

Minutes
State Board of Education
Friday, January 10, 2020

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, January 10, 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; Ms. Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Mr. Brett Williamson; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Ms. Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Ouida Newton; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Chad Pekron and Ms. Stacey McAdoo, 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Reports

Comprehensive 2019-2020 Semester Report on Licensure Exceptions

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Melissa Jacks said most of the data is from the fall of 2019. She said the types of licensure exceptions/waivers that are available are as follows.

- Additional Licensure Plans (ALP)
- Long-Term Substitutes (LTS)
- Emergency Teaching Permit (ETP)
- Act 1240 Waivers (AWL)
- Effective Teacher Licensure Exceptions

Ms. Jacks reviewed the numbers for each of the licensure exceptions/waivers in terms of year-to-year, fall-to-fall, and the percentage of each per school district.

Ms. Chambers asked if a stacked bar chart could be created of this licensure information over the past 3-5 years. She said that information could help determine the number of teachers needed each year and where the teachers appear to be coming from each year. Assistant Commissioner Karli Saracini and Ms. Jacks asked clarifying questions and said they would work on this request with Special Projects Administrator Mr. Frank Servedio.

Ms. Newton asked if additional supports have been considered for districts who are listed on multiple lists of this report. Ms. Jacks said that they are comparing that data and she discussed the currently available supports for school districts. One of the supports are the recruitment and retention facilitators at the Education Service Cooperatives to help provide testing supports for teachers on licensure exceptions. There is also a dedicated position at the Division which focuses on the recruitment and retention of alternate route educators.

Ms. Chambers discussed that Public School Accountability assists Educator Effectiveness and Licensure in ensuring the data is being reported correctly. Ms. Newton suggested that Educator Effectiveness needs to be able to compare the specific names which may be duplicated across different reports. Ms. Zook asked Staff Attorney Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford if there would be any

legal issue in receiving the lists with teacher names. Ms. Salas-Ford said that would not be an issue.

Ms. McFetridge asked that Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle send this report to the State Board members via email for their further review.

State Board Member Reports/Comments

Ms. Newton said that she has been asked to work on a couple of STEM-based initiatives. One initiative is the creation of an Arkansas STEM model program state advisory committee and their first meeting will be in February. This committee will be working to create a model which will connect STEM, careers, and career training opportunities to the appropriate part of the state and student needs. The other initiative is the Arkansas Math Quest Family Engagement Coalition, which is a collaborative group supporting students, parents, schools, and districts to have better critical thinking, problem-solving, and reasoning. The goal is to develop activities centered on understanding in mathematics for schools to use with stakeholders. The first meeting of the Coalition is January 21, 2020.

Ms. Dean said the Family and Community Engagement team had a good meeting last month. She said she has been conducting community visits with different schools. Ms. Dean said she visited Cloverdale Middle School and Meadowcliff Elementary with Public School Program Coordinator Mr. Reginald Ballard. She plans on starting to highlight different and unique community partnership with different schools every month going forward.

Ms. Zook said she heard from Assistant Commissioner Ms. Deborah Coffman that the Division is ahead of schedule for school data. She said the U.S. Department of Education set one percent in special education for students who could take an alternative test instead of the ACT Aspire. Ms. Zook noted that if a state exceeds that percentage, then the state special education unit must go visit the districts to find out if the higher percentage is correct.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Key said most of the aspects of the report cards are going to be three months ahead of schedule. The data will be released in modules, possibly starting as early as next week.

Regarding pre-kindergarten, Mr. Key said that he heard of a new legislative caucus, the early childhood well-being caucus, and he has asked Chief Legislative Affairs Director Ms. Erin Franks to gather more information about this. He said he would be sure to share more information as in becomes available.

Mr. Key said Arkansas GIS is working to align school district and all other maps in preparation for the 2020 census. He said Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford has been helping work on this if any State Board members had any question.

Mr. Key passed out copies of the high attendance zone maps as a follow-up to previous discussions.

Mr. Key, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, and State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez attended the AAEA Aspiring Superintendent Session yesterday before the State Board meeting. He noted that there is a need to develop state school and district leaders. He said he was proud of the messages he heard at the session in support of these aspiring superintendents.

Report on Leadership Coordinating Council Work

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said the mission of the School Leadership Coordinating Council (SLLC) is to coordinate and recommend and state leadership development system for public education in Arkansas. The vision is that educational leaders will create a culture of systems thinking which builds leadership capacity and results in student and adult growth, success, and achievement. She discussed the 2019-2020 commitment statements regarding the focus of the SLLC regarding the development of school principals and the proposed action steps. Dr. Pfeffer reviewed the career trajectory of school principals and the proposed modules of support they would possibly require.

New Business

There was no new business.

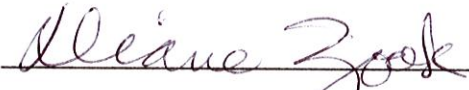
Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Hill to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan


Ms. Diane Zook, SBE Chair


Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary of Education