

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 9, 2017**

The State Board of Education met Thursday, November 9, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Commission Boardroom. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

Absent: Courtney Cochran, 2017 Teacher of the Year

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to have Consent Agenda Item 7 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-025, 17-026, 17-037 Ca'Lyn Zacharyreturn sent back to PLSB. Opposed by Ms. Reith. Final vote 7-1. The motion carried.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to approve consent agenda minus Consent Item 4 Consideration of Legislative Reports and Consent Agenda Item 7 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17-025, 17-026, 17-037 Ca'Lyn Zacharyreturn. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – October 12, 2017
- 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 # 16–173 Marcie Duncan
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17–006 Michelle Dollard
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case # 17–142 Camilla Turner
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-171 Chad Wheeler
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-181 Deandre Smith
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-190 Rebecca Garza

- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-198 Damicciah Darton
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-222 Jamie Kapella
- Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Required Training for School Board Members
- Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed Rules Governing Education Service Cooperatives
- My Child/My Student Report

#### **Consent Agenda Item 4- Consideration of Legislative Reports**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the 45 day reports have changed. He said reporting reflects the Department's change from prescriptive requirements to a system that allows districts to determine what information is reported and how it is reported. He said the Board can ask that specific data be reported.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to accept the legislative reports. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to hear public comment. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lonnie Brown said he is concerned about Dollarway not having a local school board. He said a locally controlled school board will better understand the needs of the district.

Mr. Jack Foster said he was concerned about Dollarway School District. He said the State Board should look at millage rates across the state. He said there is an inequality issue across the state.

#### **Action Agenda A**

##### **A-1 Resolution- American Education Week- November 13- 17, 2017**

Ms. Cathy Koehler requested resolution for American Education Week- November 13-17, 2017.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to adopt resolution for American Education Week, November 13-17, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-2 Resolution- Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month- January 2018**

Arkansas School Boards Association Board Development Director Dr. Anne Butcher requested adoption of January 2018 as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adopt resolution for January 2018 to be recognized as Arkansas School Board Member Recognition Month. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-3 Resolution - Arkansas Computer Science Education Week**

Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen requested adoption of December 4-10, 2017, as Arkansas Computer Science Education Week.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adopt resolution for December 4-10, 2017, to be recognized as Arkansas Computer Science Education Week. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-4 Consideration of Schools for Exit from Priority or Focus Status**

State Systems Administrator Mr. Louis Ferren said the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter allowing schools to exit priority or focus status based on specific criteria. He said all schools being considered by the Department meet those requirements.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve schools for exit from priority or focus status. The motion carried unanimously.

## **A-5 APPEL Handbook Review and Approval**

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Ann Crosser and Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau presented APPEL Handbook and answered questions from Board. Ms. Luneau said there were a few changes to the handbook in the present year.

Ms. Luneau said there are 30 professionals in the APPEL program who will be required to pass a science of reading section. She said the modules will be updated in the spring semester that will be used in summer 2018.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve revisions to APPEL Handbook. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-6 (a) District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters- Camden Fairview School District**

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said Camden-Fairview School District Superintendent Mr. Mark Keith asked for a three year teacher licensure waiver. He said professional development and mentorship is provided to the teachers.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers to approve waiver request filed by Camden Fairview School District. Motion carried unanimously.

**A-6 (b) District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters- Mountain Home School District**

Mountain Home School District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Leigh Gigliotti said the district had an elementary school administrator resign twelve days before the start of the school year. She said the district filled the position with an effective administrator. She said the district will need a waiver to allow this person to fill this position.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve waiver request for Mountain Home School District. The motion carried unanimously.

**A-6 (c) District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters- Guy Fenter Cooperative**

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said representatives of the Guy Fenter Cooperative were appearing before the Board with a petition of waivers.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve waiver request filed by Guy Fenter Cooperative. The motion carried unanimously.

**Action Agenda B**

**B-1 (a) Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School: Arkansas Arts Academy**

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on October 19, 2017, representatives of Arkansas Arts Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to the charter. She said the Panel approved the request.

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment request for Arkansas Arts Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

**B-1 (b) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on the District Conversion Charter School Amendment Request: Cross County Elementary Technology Academy**

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on October 19, 2017, representatives of Cross County Elementary Technology Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to the charter. She said the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the District Conversion Charter School Amendment request for Cross County Elementary Technology Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

**B-1 (c) Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision of the District Conversion Application: Polk County Virtual Academy**

Director of Public Charter Schools Ms. Alexandra Boyd said on October 19, 2017, representatives of Polk County Virtual Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a charter in the Mena School District area. She said the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the District Conversion Application request made by Polk County Virtual Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dean motioned, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn the State Board business meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

**Report 1 - Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative Evaluation Report**

State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said a new process has been developed in the form of electronic portfolios for the five year cooperative reports. He said the notes section was modified.

Dr. Hernandez said Arch Ford Cooperative always considers how to support districts in innovative ways. He said the cooperative has also expanded support to districts outside of the cooperative.

Arch Ford Cooperative Director Mr. Phillip Young said a committee of directors have spent over a year building evaluation protocol. He said there has been two main areas

of improvement to the evaluation protocol. He said the development of a user satisfaction survey instrument and an individual training session evaluation was guided by Director of the Office of Innovation for Education at the University of Arkansas Dr. Denise Airola. He said cost effectiveness and efficiency was developed as part of the evaluation to examine services provided by the cooperative compared to procuring services outside of the cooperative structure.

Dr. Hernandez said the Department will evaluate cooperatives throughout the year. He said the Department and cooperatives have discussed how to disseminate information about what cooperatives do to the wider public.

**Report 2 - Update on the process for transitioning from the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program Act to the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act School Improvement Unit will update the State Board of Education on the progress towards transitional support plans.**

Coordinator of School Improvement Mr. Elbert Harvey said the concept around this improvement year is to build relationships with schools.

School Improvement Program Coordinator Ms. Tiah Frazier said the Diagnostic Analysis Update is a tool developed by the Department that helped the schools narrow their focus and set goals. She said the School Improvement Specialists have served schools directly for a long time. She said School Improvement Specialists now train district liaisons who in turn support the district teams. She said the 45 day progress reports will be similar to the previous format, but schools now have the autonomy to identify goals and track indicators identified by those schools. She said the schools should choose evidence-based practices.

Ms. Frazier said individual school improvement is now directly tied to Act 1003 funds. She said the district will now distribute Act 1003 funds to districts as opposed to the prior requirement that funds be distributed directly to schools.

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Sharesa White said North Little Rock School District was willing to collaborate and embrace the process.

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kim Wright said the North Little Rock School District was highly cohesive. He said North Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Kelly Rogers brought together goal-minded individuals who considered the best way to serve schools with a diverse array of needs.

Public School Program Advisor Mr. Ted Beck said the Department visited two focus schools in the North Little Rock School District. He said the schools critically evaluated their data.

North Little Rock School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Beth Shumate said the district has seen much improvement at North Little Rock Academy. She said graduation rates have improved and teacher and student attendance has increased. She said personalized learning is the focus at North Little Rock Academy.

North Little Rock School District Executive Director of Secondary Schools, AP, IB, Pre AP, GT, ELL, and Testing Mr. Henry Anderson said the district is asking questions on how to move students forward. He said there is a turnaround model that utilizes multiple classroom leaders to continuously look at student data.

North Little Rock School District Executive Director of Elementary Education Ms. Rosie Coleman said Crestwood has made great strides as a focus school. She said the school moved from teacher-centered to student-centered. She said data was the decision-maker in planning and structuring prescriptive plans to meet individual student needs.

Ms. Frazier said district plans of support have been submitted by most districts that qualify for Act 1003 funds.

Mr. Harvey said the job of the transitional support plan is to identify what supports the districts will provide to their schools. He said districts have the data that they need, and it is important to look at the data in a purposeful and meaningful way.

Ms. Frazier there is a different level of guidance needed for different districts based on district transition support plans currently received.

### **Report 3 – Chair’s Report**

Dr. Barth asked Board members to share their monthly updates.

Ms. Newton said she attended a symposium on personalized learning. She said she was able to view the session from a policy perspective. She said Arkansas was among the states recognized for its breakthrough activity in personalized learning.

Ms. Zook said there were several times in October when teachers were pulled out of schools at a capacity where schools were not able to provide sufficient numbers of substitute teachers. She said there are a number of meetings, and the timing of meetings should be considered.

Mr. Black said the Board hears a number of positive outcomes from various programs and that there should be a model to translate these successes into major improvements across the state.

Ms. Reith said immigrants who come to Arkansas have the greatest likelihood to live in poverty. She said even with the challenges, there has been good work in the state.

She said there are interesting intersections happening within the Arkansas Department of Education and other departments addressing these issues.

Ms. Reith said endorsements for ESL teachers are not available in Arkansas. She said there is an opportunity to discuss ESL endorsements. She said there is a need in this area.

#### **Report 4 – Commissioner’s Report**

Commissioner Key said Dollarway received a clean audit. He said a culture change is needed across the state to translate individual success stories in districts to major improvements across the state.

Commissioner Key said he met students at the Arkansas Leadership Academy in the prior week. He said administrators are open to acting on student-led initiatives and promoting student voice.

#### **Report 5 – State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report**

Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant Co-Chair Ms. Reith said there was an important work session that evening. She said the last meeting focused on CCSSO updates from task force member and Public Information Manager Ms. Meghan Ables. She said it is important to align the work of the CCSSO State Consortium on Family Engagement Initiative and the task force.

Task Force on Student Discipline liaison Dr. Hill said the Arkansas Activity Association presented at the last task force meeting. He said the Smart Jock study was very helpful information for the task force because the data specified how extracurricular activities impact student learning.

Dr. Hill said the Sixth and Goal program has exceeded expectations. He said there will be a November 10 meeting to look at off-season activities to keep students engaged. He said the program is looking to target other sports including volleyball.

Dr. Hill said the task force is looking into a pilot program for 2018-2019 that seeks to eliminate home suspensions and provide a place for students to remain educationally engaged.

Ms. Dean said Ms. Lori Lamb shared goals for the task force. She said the task force is exploring mediation that intervenes before students are expelled. She said the task force is looking into the language of continued education provisions in current law along with language in other related provisions.



Commissioner Key acknowledged that the last legislative session changed the reporting requirements for student discipline. He said the policy change simplified that data reporting.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said the dispute resolution assignment has been completed. She said the Department is asking for a special education waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to administer more tests to Arkansas students.

Liaison to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Ms. Reith said one of the main takeaways from the November NASBE conference was that buy-in and evidence-based practices have been a priority focus.

Dr. Barth said there is a legislative council meeting in the spring. He said it will be an important time as career technical education and IDEA may be discussed.

Dr. Hill said he would like to have a speaker come present to the Board concerning education within correctional facilities. Dr. Barth said he would like to have the Department present a report on educational facilities within the juvenile justice system and education within the correctional system.

Liaison to ADE Human Resources Ms. Chambers said she joined a meeting with the Department regarding the current onboarding system for new employees.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said a report was given in the October meeting. She said the Public School Accountability team has done good work and is under good leadership.

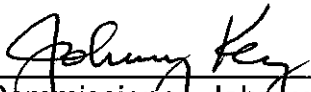
Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Newton said the Department has not heard feedback from the U.S. Department of Education on the Arkansas ESSA plan. She said communication with stakeholders was discussed in the last ESSA Steering Committee meeting.


Liaison to ForwARd Arkansas Dr. Barth said the ForwARd Executive Advising Committee and the Implementation Working Group have met since the October State Board meeting. He said the focus of those meetings were on the development of research and data systems. He said there is a focus on scaling programs within the ForwARd communities across different communities in the state. He said there is a new chief of staff and a new hire charged with development efforts. He said he met with the Clinton School team that is working with middle schools in the Little Rock School District.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Barth adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis*

  
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Commissioner, Johnny Key

  
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Chair, Dr. Jay Barth