

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
October 14, 2016**

The State Board of Education met Friday, October 14, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Vice Chair Dr. Jay Barth called the meeting to order at 9:05 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

2016 Presidential Scholar – Jordan Lee

Public School Program Coordinator Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein recognized 2016 Presidential Scholar Mr. Jordan Lee. She said Presidential Scholars have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, contribution to school and community, and outstanding accomplishments in the arts, sciences, humanities, and other fields of interest.

2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Recipient – Shelby Dunphy-Day

Public School Program Coordinator Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein recognized 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Award Recipient Ms. Shelby Dunphy-Day. She said Prudential Spirit of Community Awards recipients have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service within the past 12 months. Ms. Day is a student in the Texarkana School District.

Ms. Day said she organized a 5-K run to raise \$17,000 for the local animal shelter. The event will be held again in January 2017, in Texarkana, Arkansas and Texarkana, Texas. Commissioner Key and Chair Reith presented Ms. Day a certificate of recognition.

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Chair Mireya Reith said she participated in the annual Arkansas Teacher of the Year celebration on September 28, 2016, at the Capitol when the 14 regional finalists and the

four (4) state semi-finalists were announced. She applauded the exceptional teachers in Arkansas.

Report-2 State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Chair Mireya Reith said each subcommittee would give a report to keep the State Board and the public informed.

NASBE Science Grant Manager and Appointment Dr. Jay Barth said the new high school science courses public comment period has closed. Ms. Stacy Smith requested all emails be forwarded to her for inclusion in the public comments. Dr. Barth said the courses would be discussed at a future Board meeting.

ForwARd Arkansas Liaison Dr. Jay Barth said ForwARd Arkansas announced the five (5) ForwARd Communities - Batesville, Crossett, Marianna, Pea Ridge, and Springdale. He said the lessons learned from these communities could be transferred to future Forward Communities. He said ForwARd Arkansas would be working with legislators to move the vision forward.

NASBE Deeper Learning Grant Manager and Appointment Ms. Mireya Reith said she would be working with Dr. Francis Eberle to identify pre-reading materials for future work sessions.

ESSA Steering Committee Liaison Ms. Ouida Newton said she attended several Community Listening Forums. She said patrons are requesting an aligned accountability system. She said patrons wanted to include growth in the calculation of accountability. She encouraged all Board Members to attend a Community Listening Forum.

Director of Policy and Special Projects Ms. Tina Smith said attendance has ranged from 55-100 participants at the Community Listening Forums. She said the education cooperatives, University STEM Centers, and Educational Renewal Zones (ERZ) have worked diligently to advise the public of the forums. She said all notes and comments are posted on the ESSA webpage at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/every-student-succeeds-act-essa>. She said 74 ambassadors have registered. Steering Committee Member Mr. Anthony Bennett has already hosted two (2) Community Listening Forums. More forums are scheduled. The complete list is available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BTZ6ZbUTKSL2hR54M8uPm5h0RF50pv7G0V3x0olZXwU/edit#gid=0>. She said advocate groups are sharing their

recommendations. She encouraged more advocates to respond to the surveys or provide public comment.

Commissioner Key said the ESSA work would continue because after the submission of the Arkansas plan to the USDOE in July 2017, the state will continue to study accountability for future revisions and submissions. The Steering Committee meetings are live streamed, recorded, and posted on the ADE website.

Standing Committee on Academic Distress Chair Diane Zook said the committee would be meeting with Hope High School, Watson Chapel High School, Pine Bluff High School, and Belair Middle School (Pine Bluff School District).

Chair Reith requested to add two more groups to the committee list – Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Liaison Dr. Jay Barth and NASBE Liaison Ms. Mireya Reith. Ms. Reith said the Arkansas delegation to the NASBE conference would be Ms. Reith, Dr. Barth, and Ms. Chambers.

Report-3 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Johnny Key said the Department applied for a grant from Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS). He said Arkansas did not receive the grant however EOS was interested in working with Arkansas. He said the Department leadership and a group of district administrators met recently with EOS to discuss methods for encouraging more students to enroll in Advanced Placement courses. He said there was currently an equity gap of approximately 8,300 underrepresented students that should be encouraged to enroll in more rigorous courses. He said Dr. Ken James and the AAIMS project has been working to close this gap and the partnership with EOS would complement the work.

Commissioner Key presented the Innovation in Arkansas Education series video of the Lakeside High School in the Lakeside School District. The video is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services>.

Reports 4 and 5 were combined.

Report-4 Leading Attendance in Arkansas: How Principals Can Help Students Succeed by Reducing Chronic Absence

Report-5 Make Every Day Count: Reducing Chronic Absence in Arkansas Schools

Director for the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Ms. Angela Duran said the campaign goal is every child reading on grade level by third grade. She said five areas impact grade level reading: 1) parents engagement in their child's education; 2)

students ready for kindergarten; 3) schools utilizing the best reading instructional practices; 4) reducing summer reading loss; and 5) student attendance at school. She said a Chronic Absence Toolkit for Principals was available on the Arkansas Grade Level website at <http://www.ar-qlr.net>. She said parent handouts are also available on the website.

Education Policy Director at Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Ms. Ginny Blankenship said the report was a snapshot of one-year of data. She said chronic absenteeism was a widespread issue in Arkansas. She said 12 percent of kindergarten through third graders missed 18 or more days of school. In 2014-2015, 25 percent of the chronically absent students in grades K-3 were concentrated in 52 of the elementary schools in the state. She said chronically absent third graders are less likely to read on grade level. She provided four recommendations – (1) define chronic absenteeism, (2) inform parents, (3) daily monitoring of absenteeism by teachers, and (4) include absenteeism as ESSA metric.

Report-6 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Meghan Ables reported on various methods schools are using to meet the needs of the whole child. She said all of her school visits are reported on her blog <http://arteachblog.wordpress.com>.

Adjournment

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman


Johnny Key, Commissioner


Mireya Reith, Chair