

Minutes
State Board of Education Standing Committee on Academic Distress
Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2017

The State Board of Education Standing Committee on Academic Distress met Friday, January 13, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Diane Zook called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Present: Diane Zook, Chair; Brett Williamson; Joe Black; Ouida Newton; Charisse Dean; Dr. Fitz Hill; and Meghan Ables, 2016 ATOY.

Absent: Mireya Reith.

Consent Agenda

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

Item included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – December 9, 2016

Agenda

Progress Report Related to Arkansas Department of Education Provided Recommendations for Schools Classified in Academic Distress: Marvell-Elaine High School – Marvell-Elaine School District

Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said Marvell-Elaine School District has one school classified in Academic Distress.

Marvell-Elaine High School Principal Mr. Antony Hobbs identified the components that are being implemented in the high school. He said the school culture was improving. He said the leadership team has focused on bell-to-bell instruction, professional learning, and communication.

Marvell-Elaine School District Superintendent Dr. Joyce Cottoms said Mr. Hobbs participated in Leadership Quest, Ed Reflect Training, AAEA Conference, and Poverty Institute. She said in addition, Mr. Hobbs is receiving individualized assistance from ADE staff. She said the district was advertising for effective teachers, attending job fairs, and partnering with local universities to recruit effective teachers. She said education service cooperative specialists are working with educators to develop lesson plans and assessments that align to the district curriculum. She said the Department has been supportive. She said the improvement in student discipline was a result of a comprehensive approach

to build relationships with students, improve structures, and hold students accountable.

ADE School Improvement Specialist Ms. Kristi McIntosh said the leadership team process is being implemented. She said the student discipline has improved. She said the team is now in a position to place more focus on curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Wilde recommended a stronger focus on academic improvement. He recommended the school not return to the Standing Committee during the 2016-2017 school year.

Progress Report Related to Arkansas Department of Education Provided Recommendations for Schools Classified in Academic Distress: Covenant Keepers Charter School – Covenant Keepers Charter

Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said Covenant Keepers Charter organization has one school classified in Academic Distress.

Covenant Keepers Charter School Director Dr. Valerie Tatum said the focus has been on academics. She said the master schedule was revised to increase bell-to-bell instruction. She said student data is reviewed during reflection meetings and appropriate interventions for students are scheduled. She said surveys are utilized to measure the change in school culture.

ADE School Improvement Specialist Ms. Sharesa White outlined her recommendations for the charter school. She said the school is showing much progress.

School Improvement Specialist/ELL Coordinator Ms. Jenna Jones said novice teachers are supported during daily professional learning communities and mentoring.

Dr. Wilde said there may be too many areas of focus and the Department will assist the Charter School in prioritizing their work. He recommended Covenant Keepers return to the Standing Committee June 2017.

Dr. Hill moved, Mr. Williamson seconded, to request Covenant Keepers Charter School provide a progress report to the Standing Committee on Academic Distress in June 2017.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Dr. Hill, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Diane Zook, Chair