

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, August 10, 2018

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, August 10, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Diane Zook; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Dr. Sarah Moore;; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair, and Kathy McFetridge

Reports

Report 1- Division of Educator Effectiveness Report

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh presented Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau to give report.

Ms. Luneau said the State Board was provided with the full Bureau of Legislative Research report and accompanying PowerPoint.

Ms. Luneau shared presentation on Teacher Preparation Program changes. She said the percent changes were leveling off from year to year.

Ms. Luneau said the Teach Arkansas series had been successful to date.

Ms. Luneau said the Department trained cooperative personnel and teachers to provide supports and resources for teachers in districts.

Report 2- 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Ms. Randi House said she attended space camp with the national teachers of the year. Ms. House said she there were many challenges that required trust during the space camp experience. She said she hoped to encourage teachers to earn the trust of their students so that students could meet the challenges that instructors presented to them throughout the school year.

Report 3- Chair's Report

Ms. Zook said the STEP program partnership with the Arkansas Heart Hospital and Morrilton School District was off to a great start. Ms. Zook commended the program staff for the partnership.

Dr. Barth said he spoke to the next Teach for America cohort in Arkansas and it was an inspiring session. He said he was on a panel at Lake Hamilton High School with United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions. He said the panel topic was school safety.

Report 4- Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key the Department had launched many initiatives over the past three (3) years. He said it was important to reflect. Commissioner Key said everything that happens within the Department should be anchored on its mission and vision statements.

Commissioner Key said the Department had to align the language used in external communications to the Department's vision and mission. He said the Department wanted to ensure that communication from the Department to districts and schools was simplified and aligned.

Commissioner Key said there would be more conversation about the work the Department was doing with Professional Learning Communities and High-Reliability Schools to ensure team members could support districts and districts could support schools.

Report 5- State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Task Force on Student Discipline member Dr. Hill shared a draft report to the State Board. He said some recommendations would require legislative action.

Dr. Barth said the report would be on the September 2018 action agenda. He said the State Board might consider an action plan to make sure that the recommendations made in the report could be implemented.

Liaison to ForwARd Arkansas Dr. Barth said Ms. Chambers would share feedback on the five (5) ForwARd communities reflection session.

Ms. Chambers said the ForwARd communities came together to share their progress around three (3) priority areas.

Dr. Barth said ForwARd had work groups collaborating in advance of the next legislative session.

Dr. Barth said ForwARd was hosting a data conference in September.

Dr. Barth said ForwARd was focusing on community school work in the Dollarway School District. He said ForwARd applied for a grant to continue this work in additional school districts.

Dr. Barth said ForwARd was working on its website and communication tools.

Ms. Zook said the Age of Agility Summit Arkansas conference would take place on Thursday, September 27, 2018. She said this conference would discuss the misalignment of K-12 and higher education.

Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Newton said the correction window for assessment would close on August 13, 2018. She said the ESSA School Index would be posted in October. She said the next steering committee meeting would be after the ESSA School Index was posted.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook shared a report from Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman.

Liaison to Human Resources Ms. Chambers said Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford would attend a session at Walmart to discuss diversity issues within the workplace.

Liaison to National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Ms. Newton said the National Council for the American Worker was formed by executive order. She said this action responded to the need for more affordable education, job training, and strategies for addressing workforce issues. She said the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. She said the act was dedicated to increasing access to high-quality Career Technical Education.

Dr. Barth said NASBE would hold its annual session on October 17-20, 2018.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said Mr. Matt Sewell was hired as the new Director of Special Education.

Ms. Chambers said she was interested in engaging in arts work within her official capacity as State Board member.

Commissioner Key said Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith had facilitated more collaboration between Department content specialists whose work is in the arts.

Commissioner Key said the Student-Focused, Teacher Led conference would be held on September 5, 2018. He said the conference was a partnership between The Reform Alliance, AdvanceEd, and the Department.

Adjournment

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Jay Barth, Chair