

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
February 21, 2013

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Ms. Kathy Powers, Ms. Kim Wilson, Dr. Luis Restrepo (via conference call), Dr. Jon Fulkerson, Ms. Susan Harriman, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Ms. Lillian Williams, Dr. Jesse Hargrove

Others in Attendance:N/A

Meeting location:Conference Room 201-A, Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

Welcome/ Call to Order:

Dr. Dawn Simpson, chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes Reviewed from meeting on January 17, 2013: One typo had to be corrected, but members reviewed minutes, future meeting dates confirmed as March 14, April 18, April 3, 2013. A motion was made by Dr. Fulkerson and seconded by Rev. Killion to accept the revised minutes.

June Educational Symposium discussion:

- a. Simpson summarized a meeting with Brown about the summer symposium in Pine Bluff. Harriman stated that travel mileage was approved, but was unsure about other travel costs (hotel, etc.). Thursday, June 6th will be the meet and greet, and PD will be offered for the Friday June 7th date.
- b. Ideas were shared for getting information out about the symposium: Simpson suggested posting information on the Gap Commission website, Powers suggested getting information to the Coop professional development calendar, Fulkerson suggested contacting the AAEA administrators group, Restrepo and Williams recommended contacting the 2 year and 4 year AACRAO: College Admissions and Registrars in order to invite admissions personnel. Williams suggested inviting the Association of Student Assistant Programs: AACRO and TRIO (Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search...) and ASAP Association of Student Assistance Programs.
- c. Suggested topics for the symposium: Common Core, parental involvement, technology, etc. Fulkerson stated that if we provide PD on technology should be geared to how to apply the tech to the classroom. He said that we need to stay true to the goals of the symposium and gear the PD to bring up the "Gap" students. Restrepo suggested that we include a "Digital Humanities" workshop by Dave Frederick (a classicist). Powers requested that tech PD not be device specific. Brown topics: retention, remediation, parent involvement, teacher preparation, licensure, graduation rates, budgeting/finances/distribution of resources. Harriman suggested the Grade Level Reading program, lunch in the classroom program be included at sessions at the June symposium.
- d. Thursday evening tentative list of people: Dr.Kimbrell, Linda Poindexter-Chesterfield, Dr. Johnson/Dr. Rainey, Johnny Keyes, Kim Wilson.
- e. Brown reported progress in planning the symposium: she has talked with Dr. Johnson, location will be on campus, meet and greet more formal with a discussion panel, reception following panel, Friday morning the focus would be parent involvement, then follow with break-out sessions. Possible theme: "Embracing Arkansas' Future: Parent Involvement with a Vision for Closing the Academic Achievement Gap"

- f. Restrepo recommended that we charge a nominal fee in order to pay for food and ensure attendance- possibly for the meet and greet
- g. Brown restated that this is a public meeting, and the goal is to include everyone
- h. Fulkerson suggested that details of the symposium be hashed out in the planning subcommittee, then that committee bring consensus items back to the general meeting

Standing Subcommittee Reports: Each subcommittee needs to meet and present information at the March meeting dates

Future Meeting Dates: March 14, 2013, April 18, 2013, May 23, 2013

Mission as outlined in House Bill 2184:Simpson: we need to keep the focus on the goals outlined in the bill; Annual report findings on website with Committee's recommendations

Suggested presentations/speakers to present to Gap Commission: Wilson suggested "lunch in the classroom" project presenter, Powers recommended a pre-k program presenter, Grade Level Reading program, Jim Boardman re: teacher assessment TESS and teacher prep. Programs, Luis suggested a report on ELL and how are we doing in terms of serving them state-wide, possibly Andre Guerrero

Current Vacancies/Recommendations for Appointments: recommendations for the Commission awaiting being sworn-in: Harvey Benton and Jack Crumbly

Future subcommittee meeting dates: Monday, March 4th at 10am-11am for CCSS, and Monday 11th at 10am ACSIP followed by the Local Task Force subcommittee at 11am, Parental involvement led by Fulkerson will meet electronically then report out to group, Conference call in number: 501-683-1330

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm in order to allow subcommittees to meet.