

Item 2:

Special Election of State Board for Educator Certification Officers

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

DESIRED OUTCOME: The State Board for Educator Certification will elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary during a special election as the result of recent board member vacancies.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Texas Education Code (TEC) §21.036 and Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 17.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately upon Board approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Texas Education Code (TEC) requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years and allows the Board to elect other officers from among its membership. The Board Operating Policies and Procedures (BOPP) mandates the Board elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary according to the terms of the BOPP.

According to the BOPP, elections shall take place at the last regularly scheduled Board meeting of each odd-numbered calendar year, unless a special election to fill a vacant position is necessary. The officer-elect assumes office at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the following calendar year, or for a special election, immediately upon Board vote.

Recent vacancies of the SBEC requires the need for the Board to hold a special election for all three officer positions. The officers elected will assume office immediately and the term will be effective until December 2023.

Officer Positions Prescribed in the BOPP:

- **Chairperson.** The Board shall elect one of its members to serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the Board.
- **Vice-Chairperson.** The Board shall elect one of its members to serve as Vice-Chairperson. In the event of absence or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the Board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson during that absence or disability. In case of vacancy of the office of Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer of the Board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson until the position of Chairperson is filled.
- **Secretary.** The Board shall elect one of its members to serve as Secretary. In the event of absence or disability of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary shall serve as presiding officer of the Board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson during that absence or disability. In case of vacancy of the office of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary shall serve as presiding officer of the Board and carry out all duties of the Chairperson until the position of Chairperson is filled.

As prescribed in the BOPP, officers shall serve for two years, or until a successor has been duly elected in the event of a vacated position.

According to the BOPP, Robert's Rules of Order, and prior SBEC practice, Board officers are nominated and seconded from the floor. If there is more than one nominee for a position, paper ballots are used, with the winner being the person who receives a plurality of the votes (more votes than any other candidate, whether or not that number constitutes a majority of all votes cast). If the vote results in a tie for the most votes between two or more candidates, the chairperson reopens the floor for additional nominations, if any, and a second vote is taken. If there is still a tie for a plurality of the votes, the election is then postponed to the next SBEC meeting.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: At the December 2019 SBEC meeting, Dr. Art Cavazos was elected Board Chairperson, Rohanna Brooks-Sykes was elected Board Vice-Chairperson, and Jose Rodriguez was elected Board Secretary.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

- Elect a Chairperson to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled Board meeting of 2023, or until a successor is elected.
- Elect a Vice-Chairperson to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled Board meeting of 2023, or until a successor is elected.
- Elect a Secretary to serve a term to run through the last regularly scheduled Board meeting of 2023, or until a successor is elected.

Staff Member Responsible:

Christie Pogue, Director, SBEC Policy Development and Support

Attachment:

Statutory Authority

ATTACHMENT

**Statutory Authority
Relating to Election of Board Officers**

Texas Education Code, §21.036, Officers:

The Board shall elect one of its members to serve as presiding officer for a term of two years. The presiding officer is entitled to vote on all matters before the board. The Board may elect other officers from among its membership.

Texas Constitution, Article 16, Section 17, Officers to Serve Until Successors Qualified:

All officers within this State shall continue to perform the duties of their offices until their successors shall be duly qualified.