congressional District), Ronny Criswell (Trenton Special/Eighth Congressional District), Stephanie Fitzgerald (Memphis City/Ninth Congressional District), and Dr. Charles Green (Memphis City/Ninth Congressional District). Sandy Hughes, Hamilton County Education Association President, was in attendance representing her local association. President Gera Summerford attended the SBE/THEC Annual Joint Meeting on January 31. Staff members assisting members during the three events included Susan Dalton, Terrance Gibson, Chelsea McKissack, and Maria Uffelman. All three meetings are available on archived streaming video at <http://state.tn.us/sbe/>. Future 2013 quarterly meetings are scheduled for April 18/19, July 25/26, and October 24/25.

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted a new master plan which identified its strategic priorities through 2020. Priorities include strengthening the links between effectiveness (as defined by student achievement) and licensure and supporting improvements to the SBE budget to expand their influence over the expansion of charter schools. The full plan is available at [http://state.tn.us/sbe/2012\\_documents/October\\_2012/III\\_A\\_SBE\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Attachment.pdf](http://state.tn.us/sbe/2012_documents/October_2012/III_A_SBE_Master_Plan_Attachment.pdf).

Members of the SBE are appointed by the governor for five-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. Only one of nine members appointed by Congressional districts *shall* be a teacher representative at the time of the appointment. This teacher position is up for reappointment in April of 2013. Appointments must be legislatively confirmed, but there are no other checks and balances with regard to the work of the SBE.

An SDE presentation entitled, "Teacher Characteristics and Effectiveness," Education (SBE) greatly concerned TEA members and staff who were present. The SDE report looks at the distribution of 2011-12 individual TVAAS by years of experience, salary level, or attainment levels for advanced degrees. According to the report, teachers with fewer years of experience and teachers with lower salaries tend to have slightly higher TCAP Composite effects. Members are encouraged to review the report in its entirety at the link below.

[http://state.tn.us/sbe/2013\\_documents/February2013\\_Board\\_Meeting/II\\_B\\_Teacher\\_Characteristics\\_and\\_Effectiveness\\_Attachment.pdf](http://state.tn.us/sbe/2013_documents/February2013_Board_Meeting/II_B_Teacher_Characteristics_and_Effectiveness_Attachment.pdf).

Fielding Rolston, SBE chair, requested that the State Department of Education (SDE) come back to the board with a plan that improves alignment between performance (as defined by TVAAS) and salary distribution. This same research has been cited in the introduction of legislation calling for the requirement of a performance salary schedule. Although the SBE does not have absolute jurisdiction over matters related to salary schedules, T.C.A. 49-1-302 (4)(A) establishes its power to do the following:

Develop and adopt policies, formulas and guidelines for the fair and equitable distribution and use of public funds among public schools and for the funding of all requirements of state laws, rules, regulations and other required expenses, and to regulate expenditures of state appropriations for public education, kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12).

Additionally, T.C.A. 49-1-302 (5)(B) grants the SBE the authority to do the following:

The board may adopt a policy establishing levels of compensation that are correlated to levels and standards of teacher competency approved by the board.

Other agenda items of special interest to TEA members include the following:

**Project Coach Conversion Scale (Agenda Item III.G.)**—A revised conversion chart will be in effect for 2012-13 scores. Only Hamilton County teachers will be affected, and they should be notified in March about the specific details.

**Evaluation Models for Charter Schools (Agenda III.H.)**—Policy change will allow charter schools or any state agency school to propose its own evaluation model. The Commissioner of Education shall have the authority to approve. Since all educators must have successful evaluations in order to be advanced to the professional license, this change will allow additional flexibility for charter school teachers. It is important to note that charter schools have not been required to follow the TEAM model.

**Special Education Guidelines Regarding Specific Learning Disabilities (Agenda III.I.)**—This guideline would eliminate use of the discrepancy method and adoption of a state-approved RTI method in determination of a specific learning disability. TEA has heard from several members who have expressed concerns about resources. A public hearing is set for March 19 at 10-12 in the Andrew Johnson Tower, 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN.

**Distance and e-Learning Policy (Agenda IV.B.)**—Establishes a higher class size maximum for virtual schools. Classes may exceed the limits spelled out in T.C.A. 49-1-104 by 25%.

**Special Education Programs and Services, Rule (Agenda IV.E)**—Item was pulled from the agenda and will be considered in April 2013. It would have made major changes in the timeframe in which initial evaluations for determination for eligibility for special education must be conducted. The original proposal called for changing the timeframe from 40 school days to 60 calendar days.

**Teacher License Actions (Agenda VI)**—Formal reprimand was used as an official sanction for the first time. One of these sanctions was for a TCAP violation.