

**Minutes**  
**Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**Monday, August 15, 2016**

The Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group met Monday, August 15, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Tommy Branch called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Members Present: Tommy Branch, Chair; Jim McKenzie, Vice-Chair; Tamika Edwards; Ann Brown Marshall; Antwan Phillips; Leticia Reta; and Dianna Varady.

Members Absent: none.

Audience: ADE staff, general public, and press.

The meeting was live streamed and the recording was posted on the ADE website at [http://www.arkansased.gov/state-board/minutes/board\\_meeting\\_categories/2016](http://www.arkansased.gov/state-board/minutes/board_meeting_categories/2016).

**Consideration to Approve Minutes – July 25, 2016**

Ms. McKenzie moved, seconded by Ms. Edwards, to approve the July 25, 2016, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Discipline Data**

During the July 11, 2016, meeting the group requested data on discipline. Dr. Gary Ritter, Faculty Director of the Office for Education Policy at the University of Arkansas, reported school discipline rates for the identified schools over a three-year period through the 2014-2015 school year. He said the trends over time, by school type, indicated that Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) had greater numbers of infractions and both PCSSD and charter schools indicated increased infractions over the three years of data. He noted the absence of In School Suspension (ISS) for the Little Rock School District (LRSD) and said he did not have information as to why LRSD did not have ISS data. He focused on Out of School Suspensions (OSS) because that is where students are missing instructional time and it may be important information to overall student achievement.

Dr. Ritter said total infractions by race/ethnicity groups indicated black students were disciplined more than other races at Little Rock School District, PCSSD (south of the river) and charter schools (south of the river). He indicated that these results mirror the national trends which also indicated a similarly high proportion of black students with infractions compared to other races. Dr. Ritter said the data showed that most disparities are between schools, not within schools (indicating that some schools may

be stricter in discipline policy enforcement). He indicated the quantitative data does not explain why the differences and disproportions occur, only that they existed. Qualitative data would need to be gathered to help answer the “why” questions.

The group requested to develop additional questions for consideration by Dr. Ritter and team. The group will email with Dr. Ritter and then make their questions public.

### **Consideration of Additional Maps**

Mr. Jim McKenzie said data were compiled by Metroplan. He said additional maps are available at <http://www.metroplan.org>. He said the population moved out of Pulaski over 30 years as Faulkner, Lonoke and Saline counties grew. He said a majority of the population moved to the suburbs and out of the center of the city. He said a neighborhood evolves over a long wave of 100 years and in roughly 25 year segments; what happens to the nature of the area’s population in the third 25 year segment was most critical for continuing the neighborhood’s stability. He said in 1950 the city was comprised of 367 miles of roadway, with 1232 miles of roadway in 2015. He said a population of 102,213 people lived in 20 square miles in 1950. In 2015, a population of 199,511 people resided in 122 square miles in the Little Rock area.

Mr. McKenzie said he would like for the researcher to consider the impact of concentrated areas of poverty on student achievement. He said data indicated that Pulaski County sends 10 people to prison and prison sends back 12 people. He said the increase may contribute to the reason why people move out of the city.

### **Consideration of Villages**

Dr. Richard Emmel said the village education proposal recommended self-managed Pre Kindergarten – grade 12 public schools on one campus built along major traffic corridors. He said a large education village has been developed in Great Britain and in certain American locations. He said villages were a more economical model and also provided students 13 continuous years within a stable environment in which they feel secure and valued. He recommended using public transportation instead of school buses.

### **Additional Information Requested of Charters and the ADE Charter Office**

Charter School Director Ms. Alexandra Boyd said the Arkansas Charter Schools Program grant was distributed to all new charters for start up of planning and implementation of the charter mission.



The group requested information on the previous recipients of the funds.

### **Consideration of Report to State Board of Education**

The State Board had requested a quarterly report and timeline of expected progress. Group members reviewed the draft report. The report will be provided to the State Board of Education on Friday, September 9 at 9:00 am.

Mr. Phillips motioned, seconded by Ms. Marshall, to accept the report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Additional Information Requested**

The group requested the following additional information:

- School improvement plan for Little Rock School District
- Amount of funds to each recipient of the charter grant
- Dates of the Community Listening Forums

### **Consideration of Public Comment**

No one signed up for public comment.

### **Consideration of Future Dates**

The group will consider future dates at the August 29 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman*

  
Tommy Branch, Chair