

SPECIAL MEETING
**State Employee Advisory Commission and
Public-School Advisory Commission Minutes**

January 20, 2026

The Arkansas State Employee Advisory Commission and Public-School Employee Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was recorded and is available upon request through the Department of Shared Administrative Services. The following members were present:

ASE Commission Members Present:

**Ronda Walthall
Cynthia Dunlap
Bruce Maloch
Marty Casteel
Shane David**

PSE Commission Members Present:

**Greg Rogers
Zinnia Clanton
Debbie Jones**

Others present were Grant Wallace, Director of Employee Benefits Division, and Fran Jansen, Deputy Director of Employee Benefits Division. Also present were staff from the Employee Benefits Division, EBRx, Milliman, Colonial Life, and Health Advantage.

Chairwoman Cynthia Dunlap, seeing a quorum present, called the special meeting to order. Grant Wallace, Director of the Employee Benefits Division, presented a proposed contract with Boston Consulting Group to assist the Division with the development of a Request for Proposal for Third-Party Administration of the state healthcare benefit.

Director Wallace stated that Boston Consulting Group is one of five vendors under a statewide contract administered by the Office of State Procurement and the firm will conduct background research and market analysis, draft the RFP, and perform blind outreach to potential bidders to increase awareness and competitiveness without directing business. The total contract amount is \$280,000.

He noted that the current third-party administrator, Health Advantage, has held the contract for approximately seven years. Director Wallace explained that the complexity and size of the contract require a more innovative approach and discussed the potential for unbundling services to attract a broader range of bidders.

Director Wallace confirmed that the firm has completed prior contracts with the state and that no controversies or issues have occurred. Additional discussion addressed potential cost savings and pricing analyses based on existing claims data.

Director Wallace stated that approval of the contract is targeted for the February 2026 Arkansas Legislative Council agenda, with the RFP anticipated to be issued by the end of March and responses accepted through April.

Following discussion, Chairwoman Dunlap called for a motion to approve the contract with Boston Consulting Group. A motion was made by Marty Casteel and seconded by Shane David. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Dunlap confirmed the next regular meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026, and adjourned the meeting.