

Minutes
State Board of Education Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and
Deeper Learning Grant
Friday, October 13, 2017

The Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant met Friday, October 13, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Room 201-A. The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Co-Chair; Geania Dickey, Facilitator; Meghan Ables, ADE Public Information Manager; and Courtney Cochran, 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Absent: Charisse Dean, Co-Chair

Consent Agenda

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dickey, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – September 15, 2017 *kk*

Action Agenda

State Consortium on Family Engagement Update

Ms. Ables said she attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Consortium on Family Engagement meeting. She said the Center on Education Equity and the National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement were present at the consortium. She said there were several states with significant progress in the area of family engagement.

Ms. Ables said the National PTA Standards are the foundation for Kansas. She said Kansas developed a survey for districts on family and community engagement. She said being student-focused means that families must be the foundation.

Ms. Ables said every district must have a family coordinator in Maryland. She said the Family Engagement Toolkit will be used.

Ms. Ables said Illinois did five years of research and created a common definition of family engagement. She said state-wide engagement centers were also developed.

Ms. Ables said equity labs are currently being developed across the state of Arkansas. These labs will be stationed through the cooperatives.

Ms. Ables said there were 20 sessions of PD for parents conducted across the state in Maryland.

Ms. Ables said South Carolina used Kellogg funding to create a family engagement unit within the department. She said the state is using My Brother's Keeper as a partner.

Ms. Ables said she believes the task force should do a gap analysis to understand what is happening in the Department and the state. She said the task force should decide where it wants to go and form a coalition.

Ms. Ables said her next consortium meeting is December 6, 2017.

Ms. Reith said the stakeholders involved in developing the framework of Arkansas should be Arkansans. She said having thought partners join and help in the work before the coalition is created would be a good model. She said good starter groups to connect with include the Opportunity to Learn Campaign, Grade Level Reading Campaign, and the National Association of State Boards of Education among others.

Updates on Action Items

Ms. Dickey distributed copies of *Powerful Partnerships* by Karen L. Mapp, Ilene Carver, and Jessica Lander, and *Beyond the Bake Sale* by Ann T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davie to the group

Ms. Dickey said the group should consider a few questions including: What barriers are there to achieving the goal [family engagement in learning]? How can the Department and the Arkansas State Board of Education help?

A Closer Look at the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnership

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the Department is developing a framework for continuous improvement. He said there are four domains: Turnaround Leadership, Talent Development, Instructional Transformation, and Culture Shift. He said CCSSO is asking that states address family engagement in learning through the consortium, and states are also expected to address meaningful engagement of family and community engagement as part of ESSA. He said state expectations and the work being done through the CCSSO consortium should be aligned.

Dr. Hernandez said a set of minimal requirements as well as best practice expectations that will be presented to districts. He said the framework will engage districts on how to support schools in exemplary family and community engagement.

Objectives/Timeline

Ms. Reith said Partner for Every Child in Washington, D.C. is a good group to reach out to. She said the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) is another interest group. She said IDRA is a federally funded equity center.

Ms. Ables said she must establish the research, establish a coalition, and find out what is being done in the Department around family and community engagement before the next CCSSO coalition meeting in December.

ADE Operations Manager Mr. Freddie Scott said the intelligence piece is the higher level goal of the coalition in regards to making sure the work being done reaches families and communities.

Ms. Reith said the coalition should be a model for the districts to replicate the same thing in their districts with local communities.

Ms. Ables said Dr. Geraldine Mallett should be in attendance for the November meeting in order to share state and federal requirement for family and community engagement.

Dr. Hernandez said state and federal school regulations should be known to the group. He said a conversation on support should be created versus a conversation on compliance. He said base-level expectations should not necessitate additional funding.

Ms. Ables said the 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year finalists may be able to pilot some of the best practices in *Powerful Partnerships*. She said the task force may consider inviting them to join the coalition.

Prior to November, Ms. Ables and Dr. Hernandez will gather a resource list and data that the task force can draw from, information on what is happening in the Department around family and community engagement, and a mapping of other state frameworks.

Ms. Reith will secure an outside facilitator for the November planning meeting of the Taskforce. The task force will work on a plan for establishing goals, a timeline and the proposed members of the coalition during the November 2017 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Mireya Reith, Co-Chair

Charisse Dean, Co-Chair

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