

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Friday, December 13, 2019**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, December 13, 2019, 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; Ms. Ouida Newton; Mr. Chad Pekron; Ms. Stacey McAdoo, 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Dr. Fitz Hill

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Reports

Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Ms. McAdoo and 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) Ms. Randi House introduced the 2020 ATOY Mr. Joel Lookadoo to the State Board. Ms. McAdoo reviewed Mr. Lookadoo's education background and Ms. House went over the ATOY transition timeline.

Mr. Lookadoo said that he was honored to have been selected at the 2020 ATOY. He said, based on a discussion he had with a former ATOY, that being selected as an ATOY is not just an award, but a role which acts as a voice for teachers across the state. Mr. Lookadoo talked about how important it is for each student to have someone to believe in them and the importance of teachers filling that role. He said as ATOY he hopes to empower students by helping to build a winning culture comprised of a few key elements (relationship, attitude, effort, excellence, growth, and leadership).

State Board Member Reports/Comments

a. Overview of Website (www.CareersNWA.com)

Ms. McFetridge introduced Dr. Joe Rollins who talked about the Northwest Arkansas Council. He discussed the four targeted areas for NWA workforce development.

- (1) Awareness and Perception;
- (2) Influence and Advocacy;
- (3) Training and Experience; and
- (4) Recruiting and Onboarding

He reviewed the website for real-time job applications at www.CareersNWA.com and how to use the website. Dr. Rollins said this website to free to use.

Ms. Newton said that a website like this would be beneficial for all of Arkansas.

b. Reading Updates

Ms. Zook introduced Ms. Jennie Riley to talk about the 95 Percent Group and literacy at Hall High School. Ms. Riley said she is amazed by the daily engagement the students and teachers have in regard to learning and teaching literacy. She said that when they looked into the data, there were 89 percent of students in the building who are not reading ready at grade level. Ms. Riley discussed the three tiers of the innovative plan for multi-tiered intervention. She said that Hall High School has some wonderful English teachers; however, they had never been taught how to teach foundational reading skills and need training, coaching, and overall support. The ELA teacher at Hall High School are currently receiving R.I.S.E. training and they are learning and implementing a variety of reading strategies in a whole class setting. Now, Ms. Riley says that students are actively engaged, teachers are implementing new and additional methods for learning, growth is being demonstrated in class, and Word Study skills in Lexia Power Up are advancing more quickly than the previous year. She showed a video of a model lesson at Hall High School.

Ms. Jaimie Young said that for the 12 years she has been at Hall High School, many of the students are coming in at third to fifth grade reading levels. She said this year is the first time there was been a change in literacy at Hall High School. Ms. Young said teachers in other content areas have shown great interest in finding ways to help in their own classrooms.

Ms. Chambers asked if this could be applied in other areas. Assistant Commissioner Ms. Stacy Smith said her team is in the process of reviewing literacy programs as required by recent legislation.

Ms. Young noted that she has an open door policy for her classroom and invited the State Board members to come and observe her lessons.

- c. Ms. Newton discussed the December 11, 2019, Vision for Excellence in Education and Arkansas Accountability System Steering Committee meeting. She said that this week was the four-year anniversary of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Ms. Newton also noted that the Division said they are working on finding ways to get more information out to the public. She said the next school report cards are to be released three months early, in January and anything else which is not available in January will be made available in April. Regarding assessment, Ms. Newton noted that the ACT Aspire is going to be field testing a new writing summative. She also said that a PLC group is being created for principals statewide. Ms. Newton said Assistant Commissioner Ms. Deborah Coffman discussed the amendment process and the Division's plans moving forward.

Ms. Newton discussed the NASBE Governor's Affairs Committee meeting via phone call. She said she talked about literacy and career education as the focus for Arkansas as well as teacher recruitment and retention.

Ms. Newton also discussed her visit to South Pike County for the Apple Distinguished Schools recognition of their elementary and high school.

- d. Ms. Dean said the Family and Community Engagement team is continuing the district engagement plan review as well as the monthly advisory meetings.
- e. Ms. McAdoo said that this meeting marks her fifth month as part of the State Board and said her involvement with the State Board has been one of the most traumatic timeframes of her professional career. She said she hopes that the next several months are less negative. Ms. McAdoo said she attended the Grassroots Equity Tour and she discussed the environmental health inequities she saw at the Little Rock schools they visited.

Ms. McAdoo also discussed the Student Voice projects which allows students to be heard on a wide variety of topics. She said she has been working with AETN to develop of professional development course on using poetry to help close the opportunity gap. She was also filmed by AETN as part of a docuseries.

Ms. Chambers said she appreciates Ms. McAdoo telling her truth and for being a thoughtful and honest person.

- f. Ms. Zook said 50 high school students with disabilities were able to attend a one-week, short film camp in Bentonville. She said that Little Rock School District is back on the schedule for their assistant principals and improving the quality of the IEP conferences. She said this was the last month of the MOU between LRSD and ForwARd Arkansas.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Key said he and Dr. Maria Markham visited South Arkansas Community College last month. During the trip they got to observe a lot of the college's offerings in career and technical education available in part to a strong partnership between the regional employers and the college. This partnership allows students to get relevant experience prior to joining the workforce.

Mr. Key talked about his visit to Murfreesboro High School where he met the winner of the Congressional App Challenge. The students created an applications to ease the process of checking students out of school.

Mr. Key said he has been asked to be a part of a panel discussion next month at the CCSSO Literacy Summit about what Arkansas has been doing.

Mr. Key said that mental health is a growing need and a challenge that schools are not fully equipped to handle. As a future initiative, the Division is going to be bringing together several agencies to help tackle these issues.

New Business

Ms. McAdoo said that she would like to invite students in who have participated in the Student Voice Institute to come to a future State Board meeting.

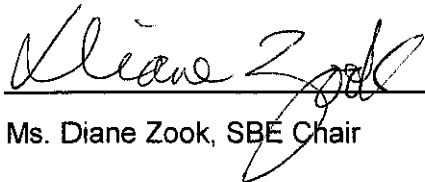
Public Comment

Public comment was heard.


Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Pekron, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan



Ms. Diane Zook, SBE Chair



Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary of Education