

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, June 8, 2017

The State Board of Education met Thursday, June 8, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Chair; Dr. Jay Barth, Vice-Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Meghan Ables, 2016 Teacher of the Year, and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Present via phone: Susan Chambers

Absent: None

Recognition

Arkansas Leadership Quest 2016-2017 Micro-Credential Challenge Winners

Leadership Quest Director Ms. Rocci Malone recognized the Arkansas Leadership Quest 2016-2017 Micro-Credential Challenge winners. She said that the use of micro-credentials for educator professional development is directly in-line with Commissioner Key's vision of student-focused learning, which is personalized learning for educators. She said that the three principals who participated in the 2016-2017 Arkansas Leadership Quest won the \$5000 Micro-Credential Challenge. These principals are Ms. Julie Amstutz, Elementary Principal at DeWitt; Ms. Pam Dean, Elementary Principal at Stuttgart; and Ms. Sonya Launius, Elementary Principal at Bearden. BloomBoard sponsored the awards.

Ms. Pam Dean recognized the support from Ms. Malone. She said the administrator network is very helpful.

Ms. Julie Amstutz thanked the Board for supporting micro-credentialing.

Ms. Sonya Launius said the experience has been wonderful. She said the support has improved the principal role.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to approve the consent agenda minus Consent Item #4 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-045 – Chad McPherson; Consent Item #5 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-068 – Stephanie Reynolds; and Consent Item #6 Consideration of the Recommendation

of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-075 – Michael Pitts. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes— May 11, 2017
- Minutes— May 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 #17-153 – Trent Bennett— Professional Licensure Standards Board Chief Investigator Mr. Eric James
- Review of Loan and Bond Applications— Agency Controller I Ms. Cindy Hollowell and Administrative Analyst Ms. Amy Woody
- Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed ADE Rules Governing Professional Learning Communities— Special Advisor Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford and Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith
- Consideration for Public Comment: Proposed ADE Rules Governing Special Education Procedural Requirements and Program Standards, Sec. 18.00 Residential Placement— Special Advisor Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford

Action Agenda A

Consent Item #4 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-045 – Chad McPherson

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to send Case #17-045 back to the Professional Licensure Standards Board for additional considerations regarding Mr. Chad McPherson. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Item #5 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-068 – Stephanie Reynolds

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to accept the recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-068 for Stephanie Reynolds. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Item #6 Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-075 – Michael Pitts

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to send Case #17-075 back to the Professional Licensure Standards Board for additional considerations regarding Mr. Michael Pitts. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

A-1 Consideration of Waiver Request for Teaching License- James David Bodry

PLSB Attorney Ms. Bilenda Harris-Ritter said James David Bodry is a licensed educator who was notified on March 31, 2017, that the Department had received information that he is disqualified from holding a teaching license under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410. Mr. Bodry requested a waiver of the disqualification from teaching license.

Attorney Doug Brimhall requested a waiver from the disqualification. He said Mr. Bodry was a teacher for 20 years. He said Mr. Brody made a mistake that changed his life.

Mr. James David Bodry said he worked previously at Crawfordsville and Turrell School Districts as football coach and teacher. He said he entered a plea of guilty to possession for use or delivery or advertise of drug paraphernalia which is a B Felony. Mr. Bodry said he completed a program at Grace Mission Bible Training Center. He said he has applied for a full pardon. He said he was on probation for five years. Mr. Bodry entered many letters of support.

Ms. Delores Bodry said she has taught 55 years. She said her son, James Bodry, is working with student groups at church and is ready to return to teaching.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to grant the waiver request for teaching license for Mr. James David Bodry, with specific conditions that Mr. Bodry's teaching license will be on a two-year probation with no additional disqualifications as noted in a background check. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Consideration of Revocation of Teaching License- Harry Almond

PLSB Attorney Ms. Bilenda Harris-Ritter said Mr. Harry Don Almond is a licensed educator who pleaded guilty to an offense under Ark. Code Sections 6-17-410 and 6-17-411, which disqualifies him for licensure by the State Board and for employment in a public school. Mr. Almond did not request a hearing before the State Board.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to revoke the teaching license of Mr. Harry Almond. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of Revocation of a Teaching License- Jacob R. Howard

PLSB Attorney Ms. Bilenda Harris-Ritter said Mr. Jacob R. Howard is a licensed educator who pleaded guilty to an offense under Ark. Code Sections 6-17-410 and 6-17-411, which disqualifies him for licensure by the State Board and for employment in a public school. Mr. Howard did not request a hearing before the State Board.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to revoke the teaching license of Mr. Jacob R. Howard. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of Request for Approval of Nominated Members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to Replace Members Whose Terms are Vacant or Expiring June 30, 2017

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Ivy Pfeffer said under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-422 members of the PLSB serve rotating terms, and are appointed by the State Board from nominations made by professional education associations.

Ms. Lillian Hemphill, Social Studies teacher at Watson Chapel Junior High School, has been nominated for re-appointment by the Arkansas Education Association to represent the association and middle level educators.

Mr. John David Keeling, middle school principal at Dardanelle Public Schools has been nominated by the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Administrators to represent the association and middle level building administrators.

Dr. Pfeffer said the terms of these members are to begin on July 1, 2017 and end on June 30, 2020.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve the nominated members for the Professional Licensure Standards Board to replace members whose terms are vacant or expiring June 30, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request: Arkansas Virtual Academy

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Virginia Perry said that on May 17, 2017, representatives of Arkansas Virtual Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Arkansas Virtual Academy Director Dr. Scott Sides said the increase would be a three-year progression.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request for Arkansas Virtual Academy. Ms. Zook voted no. Dr. Barth abstained. The final vote was 6-1. The motion carried.

A-6 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request: Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Virginia Perry said that on May 17, 2017, representatives of Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision for the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment request for Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment Request: Little Rock Preparatory Academy

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Virginia Perry said that on May 17, 2017, representatives of Little Rock Preparatory Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request. No request for the State Board to review the decision made by the Panel was submitted. She said that the State Board may exercise a right to review and conduct a hearing at a later State Board meeting.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to not review the Charter Authorizing Panel decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Amendment request for Little Rock Preparatory Academy. The motion carried unanimously.

Report

Parent and Community Communication and Engagement

2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Meghan Ables presented a parent and community communication and engagement report. She identified six types of involvement that impact the drop-out rate, academic achievement, and closing the achievement gap. She highlighted best practices from Arkansas schools including Blytheville, Star City, Little Rock, El Dorado, Springdale, Mulberry/Pleasant View, Gosnell, Cabot, and Mayflower. She said teachers are using ClassDojo, Remind 101, and Seesaw Apps to communicate with parents.

Action Agenda B

B-1 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Bryant School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district.

Bryant School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Karen Walters requested waivers from class size and teaching load for five (5) years. She said the Bryant District is at capacity and seeking innovative solutions to permit students to take the Pre-AP classes that they choose in middle school and high school. She said the waiver would take effect for the 2017-2018 school year. She said she would be willing to collect data regarding the waiver and report to the State Board next summer.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve waivers for class size and teaching load for five (5) years for the Bryant School District, and the district will submit a report back to the State Board next summer. The motion carried unanimously.

B-2 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Cutter-Morning Star School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. Representatives of the Cutter Morning Star School District appeared before the Board with a petition of waivers.

Cutter Morning Star High School Mr. Nathan Sullivan said the school is trying to improve career opportunities for students.

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis clarified the correct waiver requests to meet the needs of the school.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve waivers for school day hours, definition on planned instructional time for five (5) years the Cutter-Morning Star School District. The motion carried unanimously.

B-3 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Dollarway School District

This item was pulled from the agenda.

B-4 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Fayetteville School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. She said the waiver requests were for five (5) years.

Fayetteville School District Superintendent Dr. Matthew Wendt provided demographic information of the district and celebrated successes of students. He requested waivers for flexible schedule to begin school on August 13, 2018.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve waivers for flexible schedule for the Fayetteville School District for five (5) years. The motion carried unanimously.

B-5 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Forrest City School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the state Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district.

Forrest City School District Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Hardrick requested the teacher licensure waiver for three (3) years. She said 6 out of 7 vacant positions are also identified as critical shortage areas. She said the district hired 15 long-term substitutes in 2016-2017. She said the district is supporting these educators toward licensure.

Educator Effectiveness Director Ms. Sandra Hurst said Forrest City is developing their own model that can be sustained.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve waivers from teacher licensure for three (3) years for the Forrest City School District. The motion carried unanimously.

B-6 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Jasper School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district.

Jasper School High School Principal Mr. Jeff Lewis requested waivers from teacher licensure, alternative learning environment, class size and teaching load, and flexible schedule for three (3) years. He said the flexibility will provide more opportunities to work with individual students. He said non-core personnel would be included in the waiver for teacher licensure. He said the alternative learning environment (ALE) personnel would assist with meeting the needs of all students. He said the class size waiver would not include core classes. He said he would report back to the State Board at the end of the three-year period.

Jasper School District Superintendent Mr. Jeff Cantrell said the ALE funds would be turned back to better serve more students.

School Improvement Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said ADE would monitor the ALE program.

Jasper High School Counselor Mr. Todd Parker said the ALE teacher would serve as the advisor to all students in the ALE.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve waivers from teacher licensure for three (3) years for the Jasper School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to approve waivers from alternative learning environment for three (3) years for the Jasper School District. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve waivers for class size and teaching load for three (3) years for the Jasper School District. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve waivers for flexible schedule for three (3) years for the Jasper School District. The motion carried unanimously.

B-7 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Springdale School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district.

Springdale School District Student, Personnel, & Legal Services Director Ms. Kendra Clay requested class size/teaching load, teacher licensure, library media specialists, guidance counseling licensure, non-instructional duties, and gifted and talented for five (5) years.

Springdale School District Associate Superintendent Dr. Megan Slocum said parents wanted more students in the Don Tyson School of Innovation. She said an intake conference is conducted with each child entering the school. She said the waivers would permit seventh graders to enroll.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve requested waivers for one (1) year for the Springdale School District or until such time as approved by the charter authorization process. The motion carried unanimously.

B-8 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Blytheville School District

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district.

Blytheville School District Superintendent Mr. Richard Atwill said the waiver request is for flexible schedule, teacher and administrative licensure, guidance counseling services, curriculum, and class size and teaching load for five (5) years.

Blytheville School District Curriculum Director Ms. Sally Cooke explained the need for each waiver.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve the requested waivers for the Blytheville School District for five (5) years. The motion carried unanimously.

B-9 District Request for Waivers Granted to Open-Enrollment Charters: Crowley's Ridge Cooperative Districts

Public School Program Advisor Ms. Kelly McLaughlin said Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to Open-Enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in the school district. Representatives of the Crowley's Ridge Cooperative appeared before the Board with a petition of waivers on behalf of 22 districts served by the cooperative. She said the districts requests a waiver from teacher licensure for one (1) year.

Arkansas Public School Resource Center Attorney Mr. Tripp Walter said all districts stand behind the petition for waivers and that the request can be considered collectively.

Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative Director Mr. John Manning thanked the ADE and Arkansas Public School Resource Center for their assistance on the application.

Mr. Walter said Act 294 will provide permit relief when the law goes into effect therefore the cooperative is asking for the waivers for one (1) year. He said the districts would comply with core subject teacher expectations for qualification, background checks, TESS, professional development, and that educators will work towards licensure. He said 20 districts are collective in this request.

Jonesboro School District Superintendent Dr. Kim Wilbanks said the district has positions open and the applications are from teachers that currently teach in other schools in the co-op region.

Newport School District Superintendent Dr. Larry Bennett said the core areas are the hardest positions to fill with licensed teachers.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve waivers for teacher licensure for one (1) year for the Crowley's Ridge Education Service Cooperative 20 identified districts. The motion carried unanimously.

B-10 Standards Accreditation Appeals

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford reviewed the procedures.

B-10 (a) Standards Accreditation Appeals—Bryant School District

Public School Program Manager for Standards Monitoring Unit Mr. Willie Morris said Bryant School District had an accreditation probationary issue regarding class size and teaching load.

Bryant School District Superintendent Dr. Tom Kimbrell said 15 students wanted to take Pre-AP classes and the district enrolled the students. He said the teachers were compensated for the additional students in their classrooms beyond the 150 student requirement. He requested a waiver for 2017-2018 and that the district not be placed on probation.

Bryant School District Director of Legal Services and Human Resources Mr. Jeremy Lasiter requested a Standards waiver under the circumstances of just cause. He said the problem was identified in April 2017.

Dr. Kimbrell said it could impact the district's interest rate in selling bonds if placed in probation. He said the district has been encouraging students to take Pre-AP classes, and he was unaware that the class size was a probation issue.

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said a waiver can be granted for unexpected growth. He said there were additional options that could have addressed the issue had issue been identified earlier.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept the appeal from probationary status of Bryant School District for failing to meet Standards for Accreditation. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

B-10 (b) Standards Accreditation Appeals—Woodlawn School District

Public School Program Manager Mr. Willie Morris said the Woodlawn School District had two violations.

Woodlawn School District Superintendent Mr. Dudley Hume said the district was not qualified for Act 1240 waivers. He said shared teachers were working under Act 1240 waivers in another district but the waiver did not apply to Woodlawn. He said the elementary and high school shared a library/media specialist and an aide.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept the appeal from probationary status of Woodlawn School District for failing to meet Standards for Accreditation. The motion carried unanimously.

B-10 (c) Standards Accreditation Appeals—Greenwood School District

Public School Program Manager Mr. Willie Morris said the Greenwood School District had a probation issue because the new ninth grade academy should have had a library/media specialist.

Greenwood School District Assistant Superintendent Kevin Hesslen said the ninth grade building is attached to the high school but the schools have two LEA numbers.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to accept the appeal from probationary status of Greenwood School District for failing to meet Standards for Accreditation. The motion carried unanimously.

B-11 Final Accreditation Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017: Summary of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts

Public School Program Manager Mr. Willie Morris said a revised accreditation document will include the above decisions by the Board.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to approve Final Accreditation Report Fiscal Year 2016-2017: Summary of Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts as revised today. The motion carried unanimously.

B-12 Consideration for Emergency Adoption: ADE Rules Governing Professional Learning Communities

Staff Attorney Ms. Daryl Taylor and Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said Act 427 of 2017 provides that any professional development funding above that set forth in Ark. Code Ann. 6-20-2305 shall be used by the ADE for the development and administration of professional learning communities. Additional funding will be available for the 2017-18 school year. The ADE proposes emergency rules to govern the development and administration of this program, and respectfully requests that the State Board give final approval to these rules.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the Emergency Adoption of ADE Rules for Governing Learning Communities. The motion carried unanimously.

B-13 Consideration for Emergency Adoption: Proposed ADE Emergency Rules Governing Special Education Procedural Requirements and Program Standards, Sec. 18.00 Residential Placement

Deputy General Counsel Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford said that these rules govern the approval and funding process for the education of students in residential facilities. Expansion of the list of eligible facilities to include additional residential programs is necessary to ensure funding is provided for the education of students in these programs prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to approve for emergency adoption of Proposed ADE Emergency Rules Governing Special Education Procedural Requirements and Program Standards, Sec. 18.00 Residential Placement. The motion carried unanimously.

B-14 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

State Board of Education committee members acknowledged that during its May 2017 meeting, the State Board accepted the nomination of Dr. Jay Barth for Chair and Mr. Joe Black for Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. The election shall take place by voice vote at the June meeting. The outgoing Chair shall serve through the conclusion of the meeting, at which time the newly elected Chair shall take office.

Dr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to elect Dr. Jay Barth for Chair and Mr. Joe Black for Vice-Chair for 2017-2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Report-1 Dollarway Quarterly report

Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said he requested the Dollarway School District submit a written analysis of progress. He said a legislative report is also submitted for Board review.

Dollarway School District Superintendent Ms. Barbara Warren said the report highlights the progress in teacher and student attendance. She said the community is providing feedback and working on a strategic plan. She said the district has applied to become a PBIS district to improve discipline. She said students are demonstrating Lexile gains. She said the district is consistent with leadership team meetings and professional learning community meetings.

Commissioner Johnny Key said the R.I.S.E. Initiative is addressing the need for educators to understand the Science of Reading.

Ms. Warren said the district needs much support and that support must be coordinated and customized to the district.

Dr. Wilde said in a systems approach the core curriculum and instruction must be in place first. He said then the staff must be stabilized, limit the turnover. Third, the community must be engaged. He said while the issues are urgent, the response must be methodical.

Commissioner Key said Ms. Warren is making every effort to address the issues.

Report-2 LRSD Quarterly Report

Public School Program Manager Mr. Richard Wilde said the Little Rock School District provided a thoughtful report. He recommended hearing the report at the July meeting.

Report-3 ForwARd Report

ForwARd Arkansas Associate Director Mr. Cory Biggs reported updates on the ForwARd progress after one year. He said ForwARd implemented a marketing program to communicate the value of Pre-K and advocated for additional funds. He said \$3 million was approved during the legislative session. He said more students will be receiving healthy meals in schools as a result of the community eligibility provision. He said the team is working to increase student wellness via school-based health partnership and partnering for effective after-school and summer programs for students.

Mr. Biggs said the state is advancing a culture of learning as being seen in the R.I.S.E Arkansas, The Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, and Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Mr. Biggs said the ForwARd Thinking Conference recap video is an illustration of the first ForwARd Thinking Conference this year, a convening of representatives from each of the five (5) ForwARd Communities (Independence County, Crossett, Marianna, Pea Ridge and Springdale), as well as industry thought leaders (Tom Vander Ark of Getting Smart, Kristin Cuilla of New Tech Network, Matt Dozier of EAST Initiative, Pam Hunsaker of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and others). He said that this conference is intended to be an annual event.

Mr. Biggs said ForwARd is committed to helping Dollarway.

Report-4 Chair's Report

No report.

Report-5 Commissioner's Report

Dr. Denise Airola joined the meeting via phone to answer questions regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) application.

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

ForwARd Arkansas Liaison Dr. Barth said individual Board members have had conversations with the ForwARd team. Board members discussed the future of the partnership with ForwARd.

Deeper Learning Grant Manager Ms. Reith said the conversation would continue with the work session today on parent and community engagement and communication.

ESSA Steering Committee Liaison Ms. Newton requested the Board members read the ESSA plan and provided feedback to ADE.

Standing Committee on Academic Distress Chair Ms. Zook said the Board would hear from two districts today.

Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Liaison Dr. Barth said the group would present their report at the July State Board meeting.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Liaison Ms. Reith said Dr. Barth and she will be attending the NASBE meeting this weekend. She said the next NASBE conference is October 31- November 4 in Atlanta.

Student Discipline Committee Chair Dr. Fitz Hill said Sgt. Willie Davis from the Little Rock Police Department met with the committee to share information regarding the OK (Our Kids) Program. He said he recently visited two alternative learning programs (ALE).

Special Education Liaison Ms. Zook said resolution committee is focused on two-way communication. She said the committee is collecting data from many stakeholders.

Report-7 Teacher of the Year

2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Meghan Ables shared her June blog. She said her year as 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year has been a great year. She said the ADE and State Board endorsed the role as cheerleader of all educators. During her tenure, she visited 48 Arkansas schools. She inspired future teachers through APPEL and Teacher Cadets. She highlighted amazing teachers though #ARTeacherImpact. She said her blog was viewed by more than 25,000 readers. She said serving with the State Board has been valuable. She has promoted education in Arkansas through interviews, articles, and videos. She will be graduating from Arkansas Leadership Academy next week.

Ms. Ables recognized Mr. John Davis, math instructional facilitator from El Dorado School District, who is implementing the Observe Me Movement. Ms. Ables shared the latest Dare to Be Different video – Observe Me. The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuJcEKXqngk>.

Mr. John Davis said Ms. Ables spent time in their school and gives educators a voice. He introduced his son, Jackson, who is a third grade student. Mr. Davis said he learned about Observe Me from reading a tweet on Twitter. He said he invited seven teachers to join him. He said this is not a program, it is a teacher-led movement.

The Board recognized the impact Ms. Ables has made on the state.

Recognition

State Board of Education Chair Ms. Mireya Reith

Ms. Mireya Reith was recognized by Commissioner Key and the State Board members for her service as Chair. Ms. Reith expressed her thanks to the Board.

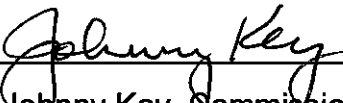
Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher was recognized by the State Board members for his service as Deputy Commissioner. Dr. Gotcher expressed his thanks to the Board.

Adjournment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Dr. Barth, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair