

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 12, 2018**

The State Board of Education (State Board) met Thursday, April 12, 2018 in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

Absent: None

**Recognitions**

**National Youth Science Camp Student Selection**

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Ann Finch recognized two exceptional high school seniors who would attend the prestigious National Youth Science Camp (NYSC). She said the National Youth Science Camp was founded in 1963. The students recognized were Grace Turner from Arkansas Virtual High School and Kari Si from Fayetteville High School East. The first alternate is Seo Yun Lim from Fayetteville High School East and Kyle Hudson from Pottsville High School.

**2018 Designated Master Principals**

Arkansas Leadership Academy Director Mr. David Cook said the Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal Program is a rigorous program. He said the program duration is three years. He said principals are evaluated on the implementation of what they are taught in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal Program Leader Ms. Brenda Tash said the program has a big impact on students. Ms. Tash said the program provides training programs and opportunities to expand the knowledge and leadership skills of public school principals. Ms. Tash announced the 2018 designated Master Principals as Ms. Lisa Miller, Ms. Sharla Osbourne, and Ms. Ashley Williams.

Master Principal Ms. Lisa Miller was recognized and joined by her superintendent, assistant principal, and husband. Ms. Miller said her experience was amazing and she gained many keys and tools to bring back to her building.

Master Principal Ms. Sharla Osbourne was recognized and joined by her superintendent and her husband. Ms. Osbourne said 5,142 was the estimated number of students that

she had served since joining the Master Principal Program. She said the work of the Arkansas Leadership Academy matters.

Master Principal Ms. Ashley Williams was recognized and joined by her superintendent and the executive director of elementary education for Bentonville School District. She said the recognition was a celebration for her students, staff, and families at Mary May Jones Elementary School.

## **Student Focus**

### **Noble Impact**

Commissioner Key recognized Noble Impact CEO Mr. J. Eric Wilson to speak about Noble Impact, a non-profit organization that partners with schools to provide a relevant and purpose-driven career education. Commissioner Key said the invitation to share was in response to State Board member requests for examples of innovations brought to scale in traditional public schools.

Noble Impact alumnus Mr. Anthony Hawkins. He said the fundamental aspects of his experience with Noble Impact was public speaking, networking, and changing his mindset. He said the program gave him a voice. He said public speaking builds leadership skills and he learned how to tell his own story. He said networking presented opportunities to him.

Noble Impact alumnus Mr. Dakota Felder said he reached out to the local technology and internet design company, Few, for an internship during his senior year as a Noble Impact student. He said he developed marketable skills during his internship at Few. He said he took a gap year and was hired by Aptegy after high school. He said he looks at college not as a pathway to make money as many do when they enter directly following high school, but as a pathway to academic inquiry, networking, and other advantages.

Mr. Wilson said Noble Impact's curriculum design integrates purpose and engagement for students. He said the curriculum is reflective of relevance. He said Noble Impact believes that credibility is the 21<sup>st</sup> century currency. He said that students build a portfolio as part of their experience. He said social capital is built through real relationships. He said many of today's primary and secondary school students would work in jobs that do not currently exist. He said the goal for participants is to know that they will be prepared regardless of future job market conditions.

Mr. Wilson said he receives many questions on the difference between charter and public schools. He said charter schools were founded to be laboratories of innovation and was recommended by Albert Shanker, former president of the American Federation of Teachers. He said many charter schools are not pursuing innovative practices. He said innovation occurs in traditional public schools as well.

Hope School District principal Ms. Joslen Wiley said she wanted her students to be part of a program that would challenge them to think freely. She said this is the school's first year with Noble Impact. She said the school currently has three sections of Noble Impact and are moving to six sections in the next school year. She said the program is one of the top things that she has done for students in her 20 years as an educator. She said the biggest challenge for the school is selling themselves to the community and changing the perception of the type of children that they have on campus. She said discipline is down 42% and attendance is up because students feel like the school is a home due to programs like Noble Impact.

A Noble Impact parent shared that her children moved from merely liking art to implementing their interests and learning to manage all aspects of building a skateboarding design business. She said her children learned how to pitch themselves and create successful careers through what they learned in Noble Impact.

Mr. Wilson said the current class offered by Noble Impact this school year is funded by the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – March 8, 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 # 17-232 Johnny Ray Taylor
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-012 Joann Delap
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 18-019 Jennifer MacMillan
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications
- Bismarck School District Act 1240 Progress Report
- Bentonville School District Act 1240 Progress Report
- Cabot School District Act 1240 Progress Report
- Clarendon School District Act 1240 Progress Report

### **Action Agenda A**

## **A-1 Resolution to Recognize April 2018 as Month of the Military Child, 2018 Month of the Military Child Recognition, and Purple Star School Award Announcement**

Security and Loss Prevention Manager Mr. John Kaminar said April is observed each year as Month of the Military Child. He said this recognition increases awareness of the sacrifices made and hardships borne by children whose parents serve in the military. He respectfully requested that the State Board adopt a resolution recognizing April 2018 as Month of the Military Child.

Mr. Kaminar recognized three military families. Representing the Army was Sergeant Major Ronald Woods, currently in the Arkansas Army National Guard, and his daughters Ma'Kenzie and Maleah. Representing the Naval Reserve was Petty Officer Second Class Aaron Sample, his wife Melissa, and their son Maverick. Representing the Air Force was Staff Sergeant Regina Edwards and her daughter Jazzmyn.

Mr. Kaminar said the Arkansas Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, in partnership with the Arkansas Activities Association, had implemented the Arkansas Purple Star School Award to recognize military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. Mr. Kaminar said information on how to apply to become recognized as a Purple Heart School would be posted on the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) website.

Commissioner Key recognized Governor Hutchinson's commitment to making Arkansas a military- and veteran-friendly state. Commissioner Key said the U.S. Department of Defense recognized the Department for meeting all criteria established for removing certification impediments for military spouse teachers in Arkansas. He recognized the hard work and joint efforts of Arkansas Veteran's Coalition Colonel Don Berry along with the Department's Division of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure for their work in making this achievement a reality.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adopt resolution to recognize April 2018 as Month of the Military Child. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-2 Enhancements for Arkansas Better Chance**

Department of Human Services Program Administrator Ms. Mary Kaye McKinney said during the 2017 Legislative Session, Governor Hutchinson committed to an additional \$3 million a year to improve the quality in the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) program. She said specific items were targeted for this funding that include improving and rewarding teacher quality as well as encouraging and enhancing innovation.

Ms. McKinney described a number of collaborations across the state. Ms. McKinney said the northeast and southeast regions did not submit many applications, which was a

concern because of the need in those areas. She said the office received some applications that were poorly written. She said 12% was allotted to innovative grants.

She respectfully requested that the State Board approve funding per program as indicated on the funding chart shared with State Board members in a handout and online.

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve Arkansas Better Chance funding allocation of \$2,540,000 or 85% of the funding to reward the ABC programs for teaching staff who are qualified in early childhood education and for assisting teachers, \$102,500 or 3% of the funding to assist with teaching staff to obtain required certification and/or credentials, and \$357,500 or 12% of the funding to assist programs with the implementation of competitive innovation grant in the areas of Social/Emotional, STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and Outdoor Eco-friendly Learning Environment (Natural Playground) and/ or Literacy. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

### **A-3 (a) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel Decision: Rockbridge Montessori School Probationary Status**

Director of Public Charter Schools Dr. Alexandra Boyd said the Charter Authorizing Panel (Panel) met on March 14, 2018, and voted to release Rockbridge Montessori School from probation with required reporting to the charter office as follows: a report on finance and staffing in September, and a report on accountability in December. No request for the State Board to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Dr. Boyd said the A-F School Report Cards were not public at the time of the Panel meeting. She said the results of the A-F School Report Cards are based on the scores of the previous year when the school was under a different administration.

Rockbridge Montessori Superintendent Mr. Will Felton said the teacher who has a Masters in Reading Instruction is participating in the R.I.S.E. program. He said the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC) has provided great financial management support for the school. He said the school has discussed decreasing its dependency on the APSRC. He said support for the science of reading is now provided by the Department.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review the Rockbridge Montessori School Probationary decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

### **A-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: England School District**

Representatives from the England School District were not available to present for item A-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: England School District until 1 p.m.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson to table Item A-4 until after lunch. The motion carried unanimously.

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said representatives of the England School District were appearing before the Board with a petition of waivers.

England School District Superintendent Mr. Tyler Scott said it is difficult to find teachers for the district. He said the district loses students to various area charter schools. He said the district had a teacher to fill the position. He said the waiver was for all grades for five years.

Mr. Scott said the district recruits teachers from various Arkansas colleges and universities.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said Dr. Jeremy Owoh reached out to the district to discuss other licensure options.

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said the district could self-impose a limitation to their waiver to address concerns made by the State Board. Mr. Scott stated the district was willing to limit the waiver to the alternative learning environment (ALE) position for 5 years.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve waiver request filed by England School District with the limitation of one ALE position. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **A-5 Request of the Brinkley School District for Waiver of Instructional Days**

Deputy Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said school districts may request from the State Board a waiver of the 178 instructional days required under the Standards for Accreditation. She said the Brinkley School District requests a waiver of three instructional days.

Brinkley Superintendent Dr. Debbie Goodwin said the second call for AMI days application passed before she was able to apply due to health issues. She said the three days requested are due to the following circumstances. She said a board member passed and there were not enough substitute teachers on the day of the funeral. She said the school did not have heat one day. She said the school needed to be decontaminated due to a sewer issue on another day. Dr. Goodwin said the additional snow days missed are not part of the waiver request.

Dr. Goodwin said the district has lost about 50 students per year in the last few years. She said the district has a six-year plan to improve facilities.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve waiver request filed by Brinkley School District. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Action Agenda B**

#### **B-1 Consideration of the Arkansas Computer Science Robotics Levels 3 and 4 Courses and Standards**

Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen said the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) respectfully requests that the State Board adopt the Robotics Levels 3 and 4 courses with the guidelines outlined in the State Board agenda.

Mr. Owen said the small appendix was created with a team at no cost to the state. He said the appendix meets the needs of the schools and the state.

Mr. Owen said the Department is requesting that official implementation of the Robotics Levels 3 and 4 courses for Grades 9-12 begin during the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve Arkansas Computer Science Robotics Levels 3 and 4 Courses and Standards with guidelines outlined in agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **B-2 Request for Reinstatement of Succeed Scholarship**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the Succeed Scholarship Program began in 2015. She said the ADE Rules Governing the Succeed Scholarship Program, Section 6.02.1.1, requires that if the parent of a student participating in the program ceases to be enrolled in or regularly attend an eligible private school and wishes to enroll the student in another eligible private school prior to the end of the school year, the parent shall provide proof that the student has been accepted into another eligible private school and request that the State Board of Education approve a reinstatement of the student's scholarship payments.

Ms. Salas-Ford said both cases involve students who are at approved schools, but that the students have reached the maximum grade level of their school.

#### **B-2 (a) Request for Reinstatement of Succeed Scholarship: Gonzalez Family**

Parent Ms. Jamillah Gonzalez was available to answer questions.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve request for reinstatement of the Succeed Scholarship for the Gonzalez family. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

## **B-2 (b) Request for Reinstatement of Succeed Scholarship: Hernandez Family**

Parent Ms. Gloria Hernandez was available via conference call to answer questions.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve request for reinstatement of the Succeed Scholarship for the Hernandez family. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

## **B-3 Consideration for Final Approval: ADE Rules Governing Home Schools**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said the State Board released the proposed rules for public comment on December 14, 2017. A public comment hearing was held on January 10, 2018. She said the public comment period ended on January 17, 2018. Ms. Salas-Ford said comments received did not result in substantive changes to the proposed rules. She said Department staff respectfully request final approval to these proposed rules pending Arkansas Legislative Council review and approval.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said the notice of intent application included a place to define the curriculum in the past. She said many of those questions were removed. She said the parent and school districts could have their home school student participate in a period of instruction at the public school per the discretion of the school.

Ms. Smith said the seldom cases of educational neglect are taken up by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the ADE Rules Governing Home Schools. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

## **B-4 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act AND REPEAL of Rules Governing the Monitoring of Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, Rules Governing Access to Public School Information on Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program, and Rules Governing the Assessment Scores for Students Attending the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts of the University of Arkansas**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said Act 930 of 2017, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2901 et seq., established the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act and repealed the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing Assessment and



Accountability Program (ACTAAP). She said these rules are required by Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2905 to implement the comprehensive accountability system and set forth requirements for academic standards, the statewide student assessment system, effective educators, the levels of support provided to school districts, and the Department's authority to assume control of a school district. Ms. Salas-Ford said the rules governing ACTAAP, components of ACSIP, and ASMSA assessment scores are being repealed as a result of Act 930 and any necessary provisions included in the proposed new rules. She said the proposed rules and repealed rules were approved by Governor Hutchinson on April 2, 2018. She said the Department respectfully requests that the State Board release these rules for public comment.

Ms. Salas-Ford said the four rules being appealed are incorporated in the Act 930 rules as applicable.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve release of Proposed Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act AND REPEAL of Rules Governing the Monitoring of Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, Rules Governing Access to Public School Information on Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans, Rules Governing the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) and the Academic Distress Program, and Rules Governing the Assessment Scores for Students Attending the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts of the University of Arkansas for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Salas-Ford said the public comment hearing would be held on April 19, 2018.

#### **B-5 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and School Districts**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said these rules were approved by the Governor on March 30, 2018. She said the Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board release this rule for public comment.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve release of the Proposed Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools and School Districts for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Davis said the public comment hearing would be held on April 19, 2018.

#### **B-6 Consideration for Public Comment: Repeal of Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said these rules were approved by the Governor on March 26, 2018. She said these rules were no longer necessary as a result of 2017

legislation. She said the Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board release this rule for public comment.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve release of the Repeal of Rules Governing Mandatory Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12 for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Davis said the public comment hearing would be held on April 19, 2018.

### **B-7 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load**

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis said these rules were approved by Governor Hutchinson on March 26, 2018. She said the Department staff respectfully requests that the State Board release this rule for public comment.

Ms. Davis said waivers to these rules could be granted by the State Board if needed.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve release of the Proposed Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load for public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

### **B-8 Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement**

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Salas Ford said Act 936 of 2017 amended Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1701 et seq. and §6-15-2202. She said changes to the rules were necessary to incorporate the amended provisions of Arkansas law and the ESSA.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to approve release of the Proposed Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement public comment. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Salas Ford said the public comment hearing would take place on April 19, 2018.

### **B-9 Appointment of Little Rock School District Community Advisory Board Members**

General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said Mr. Michael Mason and Ms. LaShannon Spencer had applied to be members of the Little Rock School District (LRSD) Community Advisory Board to fill positions that currently are vacant. Ms. Freno said the Department recommends that the State Board appoint Mr. Mason and Ms. Spencer to the LRSD Community Advisory Board.

Commissioner Key said Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Mike Poore supports the appointment of both community members.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to appoint Mr. Michael Mason and Ms. LaShannon Spencer as members of the Little Rock School District Community Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

### **1- Computer Science Initiative April Report**

Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen said the 2018 Arkansas Computer Science Educators Conference would be July 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Owen said the K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program was originally allotted \$500,000 by Governor Hutchinson. He said over 95% of the spots that were available filled in the first four days. He said Arkansas teachers desire high quality professional development.

Mr. Owen shared a computer science promotional video created by the Department that was a preview in movie theaters across the state.

Mr. Owen said Governor Hutchinson allocated an additional \$300,000 for computer science professional development for teachers. Mr. Owen said the Department had trained almost 100 library media specialist teachers to date.

Mr. Owen introduced special guest Ms. Sasha Arial Alston, author of *Sasha Savvy Loves to Code*. Mr. Owen said Ms. Alston was traveling central Arkansas to speak at the Girls of Promise® conference and give book talks at local schools.

Ms. Alston said she wrote *Sasha Savvy Loves to Code* because she understands the need for more women and people of color in computer science. She said she raised over \$17,000 to publish her book, surpassing her original goal of \$5,000. Ms. Alston provided a signed copy of the book to every State Board member.

Commissioner Key said Mr. Owen had been named Chief STEM Officer of the Department. He said Mr. Owen would continue in his role as Director of Computer Science, but would also work with the Division of Learning Services math team.

### **2- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

In a summary statement, State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the State Board had reviewed 10 cooperatives including the ones on the present agenda. Dr.

Hernandez said two main areas that come up on the cooperative reports are best practices shared publically and analyzing whether duplicitous work is occurring within the cooperative. Dr. Hernandez said there were not a lot of quality measures in the rubric.

No specific questions were addressed concerning the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative.

### **3- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents De Queen-Mena Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

No specific questions were addressed concerning the De Queen-Mena Education Service Cooperative.

### **4- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

No specific questions were addressed concerning the Southwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative.

### **5- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the South Central Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

No specific questions were addressed concerning the South Central Service Cooperative.

### **6- ETS Praxis NOTE Report**

Director of Educator Licensure Ms. Cheryl Reinhart said this report provided an overview of the ETS Praxis NOTE (National Observational Teaching Exam) assessment and the results from the 2017 Arkansas pilot of the assessment. Ms. Reinhart said she and members of her team attended training at ETS in New Jersey.

Ms. Reinhart said the program is available for teaching candidates seeking certification for grades K-5 in the following subjects: reading, language arts, and math. She said the program was piloted in Arkansas. She said there is one person behind all of the interactors. She said the achievement gap between minorities and non-minorities is smaller with this assessment.

Director of Educator Effectiveness Ms. Sandra Hurst said the teachers have preparation time built in before they test.

Ms. Reinhart said this assessment is for beginner teacher licensure. She said content and pedagogy is tested at the same time. Ms. Reinhart said pre-teachers have the

opportunity to use practice materials. She said the teachers get feedback on what they need to improve if they do not pass the exam.

### **7- 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report**

Ms. Cochran said even the best teacher cannot reach a student who does not have proper nutrition that allows them to engage in the classroom. She said Governor Hutchinson signed a proclamation that declared March as Arkansas Breakfast Month.

Ms. Cochran said 64% of students in Arkansas come from low-income backgrounds.

Director of Child Nutrition Ms. Suzanne Davidson said there were alternative breakfast avenues that serve student populations differently. She said secondary schools have found success with grab-and-go options, and primary schools have seen more success with offering breakfast options in the classroom.

Ms. Cochran said providing school breakfast reduces office referrals, visits to the school nurse, and other issues.

Dr. Pfeffer commended Ms. Davidson on her hard work. She said the Child Nutrition Unit had worked hard to visit districts implementing new programs and to streamline the paperwork processes to make it easier for districts to submit information.

### **8- Chair's Report**

Dr. Barth said Staff Attorney Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt had been working on the Operating Guidelines for the State Board. He proposed a work session on the procedures on May 10, 2018. He said the State Board would vote on the guidelines in June with implementation in July. Dr. Barth said a work session concerning the ETS NOTE for June 2018 was a goal for the State Board in conjunction with the Department.

Ms. Zook said Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman held a TAC (technical advisory committee) meeting comprised of outside assessors who provide objective assessments of the current progress, direction, and strategies for moving forward across divisions.

### **9- Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Key said the two state winners of the 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were Anna Richey of Paris, Arkansas and Alexis Roberson of Caraway, Arkansas. He said the Arkansas 2018 Distinguished Finalists include Jameson Archer, Abigail Gearhart, Emmaline Landes, and Riley Strube.

Commissioner Key said the State Board members may have heard about school boundary issues in the Eureka Springs School District. He said Act 910 of 2017

changed school election dates to a choice of either May or November. He said nothing in Act 910 addresses school boundaries. He said the Madison County clerk examined the 1949 tax assessment records and determined that the Eureka Springs School District did not have territory in Madison County. He said GIS modified boundary maps but did not notify the district. Commissioner Key said GIS would adjust boundary maps if there were a legal basis for changing school boundaries based on records.

Commissioner Key said UALR announced that they are modifying some of their education programs, but that this change was not a step back from their commitment to education programs.

Commissioner Key announced that Special Education Director Ms. Lisa Tyler was appointed Director of Student Support Services in the Division of Learning Services.

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

Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant member Ms. Dean said the task force hosted its first successful subcommittee meeting on April 11, 2018. She said there are four subcommittees that make up the entire coalition of stakeholders. She said the subcommittees are Leadership, Talent Development, Instruction, and Culture. She said one subcommittee was meeting concurrent with the State Board April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said the group was able to work on baseline standards.

Task Force on Student Discipline member Dr. Hill said he visited Haas Hall Academy. He said he recommended several options for increasing student and teacher diversity. He said he expects the school will have a strategic plan for achieving this effort in the school's next report to the State Board.

Dr. Hill said he is working with McClellan High School to address student discipline interventions.

Commissioner Key said there are not as many zero-tolerance statutes as was presumed. He said there is still a culture of zero-tolerance despite the lack of statute supporting this stance. He said moving forward, the Task Force on Student Discipline will need to come to a consensus on the actions that stakeholders can agree on to effect change.

Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Ouida Newton said the group has not met since fall 2017. Commissioner Key said it is still necessary to keep this liaison role in place because the Department is in the continuous improvement phase of implementing the state ESSA plan.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said some states were submitting amendments to their state ESSA plans because they were

in the first round of submissions and their state boards or legislative bodies made changes that necessitated revisions of their state plan.

Ms. Coffman said the question of how to evaluate the state ESSA plan indicators was asked in the TAC meeting.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said the division had been working on rules, the ESSA School Index Report, the A-F Report Cards which were recently released, work sessions with the State Board, and other initiatives.

Liaison to ADE Human Resources Ms. Chambers said there were no updates.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said there were no updates.

Liaison to ForwARd Arkansas Dr. Barth said individual meetings with State Board members between the ForwARd team were being organized. He said ForwARd was doing planning calls to solicit hosts for community conversations to take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>. He said the conversations would cover where education is and where it needs to go moving forward in the state. He said the ask is for those attending community conversations to synthesize information and send it to ForwARd via email. He said this information would add to the processing needed to set next steps. Dr. Barth said the community conversations were the next big push for the group.

Dr. Barth said the annual NASBE meeting would be in November. He said the June 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> NASBE meeting would be helpful for the new members appointed to the State Board if they are appointed before early June.

### Adjournment

Dr. Barth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis*

  
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Johnny Key, Commissioner

  
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Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

100