

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, May 11, 2018**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, May 11, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

Absent: Brett Williamson and Susan Chambers.

Reports

Report 1- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the cooperative hired a financial advisor that worked with member districts free of charge.

Report 2- Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Wilbur D. Mills Education Cooperative Evaluation Report

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the cooperative was working with University of Central Arkansas Professor Dr. Linda Griffith to help member districts develop math curriculum.

Report 3- 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Ms. Cochran said well-rounded education was the focus of the presentation. She introduced Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association President Ms. Jenny Kilgore to the State Board. She said she and Ms. Kilgore were tasked with developing and making official a state seal of biliteracy.

Ms. Kilgore said she was representing the Foreign Language Teachers Association and the Arkansas Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL). She said Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Portuguese seals of biliteracy had been awarded in Arkansas to date. She said the organization piloted a seal of biliteracy process in January 2018. Ms. Kilgore said seals of biliteracy were offered across the state. She asked the State Board to endorse and recognize an official Arkansas seal of biliteracy in the future.

Ms. Kilgore said the seal of biliteracy team determined whether students were eligible to receive the seal. She said district-level support was not widespread and would benefit from State Board endorsement.

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith said students must demonstrate reading, writing, listening comprehension, and oral competency in both languages. Ms. Smith said the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) was working with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services to narrow the industry certificates. She said she believed the certificate should be more than a seal on a diploma. She said she believed it was a worthy cause for the State Board to support.

Ms. Smith said the Division of Learning Services could send out information directly to schools to let them know about the submission process for the seal and how to support students towards this goal.

Ms. Kilgore said the committee looked to other states for models on how to award the seal.

Ms. Reith asked the State Board recognize students who have received a seal of biliteracy in Arkansas at a future State Board meeting.

Ms. Smith said there is room for a biliteracy seal in the Department's high school pathways initiative.

Commissioner Key said the seal would have to be accessible to all students across the state before it could be included in the state ESSA plan. He said it could be included in the continuous cycle of inquiry process taken up by the Department.

To address a State Board member question, Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables said the Arkansas Teachers of the Year and Milken Award winners had an organization and met with Commissioner Key twice a year. She said this was an opportunity for attendees to know what was happening across the state share their own reflections. She said there was a teacher leader advisory group in the state.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh said the education service cooperatives had a new mentoring program. He said the cooperatives were utilizing the teacher leader advisory group, Milken Award winners, and Arkansas Teacher of the Year winners to mentor first year teachers within their regions for three (3) years.

Report 4- Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said there would be continued work on student discipline and family engagement. He asked the State Board to consider new efforts that the board could consider for 2018-2019.

Ms. Newton said Southern Arkansas University had had five (5) applicants to their education program in 2015-2016. She said there were 35 applicants in spring 2018. She said this was good news that reflected the Department's hard work on teacher recruitment.

Report 5- Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key passed out information to State Board members regarding the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. He said the TANF program was managed primarily through the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. He said there were many federally-funded programs that could be utilized to help students and keep them in school. He said he put TANF staff in touch with education service cooperatives so that this information could reach more students. He said there were a number of families who benefited from these services through students.

Commissioner Key said Act 781 of 2017 was passed to repeal unnecessary rules. General Counsel Ms. Lori Freno said all of the Department's rules had to be submitted to the state legislature in 2017. By July 1, 2018, a final report with a list of all administrative rules would be due with notation of those the Department would like to repeal and those the Department would like to keep. Ms. Freno said those the Department would like to repeal could be repealed altogether per Act 781. She said there would be public hearings. She said if the legislative committee approved the appeal, the repeal would be immediate.

Ms. Freno said the majority of the rules that were enforced by the Department could be found on the arkansased.gov website. She said the final report would be on the State Board June 2018 meeting agenda.

Report 6- State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Task Force on Student Discipline member Dr. Hill said task force member and Public School Coordinator Ms. Lori Lamb was drafting a report for submission to the State Board in June.

Liaison to ForwARd Arkansas Dr. Barth said there were 16 conversations happening in each of the five (5) communities to find out what Arkansans wanted to see in education. He said ForwARd was doing work with all of the districts under state control. She said ForwARd had been supporting the Task Force on Student Discipline and the Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said the division was working on onsite monitoring for districts. She said public review of the 2018 ESSA School Index Business Rules' public comment period had closed. She said an agenda item for final approval of the Standards for Accreditation would be part of the June 2018 State Board agenda. She said there would be an ESSA Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 29, 2018.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said the Department was working hard to find a replacement for former Director of Special Education Ms. Lisa Tyler.

Dr. Barth said he was part of a working group to advance science education in Arkansas through the implementation of the new state science standards. He said there was a multi-state grant to implement the new science standards. He said the group met on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. He said the group met quarterly. He said a formative assessment could equalize the playing field for students. He said the goal of the grant was to assert that science and STEM was a space for all students regardless of background. Dr. Barth said there was continued resistance to the implementation of science education, particularly at the elementary level.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Deborah Coffman said the Standards for Accreditation monitoring tool was being developed by the Division for Public School Accountability.

Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant Co-Chair Ms. Reith said the next formal meeting of the task force would be May 16, 2018. She said there were four (4) subcommittees, and the last two (2) subcommittees would meet in the following week. She said Ms. Dean would chair the task force in the 2018-2019 year. Ms. Reith said Dr. Hill was invited to serve on one (1) of the subcommittees as the work moved forward into the fall. Ms. Reith said she would continue her contributions to the task force in her role as the president of a non-profit organization. Ms. Reith said funding was a challenge for the group. She said that she would connect with various grantors including NASBE for support.

Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables encouraged the State Board to visit the Culture subcommittee meeting in the following week as the discussion would center on wrap-around services. Ms. Ables said the coalition would host Zoom sessions and share stakeholder feedback in the form of a standards framework. She said Zoom participants would give feedback on the framework format. Ms. Ables said stakeholders across the state would be able to provide input after this process. She said the Department's Family and Community Engagement (FCE) coalition members would create toolkits to guide the standards implementation process.

Ms. Ables said the Department's FCE staff would return to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) convening to compare the state's standards draft to other states who were participating in the family and community engagement standards pilot.

Ms. Coffman said the projected 2018-2019 budget for FCE's work was \$15,000.

Ms. Coffman said the Department was invited to speak at the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators and the Arkansas School Board Association. She said the talk, led by Ms. Ables and Director for Stakeholder Communication and Family and Community Engagement Ms. Kim Wright, was a positive opportunity for administrators to discuss family and community engagement work in their districts.


Adjournment

Dr. Barth motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair

