

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

The Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap was established by the Arkansas State Legislature, under Act 33 during the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

Minutes
January 15, 2015

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Dr. Luis Restrepo (via conference call), Ms. Lillian Williams, (via conference call), Senator Jack Crumbly, Kathy Powers, Jesse Hargrove

Others in Attendance: Jonathan Crossley

Meeting location: Conference Room 303-B, Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

Welcome/ Call to Order:

Dr. Dawn Simpson, chair, opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were reviewed. Senator Crumbly made a motion to approve, Rev. Killion seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2015 Subcommittees:

Simpson read the past committees, and asked members to sign up for future committees.

- a. Powers will chair the Common Core committee, Simpson and Hargrove will serve
- b. Simpson will chair the Symposium committee, Powers will serve
- c. Fulkerson will chair the parental involvement committee, Killion and Crumbly will serve
- d. Lang-Brown will chair the ACSIP/Educational Resources committee, and Restrepo and Crumbly serve
- e.

Simpson will send out an email to the rest of the members for committee membership.

Closing the Gap Commission presentation to the AR School Board of Education:

- a. The Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Annual Report to the AR School Board. Minutes were taken during the presentation at the state board meeting and the presentation was televised.
- b. The Commission presented our annual report for the first time to the Board. We also requested that our link be more prominent on the ADE webpage and that \$10,000 funding be provided for the commission. The link was repositioned that day and can now be found under "A" in the alphabet listing on the ADE homepage.

Discussion of 2015 Symposium:

- a. Commissioners discussed the location for the 2015 Symposium. It was agreed that the Symposium is usually most successful when it is held in the town of one of the commissioners. The commissioners discussed the Arkansas Career Training Institute in Hot Springs. ACTI would be a good location because Simpson works there, parking and lodging are easily accessible, it houses a culinary training program to provide meals, there are

classrooms and an auditorium for general and breakout sessions, and there are several student organizations to assist with the event.

b. Date to be determined

c. Crossley is working with Assistant Commissioner Ivy Pfeffer on a task force to analyze equitable access to quality teachers, especially for children in high poverty areas of the state. He suggested that the two commissions might work well together. Simpson suggested that Pfeffer possibly present on the topic at our annual symposium.

d. **Discussion on Child Nutrition numbers:**

a. Senator Crumbly discussed how that the child nutrition numbers can be deceiving. We need to focus on the Dept. of Ed actual baseline numbers, not the provision numbers

b. Crumbly presented a chart about poverty rates for three counties, Lee, Monroe, and Phillips, about the poverty numbers in our state titled "Strive Institute of Technology"

Discussion on Community and parental involvement:

Simpson shared a report presented a report we heard at the state board meeting about the state of ABC, Head Start, or vouchers for children in various section of the state. The report was titled, "The Effective Use of State Resources and Coordination of Programs to Improve Educational Outcomes for Children from Birth to Age Five."

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 19th at Arkansas Department of Higher Education. A conference call-in number will be provided. Simpson proposed that the March date be a joint regular meeting/ committee meeting. March 19th is a proposed date for that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20