

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, December 9, 2016**

The State Board of Education met Friday, December 9, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 9:03 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**

**Recognition of AR PAEMST awardees and finalists**

Awardees and finalists were awarded on Thursday.

**Recognition of Blue Ribbon Schools**

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Otistene Smith recognized Des Arc Elementary, Euper Lane Elementary, and Weiner Elementary as Blue Ribbon Schools. Each school received a plaque.

Des Arc Elementary from the Des Arc School District was represented by Ms. Dena Rooks, K-6 principal; Ms. Sunny Morton, 2nd grade teacher; Ms. Stacy Childers, 1st grade teacher; Ms. Michele Calhoun, dyslexia interventionist; and Ms. Kathy Saul, K-6 special education teacher.

Des Arc Elementary Principal Ms. Dena Rooks said the success of the school was excellent teachers that do what is needed for students. She said there is an open-door policy in the school for all parents. She expressed gratitude for the teachers and parents and their efforts to ensure each child succeeds.

Euper Lane Elementary from the Fort Smith School District was represented by Dr. Mary Ann Johns, Director of Education; Ms. Melissa Braddy, Euper Lane Elementary Principal; Ms. Diane Willis, Teacher; Ms. Kim Pankey, Teacher; Ms. Sherri Penix, District Administrator; and Ms. Natalie Edmonson, Teacher.

Euper Lane Elementary District Administrator for Human Resources Ms. Sherri Penix said relationships are strong between parents, students, and teachers. She said the mission statement was exemplified in these relationships. She said the success is a result of good teaching, parental support, and amazing students.

Weiner Elementary from Harrisburg School District was represented by Mr. Danny Sample, Superintendent; Ms. Pam Hogue, Principal; Ms. Patricia Hesse, Lead Teacher/GT Facilitator; Ms. Ina Raye Hurdle, Digital Learning Facilitator; Ms. Tonya Thompson, Classroom Teacher; and Mr. Edgar Hernandez, Spanish Teacher.

Spanish Teacher Mr. Edgar Hernandez said Weiner Elementary was focused on meeting all needs of children. He said the school is a 1-1 technology school that is supported by the community. He said each child is enrolled in a Spanish class to learn the language and culture. He said elementary students are earning high school credits. He said the school is engaged in Project Based Learning. To better meet the needs of students, the current initiative is focused on Pre-K.

Ms. Smith introduced and presented a plaque to Weiner Elementary Principal Ms. Pam Hogue, recipient of the Blue Ribbons School Program 2016 Terrel H. Bell Award for outstanding school leadership.

## **Reports**

### **Priority Schools 1st Quarter Progress Reports for school year 2016-17**

Public School Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde provided 45-day progress reports from priority schools. He said second quarter reports will be due at the end of January. He said this is a progress report on leading indicators, not a plan. Throughout the year, the Board should see a change in the progress on the leading indicators. He said goal-setting is a communication device with school staff – the goals communicate what is expected and the theory of action explains how the goals will be accomplished. The report captures the meaningful decisions made by the leadership teams. He said the report helps guide the School Improvement Unit to the areas that need support within the school. He said the school is required to include data on ESL and SPED students. He said this data is analyzed to ensure subgroups are receiving equitable support. He said data are collected regarding student and teacher attendance, math and English Language Arts grades, and interim assessments for English, reading, science, and math for analysis. The school is working to better address the needs of students in a more proactive method. He said an educator/student climate survey is administered each quarter to understand the level of support. He said the school is examining each question to determine trends.

Dr. Wilde said ADE was working on an extended reporting system for discipline. He said school are encouraged to collect data and analyze the data for solutions. He said general assistance is available to all schools. Board members encouraged the school improvement specialists (SIS) to share the survey and progress reporting tools with all schools. Dr. Wilde said the School Improvement Unit is collaborating with other division and units in the agency to better serve the needs of schools.



Commissioner Key asked Board members to communicate that the schools are not working on a state plan, instead the ADE teams are working with schools to implement a school plan based on the needs of the school. He expressed his appreciation to the School Improvement Specialists that are working in these schools.

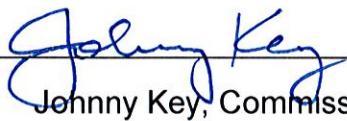
**Public Comment** Ms. Annie Bryant said she appreciated Dr. Wilde and team for their support. She said December 10 marks the one-year anniversary of state takeover of the Dollarway District. She said parents and students don't feel valued. She said barriers still exists. She said the fiscal components are improving in the district but the academic components still need improvement. She said the district needs increased collaboration and communication.

Dr. Wilde said a team was in Dollarway this week to provide a comprehensive review the progress of the district and ADE team support.


### **Adjournment**

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnny Key", written over a horizontal line.

Johnny Key, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mireya Reith", written over a horizontal line.

Mireya Reith, Chair