

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2017

The State Board of Education met Thursday, January 12, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

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

Absent: None

Recognition

Ms. Jamille Rogers, I Love My Librarian Awardee

Program Advisor Ms. Cassandra Barnett recognized Ms. Jamille Rogers as the first Arkansan to win the I Love My Librarian Award provided by the American Library Association. Ms. Barnett said Ms. Rogers' work with students was impressive. Commissioner Key and Ms. Barnett presented a plaque to Ms. Rogers.

Ms. Rogers said she was grateful to work with students and appreciated continued funding of school libraries. Ms. Rogers teaches at Marguerite Vann Elementary in Conway School District.

Dr. Ken Ramey, 2017 AAEA Superintendent of the Year

Assistant Executive Director of Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators Mr. Mike Mertens recognized Dr. Ken Ramey as the 2017 AAEA Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Ramey is the superintendent of the Siloam Springs School District.

Dr. Ken Ramey said he was humbled by the award. He said he is completing 50 years in education. He thanked the AAEA for their support. He said the Northwest Education Service Cooperative has been supportive of professional learning and innovation. He said the ADE has always been responsive to the needs of the schools and districts. He said his school board and community are very supportive of the schools.

Reports

Report-1 ACSVE Report

The Arkansas Coalition of Student Voices for Education presented data from a student survey and student summits.

Mr. Zack Fredricks, senior at Batesville High School, introduced the group.

Ms. Grace Brandt, Harrison High School 10th grade student, shared data from the online survey of students. She said 5,293 students responded to the survey. The survey included multiple choice questions, true or false questions, and open response questions.

Mr. Fredricks explained that during the summits, students analyzed the data from the online surveys. The responses were organized into four (4) categories: faculty/administration, curriculum, facility/resources, and student personal concerns. The top five responses were reported for each category.

Mr. Cade Hixson, Batesville High School student, shared the data from the open response questions on faculty/administration. He said teachers needed to differentiate for better learning. Everyone does not learn in the same way. Many teachers focus only on the student falling behind. He said students are not allowed to progress at their own pace. The students are taught to NOT work ahead while colleges are based on a fluid curriculum that can be self-paced. He said discipline should be enforced. Some students do not feel safe in school due to bullying, street violence, and emotional violence. He said student perception is that administration focuses too much on smaller issues, such as dress code. He said 78% of teachers take the time to get to know students.

Ms. Amanda Okolo, Batesville High School student, said the top five responses to curriculum questions included student need of more flexible time for extra help and make up work. She said some students feel as though the amount of time in and between class is inadequate. She said there is too much technology based work and that sometimes distracts from the actual concept being learned. She said there needs to be more variety in the schedule with more challenging classes as well as work place skill sets including taxes, finances, insurance, and interview skills. She said there needs to be a learning style differentiation because not every student learns in the same way.

Ms. Kelli Gill, Batesville High School student, said the student personal concerns included food issues, such as cost of food and insufficient quality and portion sizes. She said students expressed much concern over not feeling safe and punishment is not adequate. She said students experienced favoritism by faculty and administration to certain students. She said students were not allowed to work ahead. She said students commented many times about wanting more classes for life skills including taxes,

insurance, and scholarship information. She said students did boast of peer to peer support.

Mr. Jake Ward, Batesville High School student, said the facilities/resources responses included concerns about food portion sizes, technology availability, outdated books, blocked websites, and lack of funding for some classes such as art.

Mr. Fredricks said the summary of voices highlighted:

1. Teachers need to differentiate for better learning. Everyone does not learn in the same way. Many teachers focus only on the students falling behind.
2. Students need more flexible time for extra help and make up work.
(College based schedules that allow for flex time during the day)
3. Food: Cost, quantity, and quality.
4. Technology is still not always available/curriculum should not be only technology based and is sometimes not even necessary.

Mr. Fredricks said 75 student ambassadors participated in the regional summits. He said the ambassadors would continue to meet to disseminate information and provide student voice to education. He said the project was a great team effort between the two school teams and with students across the state.

Commissioner Key said the vision for excellence needed student voice. He said after speaking at the Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Conference, he contacted Mr. Matt Dozier and asked for assistance. He said he reached out to the EAST network because of the network across the state. He said he wanted a sustainable model for student voice.

State Board members requested a report from the Child Nutrition Unit regarding food options and issues. They said they were listening and a new math course will be offered that will address the personal finance requests.

Mr. Hickson said the online survey used skips logic to address specific questions by grade level. He said food was important because it is the only meal some students are receiving.

Mr. Ward said the student ambassadors would relay the survey information to their respective schools.

Ms. Katie Fowler and Ms. Brooklin Edwards, Harrison High School students, said Harrison High School is using a flex mod schedule in the HALO Project. Ms. Fowler said the curriculum is online. Ms. Edwards said one period of the day is available to meet with instructors for targeted support. Ms. Fowler said students could work ahead. She said it was difficult if the student falls behind. Ms. Edwards said the flex mod works best for self-motivated students.

Mr. Fredricks introduced the Batesville EAST facilitator Ms. Jeanne Roepcke.

Ms. Brandt thanked the Harrison EAST facilitator Ms. Mary Beth Hatch.

Mr. Parker Keener, Harrison Junior High eighth grade student, said he works directly with the technology office. He said the speed of the wifi and outdated computers may be barriers to the best use of technology for learning.

Ms. Thea Norcross, Harrison Junior High student, said students were considering a proposal to request a student on the local school board.

Report-2 EAST Initiative Update

EAST Initiative Executive Director Mr. Matt Dozier said the work of the ACSVE students is the type of policy work that exemplifies the power of student voice. He said in addition to this project, the Batesville students are working with students in Romania.

Mr. Dozier said this is the 21st year of the EAST Initiative. He said the EAST Initiative was recognized by the Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) for doing exceptional work to advance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in its 6th annual STEM Innovation Awards. He said the Hot Springs Middle School team is waiting to hear about their submission to an APP contest. He said the team is competing against national vendors and adult research teams for the X-Code prize.

Mr. Dozier said approximately 20,000 EAST Initiative students are volunteering an average of 185,000 hours outside of school per month which is approximately \$3.5 million monthly in-kind contribution to Arkansas communities. He invited the State Board members to participate in the EAST Conference scheduled for March 15, 2017, in the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Commissioner Key thanked Mr. Dozier, EAST Facilitators, and EAST students for their work. He said the partnership is aligned to the Department mission statement and is moving Arkansas closer to the Vision for Excellence.

Consent Agenda

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

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes – December 8, 2016
- Minutes – December 9, 2016
- 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 #16-004 – Sherry Lynn Young
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-091 – S. Lewis Clark, Jr.
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-096 – Mary Lorene Horton
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-109 – Ruby Jean Fowler
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-131 – Jeremy E. Ellis
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-142 – Gregory Franklin Hendrix
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-144 – Nash K. Simpson
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-169 – Tina Michelle Brewer
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #16-174 – Jacquelin Marie Fischer
- Consideration of the Recommendation of the Professional Licensure Standards Board for Case #17-032 – Kurt Randall Zimmerman
- 2016 Student Services Report
- 2016 Advisory Council for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children Report

Action Agenda

A-1 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Amendment Request: Fayetteville Virtual Academy, Fayetteville, Arkansas

On December 13, 2016, representatives of Fayetteville Virtual Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-2 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application: Badger Academy, Beebe, Arkansas

On December 13, 2016, representatives of Badger Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-3 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application: Cabot Academic Center of Excellence, Cabot, Arkansas

On December 13, 2016, representatives of Cabot ACE appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-4 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application: Cross County Elementary Technology Academy

On December 13, 2016, representatives of Cross County Elementary Technology Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By a 4-to-3 vote, the Panel approved the request.

Superintendent Ms. Carolyn Wilson said the charter was completing the first five years. She said the school would be willing to adjust the goal next year.

Cross County Elementary Principal Ms. Mindy Searcy said the school held a stakeholder meeting to discuss goal setting. She said the consensus was to review the goals in one year.

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said the Charter Authorizing Panel expressed concerns about future goals of the charter.

Staff Attorney Ms. Jennifer Davis explained that the school could work with the Charter Office any time. She said the school could bring an amendment to the Charter Authorizing Panel at a later date.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-5 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application: Lincoln High School

On December 14, 2016, representatives of Lincoln High School appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-6 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Renewal Application: Osceola STEM Academy

On December 14, 2016, representatives of Osceola STEM Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-7 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal Application: Jacksonville Lighthouse Academy

On December 14, 2016, representatives of Jacksonville Lighthouse appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

A-8 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on the Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal Application: Little Rock Preparatory Academy

On December 15, 2016, representatives of Little Rock Preparatory Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Chambers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

A-9 Consideration of Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision of Open-Enrollment Public Charter School Renewal Application: LISA Academy

On December 15, 2016, representatives of LISA Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting a renewal of the charter. By a 4-to-2 vote, the Panel approved the request.

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. Dr. Barth voted no. The final vote was 7-1. The motion carried.

A-10 Consideration of the Charter Authorizing Panel's Decision on the District Conversion Public Charter School Amendment Request: Ozark Montessori Academy, Springdale, Arkansas

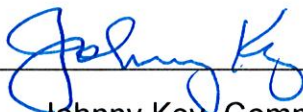
On December 15, 2016, representatives of Ozark Montessori Academy appeared before the Charter Authorizing Panel requesting an amendment to their charter. By unanimous vote, the Panel approved the request.

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to uphold the decision made by the Charter Authorizing Panel. The motion carried unanimously.

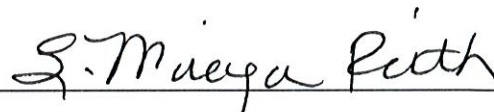
Adjournment

Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Black, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Mireya Reith, Chair