

**Minutes**  
**Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**Monday, July 11, 2016**

The Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group met Monday, July 11, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Tommy Branch called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Leticia Reta.

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 – June 29, 2016**

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Ms. Varady, to approve the minutes for the meeting on June 29, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

**Work Session**

Dr. Denise Airola, Director of the Office of Innovation in Education, said the charge of the group, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education, is to select a research group. She reviewed documents and data reports that were submitted previously to the group. Group members asked clarifying questions.

Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes also answered questions for the group.

Dr. Airola said some of the schools in the Little Rock School District have been in the lowest 5% in performance for multiple years. She said some charter schools that scored persistently low over extended time have been closed.

Dr. Airola shared six question topics that she heard the group discuss in previous meetings. Members worked in pairs to write additional questions for consideration. Dr. Airola reviewed the suggested questions and will compile the questions for the next meeting. She requested members send any additional questions to [dairola@uark.edu](mailto:dairola@uark.edu).

Members requested to consider additional questions that reflect the impact of schools in the community including but not limited to public health, civics, transportation, public safety, safe neighborhoods, closing a school, working with city leaders, after school care and learning opportunities.

Members requested to learn more about ForwARd Arkansas and the Master Plan for Children, Youth and Families adopted by the City Board of Little Rock.

Dr. Airola provided a list of research that has addressed some of the topics discussed by the group.

### **Consideration of Public Comment**

No one signed up for public comment.

### **Consideration of Agenda for Next Meeting (July 25, 2016)**

The area charter directors will present at the July 25 meeting. Members requested to invite Ms. Alexandra Boyd and a representative from ForwARd Arkansas. Mr. McKenzie will submit maps for the meeting.

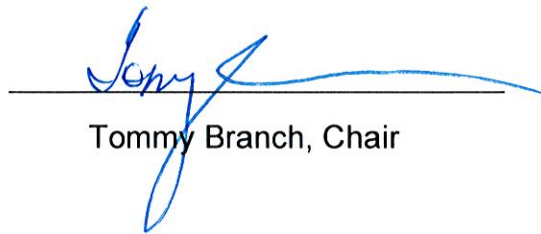
The next meetings are scheduled for August 15 and August 29.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Edwards moved, seconded by Ms. Varady, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman*



Tommy Branch, Chair