

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, January 11, 2019

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, January 11, 2019, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:02 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; Brett Williamson; Randi House, 2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: None

Reports

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2018 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Randi House spoke about her recent trip to San Jose, CA. The College Football Playoff Foundation hosted Teachers of the Year from around the country at the national championship football game and other events. Ms. House talked about the various people she met and the events she attended.

Chair's Report

Dr. Barth stated that the Professional Learning Communities presentation planned for the January board meeting will be made at the April board meeting. He also said there will be a work session about standards in February.

Dr. Barth reminded the board that the March meeting will be held in northwest Arkansas. Logistics are still being planned, but Dr. Barth said the board would meet that Thursday and visit schools in the Pea Ridge and Decatur School Districts on Friday.

He concluded his report by stating that the election timeline for the State Board chair and vice-chair positions has been moved up. By March 1, Dr. Barth will appoint a nominating committee comprised of three board members. The committee will nominate a chair and vice-chair at the April meeting, with the board voting in May.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key announced that the Impacting Tomorrow Summit for Arkansas Teacher Cadets will be held at 9 a.m. February 8, 2019, at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. More than 500 prospective teachers from high schools around the state are planning to attend.

He also introduced a new Inspire and Impact video featuring Ms. Joyce Flowers, the literacy coach at Camden-Fairview High School in the Camden-Fairview School District.

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

Ms. Zook said the ADE Special Education Unit partnered with ADE divisions to provide trainings for schools identified as needing additional targeted support based on their special education subgroups. Trainings were held at education service cooperatives around the state and

locations in central Arkansas. She also said the Special Education Unit submitted a waiver extension request to the U.S. Department of Education regarding the ESSA alternative assessment requirement for each state.

Regarding NASBE, Ms. Newton stated that the GAC will meet next week.

In her human resources report, Ms. Chambers said she received an update from Learning Services regarding the Guide to Life program.

Ms. Zook said Arkansas' ESSA plan amendment request was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on January 8. The letter and redline plan are available on the ADE ESSA webpage. She also said the Standards and Systems Support Unit is working with districts to resolve any Standards for Accreditation exceptions and will continue to monitor during the second semester.

Ms. Newton said the next ESSA Steering Committee meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. January 30, 2019.

Dr. Barth said he and Ms. Zook met with the ForwARd team to discuss officially transitioning the liaison role to Ms. Zook. He also provided highlights of the organization's focus areas for the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Dean announced that the family and community engagement core team attended a CCSSO conference December 5-6, 2018, in Washington, D.C. She stated that Arkansas received positive feedback at the conference and that Arkansas serves as a leader among other states regarding family and community engagement efforts. Ms. Dean said the board held a work session December 14, 2018, during which the board reviewed and provided feedback on the draft framework. She said a Commissioner's Memo was distributed, and feedback on the framework and toolkit will be accepted through January 11, 2019. She also stated that the task force is looking for grants and funding. Regarding next steps, Ms. Dean said ADE will review stakeholder feedback regarding the framework, and a toolkit is being developed. Multiple internal and external groups are providing strategies and resources. The State Board task force met again January 11, 2019, after the board meeting.

Dr. Barth said he would coordinate with Ms. Gina Windle (ADE Chief of Staff) to update the standing committee document.

New Business

Ms. Zook requested an update regarding parental concerns that were mentioned during the December 20, 2018, Special State Board meeting. Commissioner Key provided an update regarding efforts to address the concerns.

Ms. Zook stated that under No Child Left Behind, the board had an academic distress subcommittee. She asked the board if it would find a similar subcommittee beneficial now that ESSA has been implemented. She said the subcommittee would receive more concrete information about struggling schools in an effort to expedite time when schools present at State Board meetings. Board members discussed the idea. Commissioner Key stated that ADE will communicate with the board regularly so the board is aware of potential issues. He also said ADE is developing internal tools to help the agency become better aware of district activities in an effort to provide better support to schools.

Ms. Zook highlighted efforts by the North Little Rock School District to celebrate student growth as well as academic achievement.

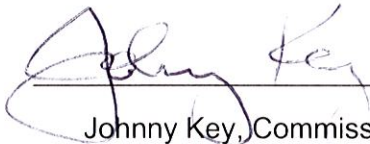
Ms. Chambers began discussion regarding next steps for the Little Rock School District. The board discussed the role of the LRSD Community Advisory Board and the need for clarification regarding the board's responsibilities and possible future actions under Act 930. She asked the commissioner for recommendations on next steps. Commissioner Key said he would explore options to address the board's questions.

Public Comment


There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Jay Barth, Chair