

I. Call to Order

Chairman George Cotton called the meeting to order at **5:04 p.m.** and initiated roll call. Directors Daniels and Cotton were present initially, with Directors Mitchell and Billingsley joining later to establish a quorum.

II. Special Education (SPED) Update

Kevin Smith (Interim Executive Director) and Sandra Doggett (Arkansas Public School Resource Center) presented an update on SPED compliance:

- Significant improvement in related services.
- Compliance is expected by May next year.
- A new RFP for associated services is needed for the 2024–25 school year.
- Funding is primarily through Medicaid; it is anticipated to remain stable despite national cuts.

A motion to authorize the drafting of an RFP for SPED-related services was delayed until a quorum was established. Once all directors were present, the motion **carried unanimously**.

III. Expulsion Hearing

An executive session was held to discuss a student expulsion case, resulting in the Board voting to suspend the expulsion under specific conditions:

- The student is to remain in virtual learning through Apex.
- The student must adhere to the written stipulations provided by the administration.

Judge Mitchell made and seconded a motion to modify the recommendation of expulsion as outlined above. The motion **carried unanimously**.

IV. Offer Letters

The board returned to the executive session to discuss personnel matters. Upon returning, Mr. Smith shared that offer letters for staff would be finalized and distributed the following week. No board action was required on this matter.

V. Board Leadership Motions

Director Billingsley motioned to appoint George Cotton Sr. as Board Chairman for the 2024-25 term. The motion was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

Director Billingsley motioned to extend a one-year contract to Kevin Smith for Executive Director for the 2025-26 school year. The motion was seconded and **carried** (3-1, Director Daniels opposed).

VI. Audit Items

Mr. Smith requested board approval for the 2023-24 audit extension until April 30, 2025. **Director Billingsley** moved to approve, which was seconded and **carried unanimously**.

A second request was made to approve the Arkansas Legislative Audit Committee to perform the 2024-25 audit in lieu of a private auditing firm. **Director Billingsley** moved to approve, a second was made, and the motion **carried unanimously**.

VII. Informational Items

- **Summer School:** Due to cost savings, traditional summer school has been paused in favor of credit recovery programs.
 - **Community Event:** Board member Mitchell invited Directors to an event hosted by Arkansas Learning Through the Arts.
 - **Student Highlight:** HR Director Beronica Wilder's daughter was selected for the Arkansas Governor's School – the Board offered congratulations on this achievement.
-

VIII. Adjournment

Judge Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and approved at **7:26 p.m.**

Minutes prepared by Sydney A. Dooley, Executive Support Manager.

George Cotton Sr.

George Cotton Sr. (May 28, 2025 11:27 CDT)

George Cotton, Sr.
Board Chairman

Vince Billingsley

Vince Billingsley (May 21, 2025 14:45 CDT)

Vince Billingsley
Board Secretary/Treasurer