

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, November 8, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

**Changes to the Agenda**

The Department pulled action agenda item B-2 Consideration of Waiver of Education-Related Laws in "D" and "F" Schools in the Little Rock School District from the meeting agenda.

The Department also requested that the Act 1240 district waiver request on teacher licensure for the Jackson County School District be added to the meeting agenda.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to add the Act 1240 district waiver request for the Jackson County School District to the end of action agenda A. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

Both Ms. Zook and Ms. Newton asked to discuss consent agenda item 5, Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-108 David Wilson. Both would like to have more information on the case before they make a final decision regarding the permanent revocation of Mr. Wilson's teaching license.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the consent agenda minus item 5. The motion carried unanimously.

It was decided that item 5, Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-108 David Wilson, would be pulled from the agenda for the November 8, 2018, State Board meeting. If the educator does not object to a State Board hearing, then the case may return to the State Board in January.

Items included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – October 11, 2018 and October 12, 2018
- Newly Employed, Promotions and Separations

- Consideration of Report on Waivers to School Districts for Teachers Teaching Out of Area for Longer than Thirty (30) Days, Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-309
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-107 Laura Keith
- (*pulled from agenda*) Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-108 David Wilson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-114 Stephanie Mooney
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-120 Amanda Cassat
- Quitman School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report
- South Conway County School District Act 1240 Annual Report
- Arkansas State Board of Education Calendar
- Little Rock School District Act 1240 Annual Progress Report

### **Action Agenda A**

#### **A-1 Recognition – 2018 Jaffarian Award**

Library Media Specialist Ms. Cassandra Barnett said that the American Library Association presented the 2018 Sarah Jaffarian Award to Kelly Klover, Library Media Specialist, for her afterschool library program. Ms. Klover's program used a historic cemetery as the basis for a multi-disciplinary student project. The project, entitled, "Tales of the Crypt: Danville's Living History" is about historical persons and the history of the town of Danville, Arkansas. The Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award is used to recognize, promote and support excellence in the humanities programming in elementary and middle school libraries.

S.C. Tucker Elementary School Library Media Specialist Ms. Kelly Klover said that there has been a lot of administrative and community support for the program. She said that the program brings people's stories to life and honors someone in their local cemetery. Approximately \$15,000 has been donated by the community to renovate the cemetery. Ms. Klover said that the program involves the community, retired librarians and teachers and current educators.

#### **A-2a Resolution – Computer Science Education Week**

State Director of Computer Science Education Mr. Anthony Owen read the resolution, saying that December 3-9, 2018 has been declared as national Computer Science Education Week by Code.org, the Computer Science for All Initiative, and other nationally recognized entities.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. McFetridge, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Owen said that the State Board member were given a copy of the computer science enrollment report for the 2018-2019 school year. He said that he would be happy to return to provide a presentation to the State Board in December and answer any questions the members may have.

### **A-2b Resolution – Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month**

Arkansas School Boards Association Executive Director Dr. Tony Prothro said that January is Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

Commissioner Key read the resolution.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Prothro invited State Board members to attend the ASBA annual awards luncheon on December 6, 2018. Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle will send the luncheon information to the State Board members.

Commissioner Key said over the last few weeks Department teams have been participating in ASBA regional meetings to educate school board members on ESSA and the tools available through the Department. He thanked Dr. Prothro for inviting the Department to attend the meetings.

Ms. Zook suggested that schools invite school board members to visit and speak to students, if they are not already doing so.

### **A-2c Resolution – American Education Week**

Commissioner Key read resolution, saying that December 12-16, 2018, is American Education Week.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to take public comment at end of action agenda, with three minutes allotted to each person who signed up to speak.

### **A-3 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing the Calculation Methods for Declining Enrollment and Student Growth Funding for Public School Districts**

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said changes were made to these rules to incorporate provisions of Act 741 of 2017. The Board approved these rules for release for public comment on September 14, 2018. A public comment hearing was held and the public comment period expired on October 22, 2018. No substantive changes were made as a result of the public comment period. Ms. Hyatt said final approval is requested.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the ADE rules governing the calculation methods for declining enrollment and student growth funding for public school districts. The motion passed unanimously.



**A-4 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program and Rules Governing Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas in Arkansas High Schools with Guidelines for Endorsed Concurrent Enrollment Courses**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said changes were made to these rules to implement the changes of Acts 745 and 1118 of 2017. The Department respectfully requests that the State Board approve these proposed rules for public comment release.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Hill to release for public comment the ADE rules for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program and rules governing Advanced Placement courses in the four core areas in Arkansas high schools with guidelines for endorsed concurrent enrollment courses. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-5 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the State Board released these proposed rules for public comment on September 14, 2018. A public comment hearing was held on September 26, 2018. Public comments were received but no substantive changes made. Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board give final approval to these proposed rules pending Arkansas Legislative Council review.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the ADE rules governing consolidation and annexation of school districts, pending Arkansas Legislative Council review. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-6 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Charter School Amendments: Standards for Accreditation**

Director of Program Evaluation Dr. Alexandra Boyd said on July 1, 2018, new Standards for Accreditation became effective, necessitating a transition in waivers from the previous Standards for Accreditation. On October 18, 2018, ADE staff appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting approval of the transition of these waivers on behalf of several charter schools. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the requests. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The State Board may exercise a right of review and conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination at the State Board's next meeting.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decisions of both the district conversion and open-enrollment charter schools.

**A-7 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decisions-Summary Information**

**A) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Charter School Amendment: KIPP Delta Public Schools**

Director of Program Evaluation Dr. Alexandra Boyd said on October 18, 2018, representatives of KIPP Delta Public Schools appeared before the Charter Authorizing

Panel requesting amendments to their charter. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The State Board may exercise a right of review and conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination at the State Board's next meeting.

Ms. Zook expressed her concerns regarding the amendment.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to review the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination regarding KIPP Delta Public Schools' open-enrollment charter school amendment in December. There was a roll call vote. Ms. Dean, Ms. Zook, Ms. Newton, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Chambers, Dr. Hill and Ms. McFetridge voted yes. Dr. Moore voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion passed.

Ms. Zook said that she would specifically like to know the kind of training, certification, licensure, etc. of those mentioned and the scores in the particular areas over the last three years relative to those subgroups. She is looking for some data justification of why it is or is not working.

Dr. Barth said that he would like any empirical evidence available that the use of specialists and coaches is linked to closing the achievement gap through the growth of the lowest achieving students. He would also like to know which schools, if any, have waivers like what is being requested and what empirical evidence there is within those schools.

Ms. Newton said she would like what potential staff members does that district have that would be affected and what would their duties be and what interactions with students would they have. She also wanted to know about student performance when this has been done in the past.

**B) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open-Enrollment Charter School Amendment: The Excel Center**

Director of Program Evaluation Dr. Alexandra Boyd said on October 18, 2018, representatives of The Excel Center appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting amendments to their charter. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The State Board may exercise a right of review and conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination at the State Board's next meeting. Dr. Boyd clarified that on the voting sheet there was an item which was marked as tabled; however, The Excel Center has since withdrawn that item.

Dr. Moore noted The Excel Center will have their first graduating class this December. Dr. Boyd confirmed, saying that she believed that they will have six graduates and that the State Board members were invited to attend the ceremony.



Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision on the open-enrollment charter school amendment for The Excel Center. The motion passed unanimously.

**C) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on Open Enrollment Charter School Amendment: Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy**

Director of Program Evaluation Dr. Alexandra Boyd said on October 18, 2018, representatives of Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting amendments to their charter. By a unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board of Education to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted. The State Board may exercise a right of review and conduct a hearing on the Charter Authorizing Panel's determination at the State Board's next meeting.

Ms. Zook asked if they had an address. Dr. Boyd said that they do have the address of an existing campus and from what she understands, they would not be looking to expand for another two years.

Dr. Boyd said that ResponsiveEd operates three charters in the state. Two are Northwest Classical Academy and Quest Academy in West Little Rock. She said what they would like to do is combine the two charters under the Classical Academy model. This means the Quest Academy campus would belong to the Northwest Classical Academy Charter. She said that this would open another charter space.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel's decision open-enrollment charter school amendment for the Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

**A-8 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters**

**A) District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Horatio School District**

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools that serve students who reside in the school district. Representatives of the Horatio School District are appearing before the Board with a petition of waivers for teacher licensure. Ms. McLaughlin said that their 90 days will expire on January 15, 2019 and that the school district is requesting a three year waiver, which would end November 9, 2021.

Dr. Barth swore in all non-attorney representatives for this request.

Dr. Barth asked if there were any reporting requirements articulated in the proposal. Ms. McLaughlin answered that there were not any reporting agreements listed; however, Horatio School District Superintendent Mr. Lee Smith said that they would be willing to add an annual report to the State Board to their proposal.

The waivers being requested for the Horatio School District are as follows.

- Section 4-D.1 of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-15-1004: Qualified teachers in every public school classroom
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-309: Certified to teach grade or subject matter exception waivers
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-401: Teacher licensure requirement
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-902: Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-919: Warrants void without valid certification and contract

Mr. Smith said that he was representing six high school juniors and seniors who are participating in the inaugural year of the Lockesburg Industrial Maintenance Institute (LIMI). He said LIMI is a collaboration of the University of Arkansas Cossatot, high schools in the DeQueen-Mena Educational Service Cooperative area, industry partners and state agencies. These students have the opportunity to learn job skills worth high living wages that are learned and applied close to home without amassing huge debt; to create practical, applied entry into STEM careers; to solve historical human capital challenges for area industries; to revive a stagnant economy in southwest Arkansas; and to accomplish their vision statement Applied entry into STEM careers. To solve historical human capital challenges for area industries, to revive a stagnant economy in SW Arkansas, to accomplish their vision statement of "Every Learner-Every Dream-Every Day." Mr. Smith said that the participating students spend half of their day learning how to use industrial equipment in either the morning or afternoon and National Center for Construction Education and Research curriculum is delivered.

Ms. McLaughlin said there was no opposition and that the waivers, if approved, would be in effect November 9, 2018.

Mr. Smith confirmed that the waiver is for the Horatio School District only.

University of Arkansas Cossatot Division Chair of Skilled and Technical Sciences Mr. Steve McJunkins said that student must attend the full two years of three hour blocks to receive math credit.

Public School Program Manager Mr. Thomas Coy said he and Public School Program Advisor Ms. Veronica Hebard reviewed the curriculum and the content meets most, if not all of the standards.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said the school district can explore technical permits through the Arkansas Department of Career Education.



Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Horatio School District request for waivers granted to open-enrollment charters for a three year time period with annual reports to the State Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**B) *(Added to the agenda)* District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Jackson County School District**

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools that serve students who reside in the school district. Representatives of the Jackson County School District are appearing before the Board with a petition of waivers for teacher licensure. Ms. McLaughlin said that the school district is requesting a five year waiver, which would end November 9, 2023 and their 90 days expire on December 10, 2018. Ms. McLaughlin said she provided the State Board with paper copies of the district's waiver request form.

Ms. McLaughlin said that one of the statutes requested was Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-15-1004(a); however, the school district will actually be requesting the entire statute.

Dr. Barth swore in all non-attorney representatives for this request.

Jackson County School District Superintendent Mr. Chester Shannon provided some background information about the school district. He said that over the past five years or so, the school district lost five or six wonderful teachers to retirement. Mr. Shannon said that the waiver would help the district to grow their own teachers.

Arkansas Public School Resource Center Staff Attorney Mr. Tripp Walter said the Jackson County School District has had difficulty finding and hiring certified teachers with the content knowledge and appropriate licensures currently required under current state law. Mr. Walter said that all teachers hired under the waiver would become fully licensed. He discussed the difficulties of the recruitment of licensed educators, the past steps the district took to attempt to fix these issue without the request of a waiver and the potential outcomes of an unmitigated teacher shortage in their area.

The waivers being requested for the Jackson County School District are as follows.

- Section 4-D.1 of the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-15-1004: Qualified teachers in every public school classroom
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-309: Certified to teach grade or subject matter exception waivers
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-401: Teacher licensure requirement
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-902: Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
- Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-17-919: Warrants void without valid certification and contract



Ms. McLaughlin said there was no opposition and that the waivers, if approved, would be in effect November 9, 2018.

Ms. McFetridge asked if the Jackson County School District worked with the surrounding districts to share teachers. Mr. Shannon said that they do not; however, they do share between their own district schools.

Ms. McFetridge expressed concern with 5 year waiver. Mr. Shannon said the reasoning for the waiver is that it would level the playing field with the surrounding districts and allows the perspective teachers to have the time they need to complete their programs.

Dr. Moore suggested using the Teacher Cadet program.

Ms. Dean asked about community awareness of and engagement in the waiver request process. She encouraged that the community be involved in any of these types of processes from the beginning to provide feedback.

Dr. Barth expressed his concern about broad waivers which extended over a lengthy time period. He said that elevating teaching profession would be more prudent to attempt to make a long-term change.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the Jackson County School District request for waivers granted to open-enrollment charters for a five year time period. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 8-1. The motion passed.

Commissioner Key introduced the State Board to the new Director of Charter Schools Mr. Reginald Ballard.

## **Action Agenda B**

### **B-1 Consideration of Pine Bluff School District as in Need of Level 5 - Intensive Support**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the Department recommends that the State Board classify the Pine Bluff School District as in Need of Level 5-Intensive Support, in accordance with Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2913 and the ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act (AESAA). The District has been notified of ADE's recommendation and indicated that it would not file an appeal. If the State Board classifies the District as in Need of Level 5-Intensive Support, the State Board may take actions including those set forth in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2916.

Dr. Hernandez said the members should have a copy of the Pine Bluff School District Preliminary Analysis of District Systems. This analysis includes notes on each of the systems and he reviewed the information in the packet provided to the State Board. He said that a lot of changes will not be seen until next school year due to this being a mid-year leadership change. Dr. Hernandez said that there are currently some litigation and grievances which are already in progress. He said that they should have a better idea of a budget estimate in December; however, they are working to end the school year in the black.

Ms. Zook asked if they had looked into how the increase in minimum wage would affect their classified and substitute positions. Pine Bluff School District Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Owoh said that they have not looked into that yet.

Ms. Dean commented that Family and Community Engagement looks forward to working with Dr. Owoh on the Family and Community Engagement framework.

Ms. Chambers had a process question on pending litigation if a district is in intensive support. Commissioner Key said that there is no current reporting mechanism or requirement regarding pending litigation unless the district were under state supervision. Typically, the Department will not know the details of litigation unless it is a high profile item in the news.

Dr. Hill asked if the Department has seen any trends toward barriers for attendance like transportation, etc. Dr. Hernandez said he feels confident, in terms of transportation, that the Pine Bluff School District has a strong operation of their fleet. Dr. Owoh said that he has learned through student focus groups and other groups that there is just no motivation, students are not interested in the instruction, non-security of campus (unsupervised students and non-school persons off and on campus), students do not feel like they are being prepared and elementary parents are not bringing their students to school on time or keeping their students at school during the day.

Ms. Newton asked what the plans are to fix teacher salaries. Dr. Owoh said that the district is overstaffed. He said that they plan to streamline the district and school personnel at all levels.

Dr. Owoh said the Pine Bluff School District has some outstanding students and educators and they are working to highlight their students.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to classify the Pine Bluff School District as in Need of Level 5 -Intensive Support. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, that for the State Board to assume authority over the Pine Bluff School District, and that the State Board direct the commissioner of education to assume authority of the district's board of directors as may be necessary to operate the school district. Ms. Freno clarified that Ms. Zook's motion is in regards to the academic side of the school district. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zook asked Ms. Freno if the State Board needed to go further with regard to the acting board and superintendent for them to also look into administration, central office and principals when they are looking at right sizing the district for the students they are serving. Ms. Freno said that they could, but the Board does not have to, and further said that Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Owoh are currently doing the systems analysis; however, the State Board can come back at any time and order any of the items which are under Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-15-2916.

Ms. Zook moved to authorize the individual to remove, replace, reassign, or suspend public school district personnel in accordance with state law; and require reassignment of some or all of the administrative, instructional, or support staff of a public school. Dr. Barth asked Ms. Freno how this motion would enhance the powers that the commissioner of education already has



through the second motion they just voted on. Ms. Freno said that she does not believe that is necessarily does change anything for either Commissioner Key or Dr. Owoh since there is already an authority to take several of those steps, but this motion would just recognize that those steps must be taken in accordance with state law. There was some discussion. Ms. Zook withdrew her motion as it was determined as unnecessary.

***(Pulled from the agenda)* B-2 Consideration of Waiver of education-related laws in "D" and "F" Schools in the Little Rock School District**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

**New Business**

Ms. Zook said that she will need to work with the Department's Legal team regarding special education and dyslexia audits for level 5 – intensive support school districts.

**Public Comment**

Public comment was heard by the State Board. Senator Joyce Elliott and two citizens made comments regarding the Little Rock School District.

The action agenda ended at 2:18 p.m.

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

Dr. Barth said that he and Ms. Windle met the day before to discuss the coming months. He said that they have a general plan for the on-the-road tour. They are going to look at a couple of northwest Arkansas school districts, in either April or May. The timeframe will depends on both legislative session and testing schedules. They plan on holding the Thursday meeting in northwest Arkansas somewhere that they are able to livestream. He said that more details will be provided next month.

He said that there are work sessions which need to happen in the coming months. In December there will be a two day meeting and there will be a celebration dinner that Thursday evening. He also said that there will be a Friday breakfast work session to discuss the legislative session, the Department's agenda, and how the State Board should advocate for items which are pertinent to the State Board. There will be a Family and Community Engagement framework work session upon the adjournment of the Friday meeting

Dr. Barth said that there will be a work session in January. He and Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith discussed that the work session would focus on how her division is starting to think about standards in a different way than they have been historically. He said that as schedules will permit, there will also be something on Professional Learning Communities and there will hopefully be a representative from a junior high school or middle school present. Ms. McFetridge had also previously suggested discussing student trauma and

mental health issues for students. Ms. Windle will be connect with Ms. McFetridge regarding that idea.

Ms. McFetridge said that she attended the Arkansas State Boards Association (ASBA) Fall Leadership Conference and was able to hear Dr. Mike Hernandez present on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). She said that as a past school board member, she gained a lot of information from that presentation.

Dr. Hill said that he met with principals at J.A. Fair and Hall High Schools and they are planning to start a pilot mentoring program to help address the discipline issues that they are seeing. He said that the violence issues seem to be growing. He said that it is important that the community adopt the school for the next year.

Ms. Zook said that she was invited yesterday to go out to a joint partnership between the Women's Foundation and EAST is doing to help expand the EAST program out into the rural areas.

Dr. Barth said that he was able to see a presentation by 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Stacey McAdoo.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Key said that there was a team of Department employees, the Bosom Buddies, who participated in the November 3, 2018, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure event. The team was awarded the first place trophy for being the largest government agency team. The team had 31 members, including Department family members, and the team raised \$602 for the cause.

Commissioner Key also showed the November Inspire and Impact video for the Teach Arkansas Campaign. The video featured Wynne High School's Teacher Cadet Program Instructor Ms. Bethany Holt. He said that we are seeing an impact from the campaign and that the numbers are starting to look better.

He also said the Department will be assisting the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission to livestream the January 21, 2019, Mega Kingfest event. He said that previous livestreams of this event have been viewed in other states as well as other countries. The event will be held at Philander Smith College.

### **State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report**

Ms. Dean, Task Force for Family Engagement and Learning, said that there were five regional meeting during October on family and community engagement to receive feedback on the six essentials for the framework. Participants had the opportunity to hand write feedback on the essentials and the team will be analyzing the information during the afternoon of November 9, 2018. She said that she attended two of the regional meetings at McGehee and Little Rock. Ms. Dean thanked Ms. Newton for being able to attend the meeting in Malvern. She said that a lot of parents were able to attend the evening sessions.



Dr. Barth said that ForwARd Arkansas is continuing its preparation work for the legislative session. He said that Ms. Zook will be taking over his role as liaison. Dr. Barth suggested that he and Ms. Zook meet with ForwARd Arkansas together to discuss the transition. Ms. Windle will help coordinate this meeting. The transition would happen around January 1, 2019.

Ms. Zook said the Public School Accountability teams are in the process of state and federal monitoring. She encouraged State Board members to sign up to receive Commissioner's Memos via email.

Ms. Chambers had no report regarding Department Human Resources.

Dr. Barth said that he attended the annual National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) meeting in Denver a few weeks ago. He was on a school safety panel. The next conference will be the legislative conference in Washington in the spring. He encouraged State Boards members to become engaged with NASBE.

Ms. Zook said that last month Special Education had been attending several institutes and working to improving skills of the supervisors. She said that teachers need to know how to train the aide in their classroom.

Ms. Newton said that the ESSA Steering Committee met at the end of October. She said that ESSA is undergoing a continual process of evaluation from stakeholders, peer review and federal requirements. She also said that they discuss the new requirements for report cards regarding cross tabulations. Ms. Newton said that all of the subgroups will be broken down by additional demographics; however, due to the rural nature of several Arkansas schools, many entries will say RV (restricted value). The ACT Aspire has undergone a peer review of the 30 critical elements. Twenty-three of these critical elements met standards and more information is required for the remaining seven elements. There was an alignment study requested which will cover four of the elements. There is a contract with ACS Ventures to complete this study and the report should be ready in March. Also requested was a validity evidence study to analyze the results being received from the ACT Aspire. This will cover two more elements. Reporting availability (translated versions of documents for parents) will cover the final element on which more information was needed. She said that the information for the final seven elements should be ready by the fall of 2019.

Ms. Newton said a proposal for amendment to Arkansas' ESSA plan was submitted to the ESSA Steering Committee. She said within the last couple of month they had talked out how ACT Aspire back mapped their English Language Arts (ELA) from college and career, and because of that new cut scores were set. In the ESSA plan, schools have long-term goals of 12 years with three year checkpoints, due to the change in the cut scores it was decided that instead of using 2017 data as the baseline for the 12 year period, 2018 data should be used as the baseline. She said that it does not make sense to have the ELA and math on separate years. 2) Due to the change from the English Language Development Assessment to the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, they would like to also use 2018 data as the baseline for English language learners. Ms. Newton said the amendments should be ready to submit for approval this month. Commissioner Key said that the plan would be posted for public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Barth", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnny Key", written over a horizontal line.

Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education