

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

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, December 14, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Charisse Dean, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Brett Williamson

Reports

Career Coach and JAG Presentation – CTE

Arkansas Department of Career Education Associate Director for CTE Special Projects Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray provided the presentation about the Arkansas College and Career Coach Program and the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) – Arkansas. She said that the College and Career Coach program begins working with students in the seventh and eighth grade and they are supported throughout their high school experience. She said that the program serves all students; however, they target the "middle majority" and they currently service 37 counties, 59 school districts, 18 two-year colleges, and one education service cooperative. This program serves as a model for other programs. There was a brief question period.

Ms. Wright-McMurray said that JAG is part of national program that serves middle and high school students with barriers to graduating on time. There is a state JAG Advisory Board made up of Governor Asa Hutchinson, Entergy Arkansas, Tyson, AT&T, McDonald's, and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. Arkansas' program is the third largest in the nation and the most cost effective in the nation for this particular program. The JAG program serves 105 school districts and 3,980 students. The Arkansas program is evaluated by the national office on the measures of graduation rate, total civilian job placements and military service, positive outcomes (in college or training program), full-time jobs, and full-time placement. For the twelve year in a row, the JAG program has received the 5 of 5 award for meeting all five measures. She said that 39 high school programs have received a 5 of 5 award.

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Randi House said that she has visited 38 schools in Arkansas so far this year. One district that she recently visited was Hillcrest School District. During a tour of the school, Ms. House got to visit a co-teaching classroom where a seasoned teacher and a novice teacher teach together all day. In the Kindergarten classroom, the low number of students allows for the inclusion of special needs students in the classroom all day long.

Ms. House had been invited to their annual food drive kick-off to be a guest speaker. She said they also had invited a country music artist, Corey Jackson, to the event and he provided the K-12 grade students with a one hour music concert. The food drive is a month long event hosted

by a husband and wife, parent volunteer team. They partner with the NEA Food Bank to send food supplements home with the students for the winter break. Last year the district raised approximately 9,000 items and were able give some the food back to the NEA to help other districts' students. The district also has a birthday shelf and all the students in the backpack program gets a cake and icing for their birthday. Those students also get a spaghetti dinner to celebrate when they graduate Kindergarten, sixth grade, and high school.

Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the AR River Education Service Coop Re-Evaluation Report - Hernandez

Office of Coordinated Support and Services State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative scored a five on all categories for the re-evaluation report, during the past evaluation they had scored a one. He said that the cooperative brought in multiple stakeholders in speak with the re-evaluation team.

Comprehensive 2018-2019 Semester Report on Licensure Exceptions

Public School Program Manager Ms. Melissa Jacks said Under AR Code Ann. 6-15-1004, a public school, agency, or organization may apply for an exception from the requirement for a licensed educator, if it imposes an undue hardship for a school to timely fill a vacant position with a qualified individual, licensed in the required licensure area. The following Licensure Exceptions give flexibility when vacancies occur. The types of licensure exceptions/waivers available are Additional Licensure Plans, Long-term Substitutes, Effective Teacher Licensure Exception, Emergency Teaching Permit, and Act 1240 Licensure Waivers. Ms. Jacks said that there has been a drop in Additional Licensure Plans at a rate of approximately 100 per year since 2014-2015. She believe this is due to the licensure exceptions which are available. Ms. Jacks said that the numbers of long-term substitutes have increased over the past few years. Ms. Jacks said there have been 60 exceptions this year through the Effective Teacher Licensure Exceptions. She said they have approved 288 Emergency Teaching Permit this year. She also said that there were 478 Act 1240 Waivers of Licensure reporting in 46 school district during the 2018-2019 school year.

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said that enrollment in Educator Preparation Programs has increased by 8% between the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. Ms. Luneau also said that Special Education Program enrollment has also gone up from 630 in 2015 to 976 in 2018. She discussed additional initiatives: Teach Arkansas Campaign, roll out of Career Continuum, Licensure Assessment Supports, Licensure fee reimbursements for teachers adding shortage areas, Innovative Teacher Preparation Programs, expansion of Grow your Own Programs (a)Teacher Cadets (b) Paraprofessional to Teacher Programs, (c) Teacher Residency Programs. There was a brief question period.

Additional Items to Add to Agenda

Dr. Barth said that there were a few items that were omitted from the agenda and they would need to hold a vote to hear the reports to the Chair, Commissioner, Committee and Task Force Liaison reports.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to amend the agenda to include the Chair, Commissioner, and Committee and Task Force Liaison reports. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said that he is working with Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle on the March State Board meetings. He said that they are looking into facilities in Northwest Arkansas which would allow for streaming of the meeting that Thursday. He said that on Friday they would be visiting two school districts. They would visit Pea Ridge School District in the morning and Decatur School District in the afternoon.

Ms. Zook said that she and Ms. Newton got to attend the announcement of the newest Milken Educator Award recipient, Ms. Tasha Wilson from Kingsland Elementary School.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Key said that earlier in the week he had the opportunity to visit Southside in Independence County. Each student is required to write and regularly revise their "future story" during their school career. When Mr. Key was visiting the seniors were doing interviews. He said that some of the participating students would get hired from this event. He said that the community engagement in that district is awesome.

Mr. Key said that the High Reliability School model is a way to assist all schools, whatever their support level. In January 2019, there will be a statewide book study with a Commissioner's Memo, webinar, and Twitter chats. This book study is not required, but is encouraged. Books will be sent to all lead principals and superintendents throughout Arkansas.

Mr. Key announced that Director of Legislative Services Ms. Michelle Griffin will be leaving the agency to become the new staffer for the legislative Education Committee. She will start January 2, 2019.

Mr. Key showed the third video of the Inspire and Impact series. This video featured Coordinator of Professional Development Mr. Kevin Beaumont.

Mr. Key introduced Dr. Suzanne Bailey, the new assistant commissioner of the Division of Educator Effectiveness.

Mr. Key said that the U.S. Department of Education issued an update regarding the TEACH grants. The TEACH grants was a student loan forgiveness program. The U.S. Department of Education said that they are going to go back and allow teachers to seek reconsideration. He asked the State Board's assistance in spreading the information to Arkansas teachers. Commissioner Key said that the Department will email the State Board members a link to the USDOE website for more information. The webpage should be updated by January 31, 2019.

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

Ms. Newton said, regarding ESSA, that last month they discussed the amendment request and feedback has since been requested through a Commissioner's Memo (COM-19-062). Feedback will be accepted through January 4, 2019. The ESSA Steering Committee will hold a meeting at the end of January.

Ms. Newton said, regarding NASBE, that the GAC committee met on Monday afternoon and they pointed out that the Education Department had been funded earlier in the year. She said that there are no hearings scheduled between this meeting and the end of the year in either the

Senate or House Education Committees. The major items for 2019, will likely be the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, a hearing on the proposed changes to Title IX, a rule on Title IX which is currently open for public comment until January 28, 2019, possible hearings on the eRate, and possible broadening of data privacy to include non-profits. She said on December 6, 2018, the Department of Agriculture issued a final rule on the National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program to roll back standards set by the previous administration which impacted sodium, flavored milk, and whole grain requirements.

Dr. Barth said that he believes the NASBE legislative conference is April 7-9, 2019. He plans on attending and encouraged other State Board members to attend.

Ms. Zook said that the Office of Special Education has been working on the licensing and training in working with the visually impaired. She said that they are partnering with the Department's Teacher Recruitment and Retention unit by attending events like Become and Arkansas Teacher. She also said that they will know work with two out-of-state institutions of higher education to recruit and support licensed Arkansas teacher seeking to add the visually impaired specialty certification. Ms. Zook said that the Arkansas Transition Services hosted the 2018 Transition Summit and 47 team participated. The Arkansas Transition Service and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services hosted a premiere of a video from the 2018 Inclusion Films and Film Camp. Fifty disabled students participated in this camp during which they wrote, filmed, and produced short films.

Ms. Zook said regarding Public School Accountability, there is a new Standards of Accreditation tool is now available. This tool is working to highlight the intention of the new standards for accreditation rules. The Department and districts are working through some exceptions with background checks and the AP training certification, but they expect to have long-term solutions soon.

Dr. Barth said that he, along with Ms. Zook, will be meeting with ForwARd Arkansas December 18, 2018. ForwARd Arkansas is currently focused on the legislative session; however, they also have been focused a lot on arts education.

Ms. Chambers said that she recently gave an update regarding ensuring access to arts education and this conversation led to a conversation on arts integration. An example of this would be creating an art sculpture to represent a human heart that they are learning about for biology.

Ms. Chambers had no report regarding the Department Human Resources unit.

Ms. Dean thanked the Family and Community Engagement team for a great session earlier in the morning. She looks forward to the finished framework which will provide each community with a frame that is customized to the school/district.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to accept public comment. The motion passed unanimously. Public comment was heard.

Adjournment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education