

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, May 10, 2019

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, May 10, 2019, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Brett Williamson

Reports

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Randi House

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Randi House told her story behind her ATOY platform of #OneYearOneTeacher, detailing how her second grade teacher, Ms. Sheila Foley, inspired confidence in herself and later was the inspiration for why Ms. House became a teacher. Ms. House invited Ms. Foley to be recognized by the State Board. Ms. House said that is was the seemingly small things that Ms. Foley did during second grade that helped Ms. House immensely. These were things like inviting Ms. House's dad to class, giving her the lead role in a play, and letting Randi be one of the students in a photo for the paper. Ms. House also does some of the same things in her classes that Ms. Foley did, such as cooking every Friday. Ms. House reminded everyone that it only takes one teacher, one year to make an impact. Ms. House presented Ms. Foley with the book, *Letter to My Teacher*, as a gift of appreciation.

Ms. Chambers asked what advice Ms. Foley had for the State Board members. Ms. Foley said that while education has changed over the years, children have remained the same. She said that you can tell by non-verbal clues if a child is scared and that teacher need to be intuitive. Ms. Foley recommended not being in a hurry in the beginning of the year and get to know the students. She said that children, the age that she taught, want to know three main things during the first three weeks: (1) that they are loved, (2) time for recess, and (3) time for snack. After the third week of school, when a relationship has been formed, is when Ms. Foley suggested that they start the actual work.

Chair's Report

Dr. Barth did not have a report to provide.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key talked about how Department strategic planning team member meet the first Friday of every month. During these "First Friday" meetings, various team members are recognized, as well as the births of team members' children, grandchildren, or other relations and the team members are given a stack of children's books during the "Raising Readers" celebration. Commissioner Key presented Dr. Hill a stack of book in honor of the birth of Dr. Hill's grandson.

Commissioner Key showed the PBS NewsHour video, *What parents of dyslexic children are teaching schools about literacy*. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/what-parents-of-dyslexic-children-are-teaching-schools-about-literacy>

Commissioner Key provided each of the State Board members with a G.U.I.D.E. for Life booklet and invited Assistant Commissioner Stacy Smith to explain it. Ms. Smith said these are the standards for personal competencies (social-emotional skills and soft skills). A draft version of a video about the G.U.I.D.E. for Life was presented. G.U.I.D.E. stands for five principles: growth, understanding, interactions, decisions, and empathy.

Ms. Chambers said, regarding the PBS video, that she appreciated the vulnerability of how the story was being told. She said she hopes that we can continue to use venues like PBS to get more education information out to all stakeholders.

Ms. Zook asked about how to access the G.U.I.D.E. for the Life materials. Ms. Smith said the full launch is scheduled to happen during the ADE Summit this summer. She said that they have PowerPoint presentations which they will be able to provide to the State Board members to use at their speaking engagements. Over the coming year the Department is going to work to ensure that all teachers are aware of the G.U.I.D.E. for Life through the creation of resources, materials, and supplies and to encourage the natural integration of these standards in the classroom environment.

Committee Reports

Ms. Zook reported on Special Education. She said there was a 1.5 hour Leadership Institute held on April 25th about the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The curriculum assessment team was in the process of providing training for novice special education teachers in northwest Arkansas. She said the teachers and dyslexia specialists will be attending IDEA and Arkansas Dyslexia Law training in DeQueen and Mena at the education service cooperative in May. She said that one part of the law which she sees as helpful is that the number of children screened and the number being served is required to be posted online. The curriculum assessment team will be partnering with the state's English for Speakers of Other Languages to help ensure that students are not identified as needing special services when language is the actual barrier to learning.

Dr. Barth asked what the implementation plan is for the new legislation barring corporal punishment for certain students with disabilities. Commissioner Key said that he does not think there is anything solid in place yet. The legal and special education teams are looking into this determine the best course of action.

Ms. Newton had no report on NASBE.

Ms. Chambers reported on Human Resources. She said Coordinator of Professional Development Mr. Kevin Beaumont has been working on piloting on onboarding process for the Department. Mr. Beaumont and his team looked into best practices of other state agencies and business while creating the pilot program.

Ms. Zook reported on Public School Accountability. She said that she believes in June that Accountability will report on the standards and whether any schools have been cited or are on probation. Ms. Zook said they are working on the 2020 business rules for calculating ESSA School Index. They are also working on new resources, which are the 2020 business rules for

the Report Card as well as the 2020 technical manual and accountability reporting. Ms. Zook said that school level finances are now available under Report Cards on My School Info.

Ms. Newton reported on the ESSA Steering Committee. She said that the Reports Cards are out and she thinks they had a good reception.

Ms. Zook had no report on ForwARd Arkansas. Ms. Chambers said that ForwARd Arkansas is in the early days of helping facilitate discussions around arts integration. She said that there was a meeting about a week or two ago at Crystal Bridges in northwest Arkansas regarding how to provide an environment which encourages the use of arts as a means of teaching and a means of learning within a conventional setting.

Ms. Dean reported for Family and Community Engagement. She said on April 15, 2019, the Report Cards went live and informational videos and flyers were posted on social media every week since the 15th. On April 18, 2019, State Director for Stakeholder Communication/Family & Community Ms. Kim Wright presented a session on Family and Community Engagement Essentials and spoke as a panelist at the Arkansas Head Start Association conference in Little Rock. On April 22-24, 2019, Ms. Geania Dickey arranged for Ms. Kim Wright, Ms. Chelsea Moore, and Ms. Dean to attend the Family Centered Coaching Training in Little Rock. Also, on April 24, 2019, they also attended the Equity Story Slam at the Clinton School of Public Service, which was hosted by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. On April 24, 2019, Ms. Dean also attended a collaboration/planning meeting for the birth to twelve grade programs and schools. Ms. Wright and Ms. Moore presented engagement information at the Little Rock School District parent facilitator coordinators interviewer meeting on April 25, 2019. From April 30 – May 3, 2019, Ms. Wright attended the Professional Development for Healthy Schools Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she received information on engagement involving mental health, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed schools, and equity. Ms. Moore presented on engagement and extended invitations to upcoming trainings to new charter school leaders on April 30. On May 2, Ms. Moore presented on federal parent and family engagement and extended invitations to upcoming training at the Arkansas Association of Federal Coordinators Conference in Hot Springs. On May 3, Mr. Kevin Ward and Mr. Fred Hodge attended the Sheridan Elementary Community Reading Event. From May 6-10, Ms. Wright and Ms. Moore provided training to parent facilitators and coordinators on the framework toolkit and the template for parents and family engagement plans at four education services cooperatives. Ms. Dean said that they have new guides and sample templates which have been created for parent and family engagement plans for schools and districts. There is a new Indistar template for parent and family engagement plans which now includes federal and state requirements in one document. Also created were the Family and Community Engagement Framework and Toolkit Google sites. She said that Arkansas has a good foundation for family and community engagement.

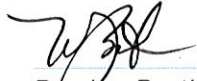
Election of 19-20 State Board Officers

The Nominating Committee named their nominees as Ms. Zook (Chair) and Ms. Dean (Vice-Chair) during last month's meeting. A roll call vote was held and the State Board voted unanimously in favor of the nominating committee's choices. Ms. Zook and Ms. Dean's roles will begin on July 1, 2019.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair



Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner