

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
October 10, 2013

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Ms. Kathy Powers, Dr. Luis Restrepo (via conference call),

Absent: Ms. Lillian Williams, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Mr. Jack Crumbly, Mr. Jon Fulkerson, Dr. Jesse Hargrove

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

Welcome/ Call to Order:

Dr. Dawn Simpson, chair, opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes of September 13, 2013:

Mr. Kathy Powers made a motion to accept the minutes, and Dr. Killion seconded the motion.

June Educational Symposium in Fayetteville Discussion:

- a. Invite Scholastic, Inc to Symposium in Fayetteville in 2014. They may give a presentation for Closing the Academic Achievement Gap. Pair the presentation with a roundtable with local schools to share ideas for helping students. Because of Scholastic, Inc's generosity, discuss how the Commission could move forward with them. Another possibility is to give them a booth along with other vendors.
- b. Ask around for local Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Commissions and ask them to share at the Symposium or be on the panel.
- c. Focus symposium to keep the conversation about the folks in that area.
- d. Monday, June 9, 2014 is the proposed date for the Symposium.
 - a. will allow for Sunday to meet and greet others.
 - b. will work for teachers to gain professional development since it is after June 2nd.
- e. Scholastic, Inc could be part of a panel. The panel could include some of those superintendents who have written about establishing a local Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Commission. Customize the Commission's response back to superintendents to include reports from Scholastic, Inc of suggestions to help them in their schools.
- f. Move forward with Common Core as part of meetings at the Symposium.
- g. Decide how the Commission wants the program organized.
- h. Discussion about how to improve the Symposium.

Commission Work Report Discussion:

- a. Report should include the following:
 - background on the Mission and Legislation
 - commission members' names and duties
 - list of committee meetings attended
 - list of what is on the website link

- relevant data
 - possible links to any presentation materials that were shared
 - committee that reports on the Symposium
 - committee work
 - summary and recommendations
 - any other relevant information.
- b. How could we include Scholastic, Inc presentation in our report due November 1st?
 - c. Reference the presentations in our reports to include specific information.
 - d. Reference last January's minutes for a list of who is on the different sub-committees.
 - e. Ask for a budget with a goal in mind of how we are to use that money (i.e. Commission's June Symposium event).

Ideas for Follow-up after turning in Commission Work Report:

- a. Invite legislative members who read the Commission reports to join our efforts to help children of Arkansas.
- b. Socialize with legislative members upon turning in the Commission report to them and follow-up with conversations with them.
- c. Update the report in January and February.
- d. Those legislators that befriended the Commission last year could get a copy of the report.
- e. Use web link to contact or connect to legislators. Schools should have had a Gap Commission back in 2012.

Ideas for Future Presentations:

- Invite a local task force to present.
- Dr. Tucker is working with pre-school programs. One strategy that helps is quality, universal pre-school from research.
- How are programs affected by federal cuts: 21st Century Head Start and college outreach programs – GEAR UP, TRIO, and Upward Bound programs, under Title 1?
- What are the implications or level of change for these programs?
- Could University of Arkansas Public Policy Center present again since they have presented in the past?

Future Meeting Dates:

November 7th

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Recorded by Connie Storey