

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, January 12, 2018

The State Board of Education met Friday, January 12, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Dr. Jay Barth, Chair; Joe Black, Vice-Chair; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Charisse Dean; Mireya Reith; Courtney Cochran, 2017 Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Brett Williamson

Reports

Report 1- North Central Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the rubric was structured to ensure that cooperatives met the requirements. He said North Central Education Service Cooperative had taken ownership of making finance more transparent. He said the cooperative offers fiscal training services.

Report 2- Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said Great Rivers Education Service Cooperative reached out to their member districts with the goal of being responsive.

Dr. Hernandez said the Department would decide how to continue the next cycle of evaluations at the end the cooperative evaluations in 2018.

Report 3- Rockbridge Montessori Report

Associate Director of Special Education Ms. Lisa Tyler said the Department recognizes the need for continued support for Rockbridge Montessori. She said the Department has provided a grant for Rockbridge to receive support through the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC). She said the Department did a December 2017 site visit. She said the visit was generally positive. She said the Department still has a number of concerns including teacher turnover and compensatory education services in the previous year.

Ms. Tyler said Rockbridge had 19 APSRC site visits to date since August 4, 2017. Ms. Tyler said the supports in place are a safety net for teacher turnover.

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kristin Hughes said the special education program was not at their cap.

Rockbridge Special Education teacher Mr. Josh Mills said the occupational, physical therapy, and speech therapy service providers bring their own equipment to the Rockbridge campus.

Rockbridge Montessori Superintendent Mr. Will Felton said most students reached their growth model in the past year. He said he was not pleased with the ACT Aspire scores from the previous year. He said there are supports in place to address the test score issues. Mr. Felton said the school has 61 open seats.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said Rockbridge Montessori would give a report to the Charter Authorizing Panel on February 15, 2017. She said Rockbridge would address concerns brought up by the State Board in report form during that meeting.

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said the State Board could request an action agenda report item in March after the Charter Authorizing Panel meeting on February 15, 2018.

Report 4- 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Ms. Courtney Cochran said cultural responsiveness as a Spanish and world language teacher is about products, practices, and perspectives. She said cultural responsiveness is about identity, learning about one another, and building trust and work around a common goal.

He said she visited Russellville High School where 2008 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Dr. Paul Gray founded a Hispanic heritage club. She said having this club has had an important impact on students' lives.

Report 5- Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said the State Board would be in El Dorado on March 7, 2018. He said there are a few needed work sessions for the next several months.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said the Act 930 rules are under revision. She said the Department is waiting for ESSA approval. She said Act 930 rules would be submitted to Governor Hutchinson. Ms. Coffman said the Department would be holding stakeholder feedback sessions in January 2018. She said the Department plans to have A-F rules submitted to the Governor in the coming month. Ms. Coffman said a work session on Act 930 and A-F rules is pending.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said a work session on community service learning credits would be available either for the February or March 2018 State Board sessions.

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas- Ford said the dyslexia resource guide had been updated. She said the dyslexia rules were being revised and would be sent to the Governor.

Commissioner Key said Board members with questions about virtual charter schools and virtual delivery from charter schools should email specific questions so that a focused work session could be organized.

Assistant Commissioner for Research and Technology Dr. Eric Saunders said the Quality Digital Learning Providers Task Force was gathering information for an internal report on quality digital learning in fall 2018.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said the equity labs across the state would help identify access inequities. She said equity plans would be part of the school improvement plans.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh said the Department is launching the Teach Arkansas Campaign at the University of Central Arkansas on February 2, 2018. He said UCA would host the Impacting Tomorrow Summit that would highlight the teacher cadet program. He said the campaign goals include attracting new teachers into the profession and attracting teachers back into the profession.

Report 6- Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said the Impacting Tomorrow Summit is an important initiative coming in February 2018. Commissioner Key said the #NoLimits campaign would launch on January 17, 2018.

Ms. Stacy Smith said the campaign is about opening up more opportunities for students through the process.

Commissioner said Act 561 of 2017 required that the Department provide African-American history teaching materials and educational curriculum on Martin Luther King Jr. for classroom use. She said there is an updated curriculum of historical contributions of African-Americans updated on the Department website.

Report 7- State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant member Ms. Reith said a new family and community engagement position was formed by the Department. Ms. Reith said State Director for Stakeholder Communication/ Family and Community Engagement Kim Wright shows the Department's commitment to this work. She said a list of external stakeholders is being drafted. She said invitations for an initial external stakeholder meeting in February will go out after the January 12, 2018, meeting.

Task Force on Student Discipline member Ms. Dean said educating the whole child is a goal of the task force. She said the last meeting was fruitful. She said the task force is looking at getting away from the one-size-fits-all discipline approach. She said the task force is looking at how to extend more control of discipline decisions to schools so that there is a more human approach. Ms. Reith said family engagement is needed for discipline to take the best route. She said she believes the Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant and the Task Force on Student Discipline have a number of commonalities.

Task Force on Student Discipline member Dr. Hill said the task force is looking at Arkansas Activities Association rules to inform their process. He said Fellowship Bible Church has donated a facility to host an alternative middle school for students not permitted in the regular school program.

Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Ouida Newton said the ESSA plan was under review by the U.S. Department of Education. Commissioner Key said the newest plan was posted to the Department website. Commissioner Key said the Department hopes to get feedback in the coming week.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said the Family Life magazine had an article about one of the Community Advisory Board members of the Little Rock School District that intersects with the Task Force on Student Discipline. Ms. Zook read a Standards of Accreditation report prepared by Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman.

Liaison to ADE Human Resources Ms. Chambers said the Department continues to reposition the server. Ms. Chambers said she would serve on the NASBE finance committee as a liaison.

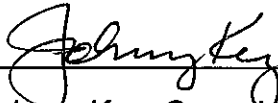
Liaison to the National Association of State Boards of Education Ms. Reith confirmed that Ms. Newton would serve on the Government Affairs Committee.

Dr. Barth said he and Commissioner Key were working on a meeting concerning Little Rock collaboration work. He said an update would follow that meeting.

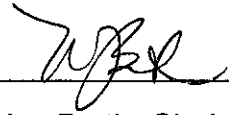
Adjournment

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Reith to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

