

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, April 12, 2019**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, April 12, 2019, 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; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Susan Chambers; Dr. Fitz Hill; Dr. Sarah Moore; Kathy McFetridge; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: None

**Changes to Agenda**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Reports**

**Together We Are Presentation and Overview**

Public Information Manager Ms. Gayle Morris discussed a new pathway for messaging about education in Arkansas, "Together We Are." Ms. Morris discussed the past programs they have covered as part of their work in Communications. She said that as she and Production Artist Mr. Kevin Briggs learned more about Professional Learning Communities, they realized that everything led back to the Department's vision statement, "The Arkansas Department of Education is transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education." She said that the current condition is that too few members know and understand the Department's vision, mission, and goals, messaging is fractured, and audiences are confused. This idea led to the creation of the Together We Are campaign. The key messages of the campaign are (1) All Department team members are committed to achieving the vision, mission, and goals; (2) The Department's current and future initiatives/programs support and complement one another in the effort to achieve the vision, mission, and goals; (3) Transforming education in Arkansas is the shared responsibility of all Arkansans. Internally, she said their vision for Together We Are is for posters, events, email blasts, lobby monitor slides, social media, videos, magazine covers, and talking points. Externally, their vision is videos, flyers, social media, association newsletters, classroom visits, presentation, branding, and forum for sharing positive stories and photos. They would love to see the Together We Are campaign brand spread everywhere throughout the communities. She said that they want to take the message beyond the education realm. She also discussed their recent partnership with the Arkansas State Library and showed a video featuring the Arkansas State Library Director Ms. Carolyn Ashcraft.

Dr. Barth asked how they gauged the connectedness within the agency. Ms. Morris said it was anecdotal information.

Ms. Chambers said it was an excellent presentation. She said that it is important to employee retention they like their manager and that they are connected to the purpose.

Ms. McFetridge said that she is concerned because not everyone knows who ADE is. Mr. Key noted that the identification of ADE as the Arkansas Department of Education is actually getting ready to change based on the recent decision for governmental transformation. The Department will be known as the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **Prescott School District**

ADE Special Advisor Ms. Tina Smith introduced Prescott School District Superintendent Mr. Robert Poole and Assistant Superintendent Ms. Missy Walley. She said that they are close to finishing their second year in the Professional Learning Community process.

Mr. Poole said that their district was part of the first cohort and the only district-wide PLC. He said that PLCs have greatly impacts both their student and teacher morale. Everyone is going in the same direction. He said that it takes a lot of work, but it is worth it. Mr. Poole said that he wished that every school in Arkansas had PLCs; however, noted that Solution Tree in needed to truly do things correctly.

Ms. Walley said that she appreciates seeing the Department working as a PLC in addition to the schools. She said that they applied to be a PLC because the district wanted to change, but they did not know how to changes. She said that they were a community and district who wanted more for their students and the future and it was determined that in order to change, they had to act. Ms. Walley said that their PLC journey began in September 2017 and the first year was spent building their PLC foundation.

Ms. Walley said that the district's new mission is "Prescott School District's fundamental purpose is to ensure high levels of learning for all students." They changed their focus from teaching to focus on learning. She said that they defined their essential standards and they plan with the end in mind. In order to create a collaborative culture with a focus on learning they do the following.

- Created a time for all teacher teams to meet together within the school day schedule. They dismiss every Wednesday at 2:15 p.m.
- Established a districtwide guiding coalition team.
- Established a districtwide intervention team.
- Focused leadership team time to discuss what supports the teachers need to grow.

Ms. Walley said that they are focused on results. They created a shared Google Team folder to foster teamwork, growth, and mutual accountability. Their three big ideas are (1) focus on learning, (2) collaborative culture with a focus on learning for all, (3) focus on results. She said their goal is "To create a systemic process that ensures every child receives the additional time and support needed to learn at high levels."

Mr. Key said that goal of the PLCs is that the other schools will be able to use each other as resources. Ms. Smith said that there are currently other schools are visiting PLC teams to learn more about the PLC process.

Mr. Poole said that they also invite the education service cooperative specialists to their Wednesday meetings.

### **2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report**

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Randi House discussed her Teacher Leadership Tour of Arkansas with Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables. She said that they visited four schools districts in Arkansas with an accompanying video blog. She said their first stop was Horatio, where the superintendent is paying his teachers incentives for doing microcredentials. This encourages teachers to learn on their own. The superintendent is also taking a microcredential so that he can understand the process his teachers are going through. Next, they traveled to DeQueen where there is a 60 percent Hispanic population and they have a growing Marshallese population. She also noted that DeQueen is 75 percent free and reduced; however, they also have all A and B schools. In DeQueen, they met an elementary teacher, Ms. Gutierrez, who grew up in the community, taught herself to read, and faced many struggles before being able to go to college and become a teacher. Ms. Gutierrez said that being a teacher is her dream job and she recorded a "Welcome to my Classroom" video in Spanish for them. She said that DeQueen understands that these students are their students and they will go above and beyond for them. Next, they traveled to Cedarville where they recorded a video with Cedarville High School Principal Ms. Courtney Cochran on how she is handling her teacher leaders. Lastly, they traveled to Springdale and discussed their teacher leadership program. She said they have been doing some form of teacher leadership for a long time. Springdale has teachers, instructional facilitators (focused on content), and instructional specialists (focused on pedagogy).

Ms. House discussed why teacher leaders are important.

- Effective teachers remain in the classroom.
- Extend the reach of effective teachers
- Empowerment, boost morale, improve culture of school
- Distributed leadership allows administration to focus on growth goals
- Novice teacher have access to experts in the field
- Establishing capacity in others

### **Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Guy Fenter Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report—**

Special Projects Administrator Mr. Frank Servedio provided the presentation and said that the results are the same for both education service cooperatives. He said that their scores are significantly greater and are mostly fives. He noted the reason why they had lower scores last year was due to a lack of responses on a user satisfaction survey.

### **Office of Coordinated Support and Services presents the Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

Special Projects Administrator Mr. Frank Servedio provided the same presentation for both Guy Fenter and Crowley's Ridge.

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Barth said he did a webinar a couple of weeks ago, co-sponsored by Child Trends and NASBE on the whole school, whole community, whole child model and the way in which Arkansas is implementing elements of thinking about the model. He said that he spoke on Arkansas' work on family engagement, school discipline, and the legislation regarding

counselors. He thanked Director of Communications Ms. Kimberly Friedman for helping him prepare for that webinar.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Mr. Key said the 2019 CCSSO Equity Update was linked to the Board agenda. He said the document gives updates and highlights of different things happening in the states. Mr. Key suggested that they review that document at their leisure. He said that over the weekend, he and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ivy Pfeffer attended the CCSSO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. There was a lot of exchange of information and they got to learn more about what the other states are doing. Mr. Key said that they learned that all of the states are going the same direction as Arkansas in response to the Every Student Succeeds Act in some way or another. He said that Georgia has cooperative positions that are wrap around service coordinators which they are seeing success in. Dr. Pfeffer and he are looking into this as a possibility for Arkansas. He also said that they think Arkansas is ahead of the game for family and community engagement.

Mr. Key said the legislative session has ended and the Department was successful with all bill. He noted that there was one bill which the Department choose not to file. He said that Act 640 was well received and Ms. Dean represented the Board. For Act 1240, the waivers are limited to five years and the Department was given rule making authority. He said that the Governor has signed all but two bills so far.

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

Ms. Dean said that for family and community engagement, the team has been doing a phenomenal job. She said that on February 21 the groups met to develop the toolkit and 175 resources were added. On March 1, there was a presentation on the process and content of the framework in Plumerville. On March 2, they met with the leaders in the DHS Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education to focus to the coordination of the two family and community engagement tools. Arkansas stakeholders, on March 19, identified primary options regarding formatting the focus on the guide design. The goal is to make the tools as user friendly as possible. The current is to (1) research assessment options for LEAs for family and community engagement; (2) streamline parental involvement plans on the federal and state levels for the supports and feedback processes for immediate LEA supports. Ms. Dean said that the essential and toolkit both need to be finalized onto a Google site. She said that professional development is the next focus and there will be train-the-train modules across the state. The training will be from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the dates will be as follows.

- May 6 - Dawson
- May 7 - Southeast Arkansas
- May 9 - Crowley's Ridge
- May 10 - Northwest Arkansas
- May 13 - Philander Smith

They are also planning many other events as well.

Ms. Zook had no update for ForwARd Arkansas.

Ms. Newton said that the ESSA Steering Committee met March 27 and heard from Ms. Coffman that the amendment had been approved. She also noted that Ms. Coffman said the school report cards would be released on April 15, 2019. Ms. Coffman said that the school report cards are comprehensive and there were no data corrections required when the schools reviewed the data. She said that there are school, district, and state reports, will be housed on My School Info. Ms. Coffman provided an overview of the report cards and said that there are 19 modules of data in the school report card and 10 of those modules are new this year. She encouraged everyone to check out all the different facets of the school report card.

Ms. Zook, for Public School Accountability, said that they have heard the presentation from Ms. Coffman and the takeaway is to emphasize and share the positive.

Ms. Chambers had no update for Human Resources.

Dr. Barth asked Chief of Staff Ms. Gina Windle to talk about the NASBE legislative conference. She enjoyed meeting State Board member from other states and learning about their procedures or governance policies, struggles and successes. Ms. Windle said that she would be scanning the Board members copies of the policy briefs with she picked up. She said that the fall conference will be in Nebraska.

Ms. Zook, for Special Education, said that the alternative pathways to graduation has passed. She said that CCSSO is working on documents to assist in identifying English Learners with disabilities. She also said that it is important to not work in special education silos, because all students may need some form of help at some point.

### **State Board Nominating Committee Report**

Ms. Chambers, chair of the State Board Nominating Committee said that the nominations are Ms. Diane Zook for chair and Ms. Charisse Dean for vice-chair. The vote will be held at the May meeting.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Public Comment**


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

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Tiffany Donovan*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnny Key, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jay Barth, SBE Chair