

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, September 14, 2018

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, September 14, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Absent: Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration for Adoption: SBE Student Discipline Task Force Report

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said last month the State Board Student Discipline Task Force brought a draft report before the State Board. State Board members gave input and Ms. Salas-Ford tried to incorporate the suggestions. Ms. Salas-Ford said she is seeking adoption of the State Board Student Discipline Task Force Report. There was some discussion on this item.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept State Board Student Discipline Task Force Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Barth said he State Board Student Discipline Task Force is now disbanded and thanked the Task Force for their work.

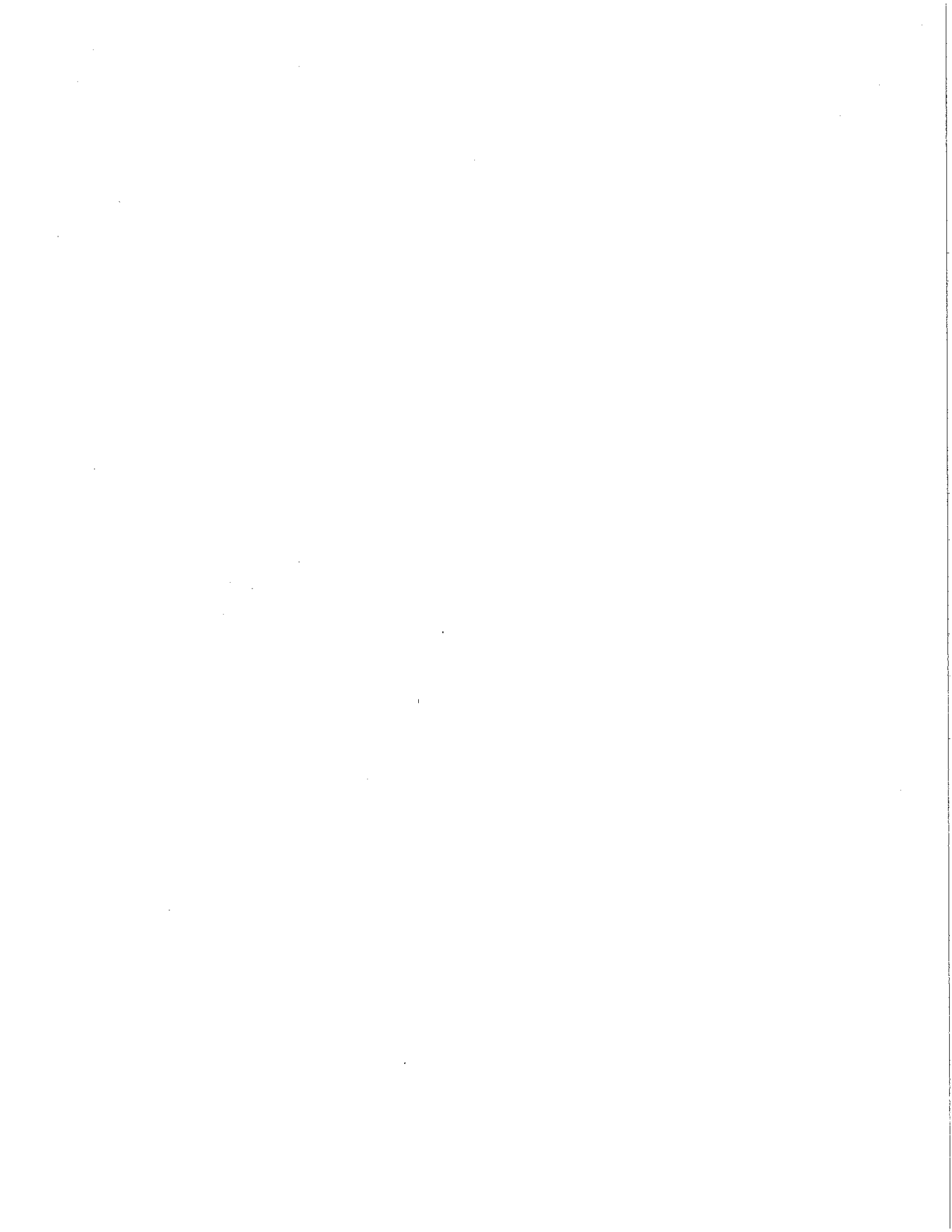
Dr. Barth requested that Department send the report to members of the General Assembly for their information.

Executive Director of the Office of Educational Policy Dr. Sarah McKenzie provided the State Board with a presentation about Arkansas school discipline trends over time.

A-2 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing Consolidation and Annexation of School Districts

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said that changes to the rules governing consolidation and annexation of school districts are necessary to incorporate amendments made by Acts 745 and 936 of 2017 and Act 1155 of 2013. The Department requested that the State Board approve the proposed rules for public comment release.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the proposed rules for public comment release. The motion carried unanimously.



A-3 Consideration for Final Approval: Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Student Permanent Records

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said changes to the rules governing student permanent records are necessary to incorporate amendments to the law pursuant to Act 936 of 2017. Additional changes were made to the rule to remove outdated requirements. The State Board approved these rules for release for public comment on July 12, 2018. A public comment hearing was held on July 27, 2018. Ms. Hyatt said there were no substantive changes made.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the request for final approval of the ADE rules governing student records. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the proposed amendments to the Educator Licensure rules implement the Educator Career Continuum and make technical corrections to certain other provisions. No substantive change were made as a result of public comment. The Departments requested final approval for the proposed rules governing educator licensure. Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart was also available to answer questions.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to approve the request for final approval of the ADE rules governing educator licensure. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015

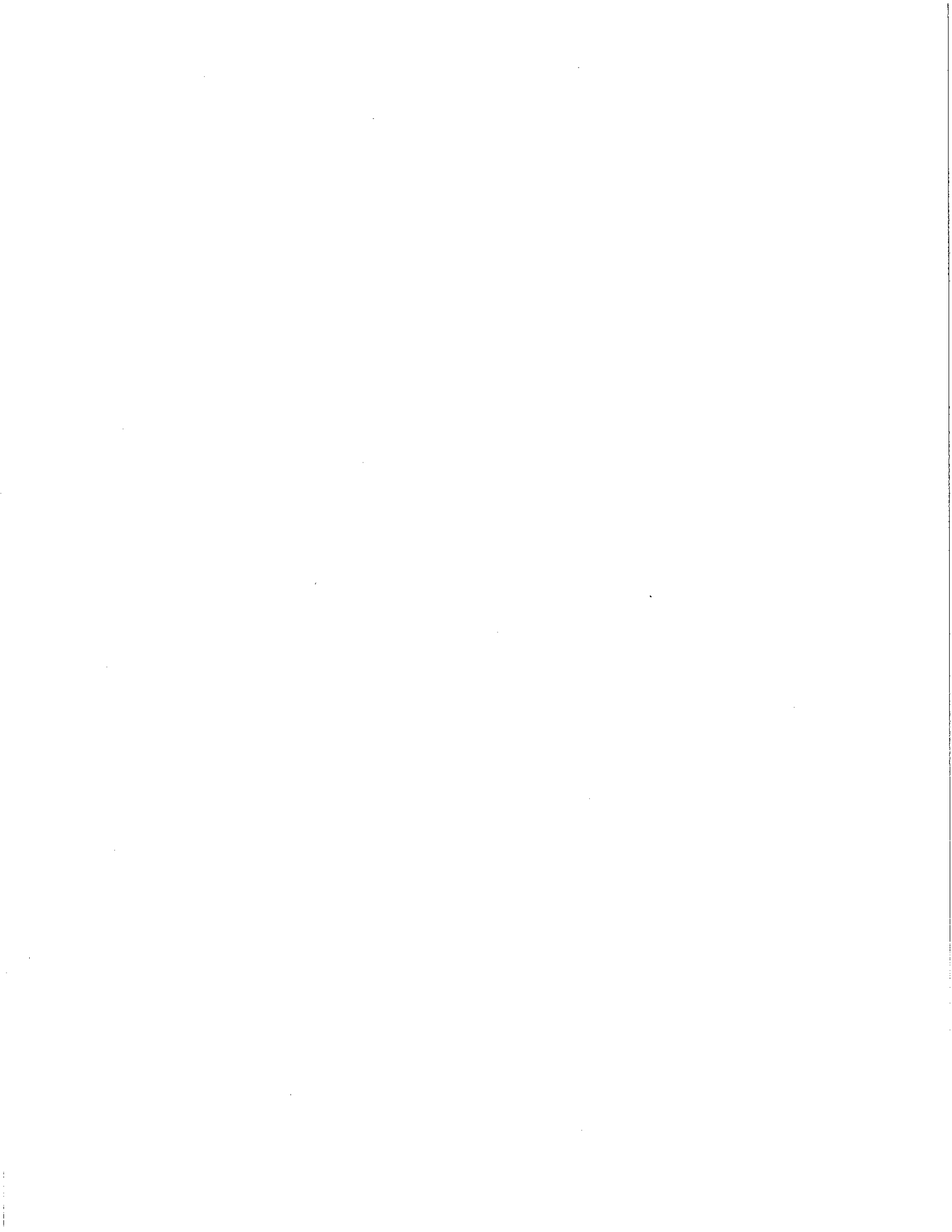
Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said that Acts 988 and 1066 of 2017 and Act 9 of 2018 made changes to the rules governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015 necessary. These rules were released for public comment on July 12, 2018, and a public comment hearing was held on July 27, 2018. No substantive changes were made.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the request for final approval of the ADE rules governing the Public School Choice Act of 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Instructional Materials

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Dedman said the State Board released the proposed rules governing instructional materials for public comment on July 12, 2018. A public comment hearing was held on July 27, 2018. There were no substantive changes made to the rules following the public comment period. The Department requested that the State Board give final approval to these proposed rules pending Arkansas Legislative Council review.

Ms. McFetridge moved, seconded by Dr. Moore, to approve the request for final approval of the proposed rules governing instructional materials. The motion carried unanimously.



A-7 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing School District Requirements for Personnel Policies, Salary Schedules, Minimum Salaries, and Documents Posted to District Websites

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said Acts 869 and 1039 of 2017 made changes to the rules governing school district requirements for personnel policies, salary schedules, minimum salaries, and documents posted to district websites necessary. Additional changes were made to reflect requirements of the new Standards for Accreditation and to remove duplicative language about personnel policies, salary schedules, and minimum salaries. Information was added to these rules to reflect various website requirements contained in law. The Department requested that the State Board approved the proposed rules for public comment release.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the proposed rules for public comment release. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration for Release for Public Comment: ADE Rules Governing the Calculation Methods for Declining Enrollment and Student Growth Funding for Public School Districts

Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said Act 741 of 2017 made changes to the rules governing the calculation methods for declining enrollment and student growth funding for public school districts necessary. Additional changes were made to provide clarity to the process for determining how student growth funding and declining enrollment funding are calculated and the allowable uses. The Department requested that the State Board approved the proposed rules for public comment release.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve the proposed rules for public comment release. The motion carried unanimously.

A-9 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load

Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt said the new Standards for Accreditation changes, as well as Act 243 of 2018, made this rule governing class size and teaching load necessary. The rule has been through three public comment periods. No substantive changes were made following the third public comment period. The Department requested final approval of the proposed rules governing class size and teaching load.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Dr. Moore to approve the request for final approval of the proposed rules governing class size and teaching load. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Moore to adjourn the action agenda. The motion carried unanimously. The action agenda portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Reports

Report 1 – Chair’s Report



Dr. Barth said that he plans to meet with Commissioner Key and Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle about visiting a community in the state sometimes during February – April 2019. He said that they would also meet about sending the State Board Student Discipline Task Force Report to the appropriate parties as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Report 2 – Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Key announced that he has appointed Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh as superintendent of the Pine Bluff School District.

Commissioner Key invited Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart to make an announcement. Ms. Reinhart will be joining the North Little Rock School District as their director of Human Resources and Legal Affairs.

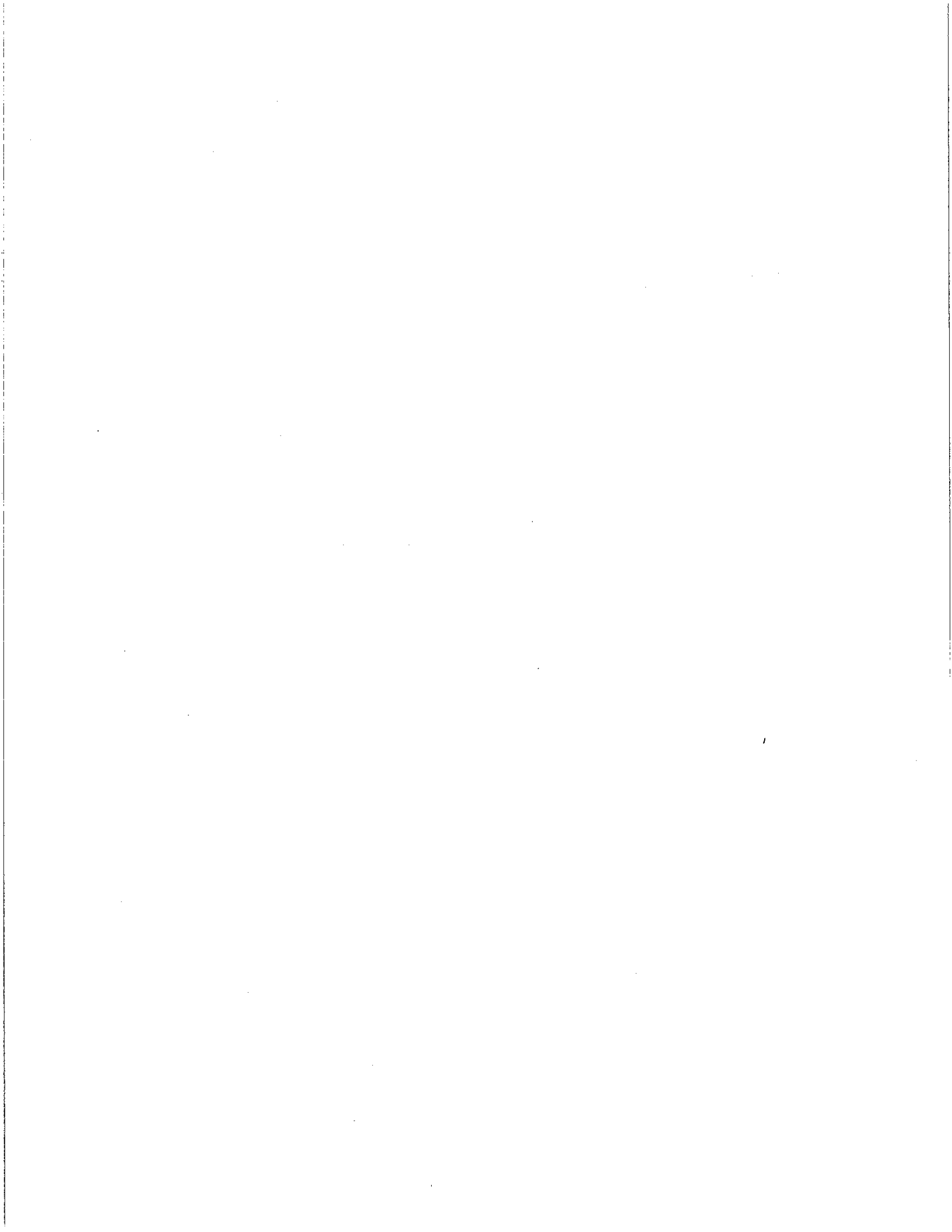
He said the National Merit Scholarship Program announced that Arkansas has 132 students. That number includes public, private, home school students.

He said that the Department has learned that we have received a federal grant that will bring \$1.8 million per year, for the next five years, to help develop model comprehensive school-based mental health programs around the state. He acknowledged the work of Public School Program Advisor Dr. Betsy Kindall and School Health Services Director Ms. Jerri Clark in preparing for this grant.

Report 3 – State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Ms. Dean said the Task Force of Family Engagement had a meeting last Friday with all subcommittees. She said that they have dates lined up for several regional meetings. There will be two meetings per day in each region with community stakeholders (9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.; 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.). The dates are as listed below. She asked State Board members to come to the meetings, if possible. Dr. Barth requested that an email listing the dates of the meetings be sent to each State Board member.

- **Northeast Regional Meeting**
 - St. Bernard’s Auditorium, Jonesboro
 - Wednesday, October 3, 2018
- **Southwest Regional Meeting**
 - No location yet
 - Friday, October 5, 2018
- **Northwest Regional Meeting**
 - Carroll Electric Cooperative, Huntsville
 - Wednesday, October 17, 2018
- **Southeast Regional Meeting**
 - Boys and Girls Club, McGehee
 - Tuesday, October 23, 2018



- Central Regional Meeting
 - Philander Smith College,
 - Thursday, October 25, 2018

Dr. Barth said that the State Board Student Discipline Task Force is no longer on the reports list.

Dr. Barth said that there is a data meeting for ForwARd Arkansas on September 27, 2018. He said that ForwARd is started to flush out their legislative agenda. Dr. Barth is working on the Teacher and Leader Pipeline Task Force and they are looking at how the Teacher Cadet program could be expanded. Dr. Barth also said that Ms. Zook has agreed to become the liaison for ForwARd Arkansas at a time to be determined (no later than the end of the calendar year).

Ms. Newton said the ESSA school index reports should be released for private viewing and reporting by the end of September and should be released publicly in October. There is a new link to www.nyschoolinfo.com on the Department's webpage with resources for parents. The ESSA Steering Committee will meet October 24, 2018. Ms. Newton got to sit in on a meeting about the SQSS (School Quality and Student Success) indicators to get more information.

Ms. Zook said that Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman forwarded her a report; however, Ms. Zook said that to save time she has forwarded the report to Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle to disburse to the other State Board members. Ms. Zook also requested that someone from the Department provide the State Board members with a brief overview of how school districts' funds and the larger state programs work during a future meeting.

Ms. Chambers said that she did not have a specific report regarding the Department's Human Resources. She said she meet with some of the leadership from the Human Resources team.

Ms. Newton said for NASBE, they had a call this past Monday during which they said there have been some movement on the appropriations for the next year. She said that it could be possible to see a bill passed by the end of the month. The ESSA plans across the nation have all been approved except for Florida. The two major focus areas of the peer review will be English language proficiency and accommodations for students with disabilities and English learn students. Ms. Newton said the Department has been putting a focus on making sure that students have flexible and multiple pathways for success. She also said that the School Safety Commission, at the federal level, should have a final report by the end of the year. Dr. Barth said, after polling the other State Board members, that he would be the only State Board member attending the NASBE meeting in October.

Ms. Zook said that there is a new director in Special Education and his name was listed on the agenda from yesterday's meeting, under the newly employed, promotions and separations list. She said she has not had the opportunity to meet him yet.

Dr. Barth said that he would add Arkansas Economic Development as a report for future meetings. Mr. Williamson will be the State Board member making these reports.



New Business

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said that they closed all corrections windows for data. The data has been sent to Chief Information Officer Mr. Arijit Sarkar's team, who is in the process of loading the information into a private report. She said the reports are anticipated to be released to school districts next Friday afternoon. School districts will review the data privately, ADE will make corrections as needed, and then the reports will be made public, possibly in the first half of October.

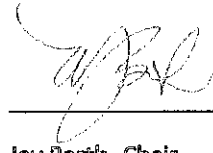
Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Jay Barth, Chair

