

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and  
Deeper Learning Grant Meeting**  
**Friday, September 15, 2017**

The Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant met Friday, September 15, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Co-Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Co-Chair; Charisse Dean, Co-Chair; Geania Dickey; Meghan Ables, ADE Public Information Manager; and Courtney Cochran, 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Absent: None

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Reith moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the consent agenda with the change of the two named co-chairs: Ms. Dean and Ms. Reith. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – August 11, 2017

**Action Agenda**

**A-1 State Consortium on Family Engagement Update**

Ms. Ables said she would meet with the consortium in the following week. She said she was over the Department's communications systems in relation to Act 930 transitional support.

**A-2 Shared Resources**

Ms. Dean said she gathered research on schools with high poverty and high minority students coupled with high test scores. She said she has been in contact with the president of the Arkansas PTA. She said the goal is to discuss best practices across the state.

Ms. Cochran said she learned about the family literacy program in the Springdale School District. She said it also related to family engagement in learning. She said she learned a lot from the conversations about community liaisons. She said Springdale relies heavily on community liaisons. Ms. Reith said the district's approach is a family approach. Ms. Dickey said this success is not a program, it is a culture.

Ms. Dickey said there was an interim study done with a component on parent engagement and best practices.

Ms. Reith said she found a number of organizations that are examining parental involvement. She said the Office for Civil Rights within the U.S. Department of Education offers state-level support that relates to the work being done by the task force. She said the national skills coalition is having a conversation around workforce development and family engagement.

Ms. Reith said there is information from the Department to the wider community being shared via the website and social media. She said there is a need to understand whether there is real connection to the information.

Ms. Cochran said capacity building for family coordinators could be part of the task force's work.

Ms. Dickey said coordinating services through employing family engagement staff outside of individual school budgets for officers is a possibility. She said thinking about reallocation of resources may be considered. She said professional development on how to communicate with parents can be part of what is offered to these staff members.

Ms. Ables said the Department provides video-based ethics training. She said the task force might consider having video-based parental engagement professional development training.

### **A-3 Future Scope of Work**

Ms. Reith said the task force should set goals and a timeline for what they would like to see by June 2018.

Ms. Dickey said standards will be part of the work that the task force does.

Ms. Dickey said there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> convening stemming from the Good to Great project concerning family engagement on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Clinton Presidential Library, and may provide a venue to present.

### **A-4 Subject Matter Expert Advisement**

Two videos featuring the work of Dr. Karen Mapp regarding family engagement in learning were shown. Ms. Dickey said the videos are good conversations on the direction of work of the task force.

Ms. Dickey said she will look at Angela Duran's work to understand best practices. She said she will share the book *Switch* with the task force.

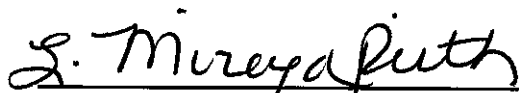
**A-5 November Meeting Date**

Board members tentatively set a dinner work session on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis*

  
Mireya Reith, Co-Chair

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Charisse Dean, Co-Chair

