

Minutes
Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Meeting
Wednesday, June 29, 2016

The Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group met Wednesday, June 29, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Tommy Branch called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

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.

Consideration to Approve Minutes – June 6, 2016

Ms. Marshall moved, seconded by Mr. McKenzie, to approve the June 6, 2016 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Glossary of Education Terms

A glossary of education terms was provided compliments of the Arkansas School Boards Association.

Consideration of the Transition from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes provided background information on the transition from ESEA and NCLB to ESSA. She said the ADE was working on a strategic vision and mission. She said stakeholders would be engaged in providing input into the development of the state accountability plan. She said her office would provide a timeline of activities to meet the ESSA submission date. She said Arkansas would attempt to develop one accountability system that meets state and federal requirements. She said there are two windows for ESSA submission – March 2017 and July 2017. Ms. Barnes said states and the public have an opportunity to submit public comments to the U.S. Department of Education regarding the regulations for ESSA.

Consideration of Data Regarding Schools South of the River

Director of the Office of Innovation in Education Dr. Denise Airola explained the data that she submitted in response to the request for briefing papers and data on current achievement of schools in the Little Rock area south of the Arkansas River. She said a synthesis of research-based characteristics of quality schools included leadership and change, shared and communicated focus, teaching and learning, measures of success, resources, family and community, and culture and environment.

Dr. Airola explained the longitudinal student growth model. The model indicated if the school met, exceeded, or did not meet the expected growth in achievement. She said the data reported included only non-mobile students. Non-mobile students were enrolled October 1 through the testing date.

Consideration of the Little Rock School District Community Advisory Council Report

A member requested the report be submitted for review and recognized the work of the council.

Consideration of State Board Committee Boundaries Study

State Board of Education Vice-Chair Dr. Jay Barth said a special State Board committee was selected to consider a boundaries study for the Little Rock area south of the Arkansas River. He said a city divided into two school districts has presented problems for the city of Little Rock. He said there are three main components in the report including the belief that the healthiest school districts are those where communities of interest are in synchronicity with school district boundaries, that it is crucial that any district have the necessary tax base to appropriately serve its student population, and that district lines cannot be used to create racially identifiable school districts.

Dr. Barth said since the report was finalized, the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District has detached and the Pulaski County Special School District will be returned to local control upon election of a school board in November.

Consideration of Perceptions from District Superintendents

Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Baker Kurrus said the group needed to take a larger viewpoint of the issues. He said there was a political view and a data driven view of next steps in the consideration of charter schools and traditional schools. He encouraged transparency for all schools.

Future Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Michael Poore said the 21st century deliverable is different than our past experience in education. He said the group should consider instructional leaders, creation of culture and climate, effective utilization of resources, and adult engagement when addressing the quality of schools. He said the Little Rock School District could utilize an education cooperative for better resource allocation. He said there is an opportunity to work across districts to meet the needs of students. He said it is important to understand the parents' voice in why they are choosing charter schools to educate their children.

Pulaski County Special School District Superintendent Dr. Jerry Guess said working at PCSSD has been his best years in education. He said accurate, responsible, and efficient use of resources is critical to successful schools. He said the last 30 years have resulted in a loss of trust in the districts in central Arkansas because of litigation and misuse of resources. He said the districts needed a time of stable and consistent operation. He said the detachment of JNPSD has been a very intensive process. He said detachment of other districts would be more expensive. He said the state takeover and management by the ADE has been important to the progress of PCSSD.

Charter School Overview

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Alexandra Boyd said the state has one public education system. She said charter schools are filling the needs of some students to meet success. She said students and parents could easily access charter school registration information. She said transportation to charter schools is an issue and needed to be considered.

Ms. Boyd said school choice has always been available to families with financial means. She said charter schools provide choice to families that may not have those means. She said charter schools also provide different delivery methods for students.

Consideration of Perceptions from Open Enrollment Charter School Directors

Charter Directors submitted a request to present during the July 25 meeting.

Consideration of Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment.

Consideration of Agenda for Next Meeting (July 11, 2016)

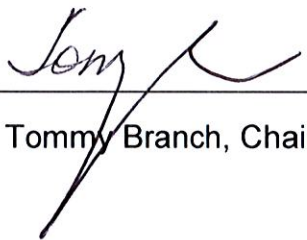
The members requested a work session to develop research questions.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Tommy Branch, Chair