

**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
Friday, August 11, 2017**

The State Board of Education met Friday, August 11, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

Absent: none

**Reports**

**Report-1 Priority School Diagnostic Analysis Update and Reporting Forms for School Year 2017-18**

ADE Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said the ESEA flexibility waivers have been used in recent years. He said it is a diagnostic analysis. He said the School Improvement Unit's challenges have included data collection and analysis, aligning goals to data collected, aligning 1003 Grant funds to goals for improvement, and schools waiting on summative state test data to write the following year's school improvement plans.

Dr. Wilde said under ESSA the school improvement money will shift from being an allocation to the school to an allocation to the district. He said schools identified as in need of support will submit their school plan of support in summer 2019. He said the application for funding and the support plan will be in the same application.

Dr. Wilde said the previous 45-day progress report included multiple data points including attendance, enrollment, and ACT Aspire Interim assessment data. He said the diagnostic analysis update will take the previous two years of 45 day progress reports for districts and schools to analyze.

Dr. Wilde said the school improvement process will focus on the design and implementation of the schools' theory of action. He said 1003 Grant Application funds will now be able to be allocated to feeder schools as well as schools identified as needing improvement.

Dr. Wilde said there will be changes in the 2017-2018 academic school year. He said the goal page is developed through the Diagnostic Analysis Update. He said the goal page will now be formatted as a Theory of Action. He said the most important change is that the fourth quarter data collection will be replaced with a fourth quarter data analysis report.

## **Report-2 Computer Science Report**

ADE Director of Computer Science Mr. Anthony Owen said the Arkansas Department of Education is trying to reach a student contact level of over 100,000 students. He said the computer coding tour stops were tentatively confirmed. He said the ADE has given out over 300 computer science kits donated by Facebook. He said four schools were recognized in July at the Facebook Headquarters for their achievement in the Facebook TechStart Program. He said he was elected to serve on the executive committee of the Computer Science Teachers Association. Mr. Owen said over 20 Arkansas educators attended the CSTA annual conference in Baltimore. He said ADE Grants Analyst Ms. Melinda Stem will present a session with the Micro:bit Educational Foundation at the October 2017 Computer Science Summit in Arkansas.

Mr. Owen recognized members of the ADE team and other individuals who have supported computer science training across the state. Mr. Owen said there has been an increase from 12 to around 160 endorsed or certified computer science teachers in Arkansas from 2015 to the present.

Mr. Owen said the ADE has received a Learning Blade Grant approved for the 2017-2018 school year and will be disseminated through the Arkansas Public School Resource Center.

Mr. Owen said the ADE has secured a grant through the Women's Foundation of Arkansas and AT&T. He said students will make storyboard pitches to a panel of experts. He said AETN will produce the storyboard. He said the grant will place these stories in theaters across the state.

Mr. Owen said in 2015 there were 297 exam takers for the high level computer science course, APCSA. He said that number increased to 374 exam takers in 2016. He said there were over 400 test takers for AP exams in the first year of implementation of the computer science principles course. He said the ADE will create an incentive plan for students with qualifying scores of 3, 4, and 5 on AP computer science exams.

## **Report-3 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report**

2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Courtney Cochran said her platform this year is "For Every Child." Ms. Cochran said she will focus on family-focused learning. She said she would like communities to help families. She said achievement and engagement is increased through this process. Ms. Cochran said she would like to see personalized learning for students. She said school climate and culture is important. She said culturally competent and responsive teaching is critical. Ms. Cochran said teachers need to understand how to see the world through their students' eyes. She said basic needs must be addressed before academic needs.

Ms. Cochran said she would like to get young professionals excited about teaching. She said that effective and experienced teachers should be motivated to remain in the teaching profession. She said role models are important.

Ms. Cochran said she has started the campaign #foreverychild on social media.

#### **Report-4 Chair's Report**

Dr. Jay Barth said he is continuing his work with the science team at the ADE. He said there was a state team meeting in the previous week for the Advancing Coherent and Equitable Systems of Science Project funded by the National Science Foundation. He said the goal is to create science standards that touch every student. He said there are logistical issues with implementing new standards and spreading the word.

Dr. Barth said the Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice Board Member Mr. Victor Rojas asked whether the Board would be interested in developing a school mental health advisory council. Ms. Reith volunteered to support this effort.

#### **Report-5 Commissioner's Report**

ADE Commissioner Mr. Johnny Key said the State Consortium on Family Engagement was signed this week and is related to the new Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant.

He said that many members of the leadership team will be present in different schools across the state for the first day of school on August 14, 2017.

Commissioner Key said three (3) Arkansas teachers are being recognized as 2017 State Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAMST).

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

Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant member Ms. Reith said she and Ms. Newton met family engagement experts during the July Deeper Learning in ESSA conference in New Orleans. She said they look forward to bringing information to the Board from those connections.

Task Force on Student Discipline member Ms. Dean said the Reclaiming Scholars Program had its pilot year in 2016-2017. She said it is an opportunity for children without high-level offenses to do homework, mental health consultation, and spiritual

principles to make better decisions. She said students learn team-building activities and are fed during the program. She said the tenure for students is usually 3-10 days. She said someone from the program checks on the student for 30 days after the program. She said the student has the opportunity to have the suspension expunged from their record if they are able to maintain a clear record in the post-program 30 day timeframe.

Dr. Hill said Sixth and Goal, another student intervention community program, is underway that will mitigate student discipline and achievement issues while addressing the lack of 6<sup>th</sup> grade football programming in Little Rock. He said the program's kickoff is in September. Dr. Hill said Sixth and Goal will track data over six (6) years and analyze the impact of this program in the Little Rock community where it will be implemented.

Liaison to ESSA Steering Committee Ms. Ouida Newton said she will share ESSA implementation ideas from the Deeper Learning in ESSA conference with Commissioner Key.

Liaison to Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Dr. Barth said this group will not appear in the following month's list of special committees, but that next steps for the Stakeholder Group report will appear on the September 14, 2017, agenda.

Liaison to Public School Accountability Ms. Zook said the ADE is working on revisions.

Liaison to ADE Human Resources Ms. Chambers said there are no updates.

Liaison to National Association of State Boards of Education Ms. Reith said NASBE is looking to bring topics from the Deeper Learning in ESSA conference to the November national conference in Atlanta.

Liaison to Special Education Ms. Zook said they have finished their meetings. She said information is being compiled and will go out to be read. She said she will collect feedback.

Liaison to Standing Committee on Academic Distress Ms. Zook thanked the involved members of this committee which finished its service in July.

### **Report-7 ESSA Update**

Commissioner Key said many education stakeholders in districts and schools believed accountability under No Child Left Behind felt like a "gotcha" game. He said the Arkansas Department of Education is trying to change the culture by which accountability is dealt. He said previous accountability was ACTAAP on the state level and No Child Left Behind on the federal level. Commissioner Key said student-focused education, School Rating, ESSA, and Act 930 are the main components of the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability System. He said Act 930 replaces

ACTAAP, ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind, and the School Rating System has been updated.

Commissioner Key said the ESSA plan has been sent to Governor Hutchinson, and he is fully engaged in the process.

Commissioner Key said Act 930 is focused on district support. He said district support plans will include student-focused learning systems, student success plans, and support for educator excellence among other changes. He said the ADE is seeking relationship-building with districts so that schools are better supported. Commissioner Key said communication and meaningful stakeholder engagement will be emphasized under the new accountability system. Commissioner Key said more factors will be included in the A-F rating under Act 744.

Commissioner Key said long-term goals will be part of the ESSA plan. He said the ADE will stop measuring schools by annual assessment as the single indicator. He said the transition will happen in the 2017-2018 school year. Commissioner Key said there will be ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout this transition.

Commissioner Key said the lowest 5% achievement measurement is by school and not by district. Commissioner Key said there will be no need for a community advisory board for districts if the State Board decides to leave a locally-elected board in place. Commissioner Key said state control is still an option. He said there are more options under Act 930 to address academic distress including removing a superintendent, removing a local school board, or placing restrictions on a local board's authority.

ADE State Superintendent Dr. Mike Hernandez said the ADE will use data to determine district needs based on trends. He said the ADE looks to engage cooperatives more to provide support to districts.

Commissioner Key said no rules are needed for the transitional support plan. Commissioner Key the ADE has revamped the Office of Intensive Support to address the differential level of support that is anticipated.

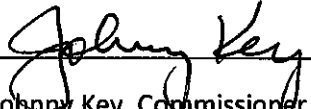
ADE Assistant Commissioner Deborah Coffman said the ADE is continuing to edit the plan and is staying abreast of other state plans approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

Commissioner Key said the A-F School Rating System is currently being modeled. He said the A-F rating will be determined through efforts underway by the Division of Public School Accountability and not a separate set of metrics. Commissioner Key said he believes the emphasis on multiple factors will make a difference in how schools are rated moving forward.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis*

  
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Johnny Key, Commissioner

  
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Dr. Jay Barth, Chair