

**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
Friday, February 14, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, February 14, 2020, in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (Division) Auditorium. Chair Ms. Diane Zook called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Zook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Ms. Diane Zook, Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Mr. Brett Williamson; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Ouida Newton; Ms. Susan Chambers (on phone); Ms. Stacey McAdoo, 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Ms. Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; and Mr. Chad Pekron

**Changes to the Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Reports**

**State Board Member Reports/Comments**

Ms. Newton said she was invited to attend the Wednesday session about the Arkansas STEM Model Program, which is an example of best practices for what a STEM model school would look like. She congratulated the Division team who work on the School Report Cards on their hard work. Ms. Newton invited Assistant Commissioner Ms. Deborah Coffman to show the recent updates to the My School Info website. Ms. Coffman thanked Arijit Sarkar and his team for their work on the webpage. Ms. Newton said the ESSA Steering Committee meeting was moved to 9:30 a.m. April 1, 2020.

Ms. Kim Wright provided an update for Family and Community Engagement and the District Plan review. She discussed the webinar for district plan assistance and the other opportunities for asking questions across state.

Ms. McAdoo said she has completed a lot of travel over the past four weeks. She attended the national championship in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she received professional development about the difference between being an ally and an accomplice. She also attended Minority and Women Leadership Training in Florida, where they learned to organize and conduct a campaign in less than 36 hours and about how to be an antiracist. Ms. McAdoo said she also went to New Mexico and learned about elevating excellent teaching beyond recognition. She received an award in Washington D.C. at the Salute to Excellence in Teaching. In Tennessee, she said she learned strategies for teachers about self-care for both teachers and students. Ms. McAdoo attended the Teacher Leadership Institute at Petit Jean Mountain and discussed elevating teacher voice. She also went on school visits, poetry workshops, and the Impacting Tomorrow Summit at UCA.

Dr. Moore said this year she has been working on the R.I.S.E. Arkansas K-2 training and she got to visit Greenbrier School District to observe their early morning intervention for all of their students.

Ms. Zook said the Curriculum and Assessment unit has begun the work to create an alternative English language proficiency test for English Learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These are being worked on by a collaborative of 11 states. A team member was also selected to be an item writer for the dynamic learning maps alternative assessment. She also reported that the Special Education unit provided professional development to the Prescott School District and the special education staff at Fayetteville School District on inclusive practices. The professional development is titled, "No Limits," and focuses on guiding school team to be more inclusive in their educational practices.

Arkansas Better Chance Education Manager Ms. Susan Underwood introduced the preschool report and provided handouts to the State Board. Head Start State Collaboration Office Director Ms. Jacki Govan provided background information on the Early Head Start/Head Start programs. She said Head Start is the only program in the state which provides comprehensive services (education disability services; and health, oral health, and mental health services). She reviewed the other initiatives they provide, which were listed on the handout provided. There was a brief discussion about the funding for Head Start. Ms. Underwood provided background information on the Arkansas Better Chance program from 1991 to present day, as well as the core ABC components and services. She said funding priority is determined based on school districts/ areas that are designated by the Division as Level 5 Intensive Support and those located in a school district in Academic Distress, and areas with unserved 3 and/or 4 year-old children whose family income is 200% or less of the federal poverty level.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Key provided information on the ESSA Update Report to the Education Committee on February 10, 2020. He explained how to access his PowerPoint presentation on the Division webpage and reviewed some of the sections with the State Board. He provided brief updates about some Division initiatives like the Arkansas Declaration of Learning, R.I.S.E. Arkansas, Computer Science, Teach Arkansas, G.U.I.D.E for Life, Arkansas A.W.A.R.E., Arkansas Math Quest, and others. He also discussed the high school pre-educator program of study, Certified Teacher Assistant.

Ms. Zook asked that the State Board members be notified of any educational celebrations so they can attend.

Ms. Newton asked if the Division would run the Teach Again campaign for another round. Mr. Key said that the Division is refining their system and will get back into that campaign.

### **New Business**

Ms. Zook asked Dr. Hill and Ms. Newton to serve alongside herself on the Nominating Committee. She said Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle will survey the State Board members to see who is willing to serve as State Board Chair or Vice-Chair for the coming year.

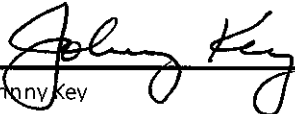
## Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## Adjournment

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

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Mrs. Diane Zook  
State Board Chair

X   
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Mr. Johnny Key  
Secretary of Education

