

Minutes
State Board of Education Standing Committee on Academic Distress Meeting
Friday, July 14, 2017

The Standing Committee on Academic Distress met Friday, July 14, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Diane Zook called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

Present: Diane Zook, Chair; Joe Black; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; and Courtney Cochran, 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Absent: Mireya Reith

Consent Agenda

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Item included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – January 13, 2017

Agenda

Progress Report

ADE Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said the three districts would discuss their challenges, successes, and next steps.

Forest City School District Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Hardrick said Forrest City Junior High School 7th grade pre-AP students won the Arkansas River and Great Rivers Math contest. She said Forrest City High School was recognized by Governor Hutchinson for enrollment in the #ARKidsCanCode initiative. She said they were one of four districts recognized. She said reading, unit assessments that aligned to ACT Aspire, and teacher attendance and retention are some areas for improvement. She said they are seeing academic growth according to ACT Aspire score analysis. Dr. Hardrick said the next steps are to grow teachers dedicated to the community, push reading initiatives, and better understand the ACT Aspire and its categories.

Blytheville School District Superintendent Mr. Richard Atwill said the district has partnered with Arkansas Leadership Academy and the ADE School Improvement division. He said this district is focusing on teacher attendance and support. He said the district is focusing on student referrals. Mr. Atwill said student voice has been important for addressing student behavioral issues. He said the district will continue to

provide intensive instructional support to teachers and address ELA and Math grades. Mr. Atwill said the district is moving forward in the improvement process. He said he is focused on current students and improving scores.

Hope School District Superintendent Mr. Bobby Hart said the district is focusing on curriculum, instruction, and climate. Mr. Hart said that the data they received from different areas showed that they were not living up to their mission and vision. Mr. Hart said the district decided that having an external provider would not be the "magic bullet" to help with improvement. He said that the district has worked with Arkansas Leadership Academy to develop a strategic focus. He said the district is also working with Kickboard, Achieve3000, and Noble Impact among others.

Hope High School Principal Mr. Bill Hoglund said there is a focus on school culture in the high school. He said they have gained a great parental coordinator who has been very successful in this capacity. He said that the organizational health of the high school is in need of improvement. He said that scores are not where he wants them, yet students are graduating with college credit. He said the district is proud of this accomplishment.

Hope School District School Improvement Specialist Ms. Carla Narlesky said that they have applied for the PLC pilot program. She said they are adding a critical reading course at Hope High School for the upcoming school year among other initiatives. She said they are focused in their approach concerning school improvement.

Dr. Wilde said that each school has different styles to approaching the challenges, but all three superintendents understand the work ahead.

Adjournment

Mr. Williamson moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis



Diane Zook, Chair