

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, May 13, 2016

The State Board of Education met Friday, May 13, 2016 in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Present: Toyce Newton, Chair; Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Dr. Jay Barth; Charisse Dean; Brett Williamson; Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Vicki Saviers and Susan Chambers.

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Chair Newton, said the Girls of Promise recently hosted a group of high-achieving girls for a two-day conference. She said 250 girls were involved in activities involving women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. She said Ms. Alice Mahony is the contact person.

Chair Newton said she recently attended a meeting in Detroit and showcased the work in Arkansas. She thanked Ms. Annette Barnes and the ADE staff for their professional work. She said the information and materials provided by the ADE helped her to be prepared for the presentation and interactions during the meeting.

Ms. Zook congratulated all of the high school graduates of 2016.

Dr. Barth said the NASBE regional meeting would be held in Little Rock on June 24-25, 2016. He said Commissioner Key would kick off the regional meeting at 4:00 pm on Friday, with a reception afterwards. He said sessions would continue the following day from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. He said a pre-meeting on disparities in discipline would also be held in conjunction with the NASBE meeting.

Report-2 Commissioner's Report

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher shared the Innovation in Arkansas Education video of the Pea Ridge Manufacturing and Business Academy. The video is available on the ADE website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJLiK7FBLH4>.

Dr. Gotcher also shared the Innovation in Arkansas Education video of Cross County High School. The video is available on the ADE website at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYTfYu7aK4Y>.

Report-3 Recognition of National Title I Distinguished Schools

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Otistene Smith said the National Title I Distinguished School Program is an important element in the National Title I Association's efforts to share positive examples of Title I schools making a difference in the educational lives of their students. She said the schools were chosen by the State Department of Education based on outstanding performance in one of these two categories:

Category 1: Schools with exceptional student performance or alternative accountability criteria for those state with USDOE-Approved Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Requests - for two or more years. Ms. Smith said Mount Pleasant Elementary in the Melbourne School District serves 121 students in Grades PreK - 6 and was selected in 2015 as meeting category 1. Board Member Ms. Diane Zook accepted the award on behalf of Mount Pleasant Elementary Principal Mr. Steven Chaney and Melbourne School District Superintendent Mr. Dennis Sublett. The school leaders were unable to attend the meeting due to school events.

Ms. Zook said the school has a long history of exceptional success with students. She said the elementary school would be moving to a new building in the Melbourne School District.

Category 2: Schools that significantly closed the achievement gap between subgroups of students. Ms. Smith said Euper Lane Elementary in the Fort Smith School District serves 470 students in Grades K - 6 and was selected in 2015 as meeting category 2. Ms. Smith and Dr. Gotcher presented a plaque to Ms. Sherri Penix, Euper Lane Elementary Principal, and Dr. Barry Owen, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services.

Ms. Penix thanked the Board for the recognition. She said the Euper Lane Elementary represented all of the schools in Arkansas that meet the needs of students. She said relationships and community support were key to the success of the school. She said the right personnel and a focus on meeting the individual needs of students moved their school forward.

Report-4 Report of Visits to World Class Career Centers

Bentonville School District Superintendent Mr. Michael Poore said representatives from the Northwest Education Service Cooperative visited four "world-class" Career and Tech centers across the United States. Mr. Poore said the effort was funded by the Walton Family Foundation, the Northwest Arkansas Council, and by local school districts in the Northwest Education Service Cooperative. He said the goal of the work was to engage, empower and enable learners. He said the Act 1240 waivers, Schools of Innovation waivers, and District Conversion Charter waivers have been invaluable opportunities for the districts.

Pea Ridge School District Superintendent Mr. Rick Neal said innovation has opened the doors to creative learning opportunities and career choices. He said the school teams are conversing with employers regarding retention and expansion needs to guide the career centers.

Mr. Poore said district superintendents and other partners visited world-class exemplary programs in Oklahoma City, OK; Clovis, CA; Grand Rapids, MI; and Long Island NY to guide the design of the work in Northwest Arkansas.

Mr. Neal said over 100 schools have toured the Pea Ridge Manufacturing and Business Academy. He said schools are searching for ways to impact students. He said it is important to continue to learn how jobs are changing in order to prepare students for careers. He said the path forward involves all partners.

Mr. Poore said a waiver to allow non-licensed professionals with expertise to teach courses permitted the district to provide a classroom excitement about real-world learning. He said a waiver for instructional space permitted the school to think differently about the learning environment. He said a waiver of instructional time also allowed the students to engage in learning that is meaningful.

Mr. Neal said the time waiver expanded opportunities for junior high students to engage in learning where needed. He said students are excited about learning therefore attendance is up and discipline referrals are down.

Report from Mr. Michael Poore

Mr. Poore outlined his Listen and Learn Entry Plan for the Little Rock School District (LRSD). The plan addressed three focus areas: listen to the community; listen to school leaders; and support to gain back local control. He said the passion in the community is an opportunity to move the district forward. He challenged the media to present the positive things that are occurring in LRSD.

Report-5 Arkansas Equitable Access Strategy for Teacher and Principal Leadership

Director of Educator Effectiveness Ms. Sandra Hurst said the Equitable Access Plan has provided the opportunity to partner with the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

Curriculum Coordinator/Lead Institute Facilitator for the Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA) Ms. Amanda Linn said the ALA is celebrating 25 years. She said the ALA believed in building capacity for a systems approach. She said there should be multiple entry points into leadership including teacher leadership. The Teacher Leadership Institute is a one-year learning opportunity that supports teachers into leadership roles. She said the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Leadership Academy have partnered together to implement a combination of strategies, which are part of the Arkansas Equitable Access Plan to address Teacher and Principal Leadership. She said the intended results are to improve instructional practice by

utilizing proven tools, which foster collaboration and reflection for both students and adults.

Sylvan Hills Elementary Principal Mr. Jason Young said he was engaged in the Master Principal Program at ALA. He said his teacher leadership team from Sylvan Hills Elementary in the Pulaski County Special School District was chosen because they were National Board Certified Teachers or in the process of becoming certified and were dripping with awesomeness.

Sylvan Hills Elementary Curriculum Coordinator/Lead Facilitator Ms. Kelly Moss said the guided approach to problem solving has been invaluable. The learning opportunity provided the tools to make these changes. She said the team approach provided support and reflection.

Sylvan Hills Elementary Multi-age Teacher Ms. Mayshana Limon said it has been supportive to have colleagues involved in the work. She said by working together these educators piloted a new program for reteaching and enriching.

Sylvan Hills Elementary Third Grade Teacher Ms. Stephanie Belin said the team created pre-assessments, reviewed the work, and grouped the students for appropriate intervention.

Mr. Young said they had great ideas but were unsure of how to put the ideas into action. He said the action research has been the needed tool to move the ideas into action.

Sylvan Hills Elementary Teacher Leaders Ms. Courtney Pigg and Ms. Amy Gray also attended.

Report-6 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton encouraged Arkansas teachers to participate in the Arkansas Leadership Academy Teacher Leader Institute.

Ms. Newton said her blog this month focused on the Arkansas Science Standards. Ms. Newton's blog is available on the ADE website at <http://arkansased.edublogs.org>. She said the Science Standards are aligned to the Arkansas Mathematics and Literacy Standards. She said Arkansas teachers did an amazing job in designing the standards. She said teachers would need additional professional learning opportunities and support to teach the new Arkansas Science Standards. She said the standards would prepare students for the ACT Aspire assessment.

Ms. Newton said she visited several education service cooperatives to promote the Arkansas Teacher of the Year application. She said the deadline for submitting applications is July 1, 2016. The application is available on the ADE website at <http://adecm.arkansas.gov/ViewApprovedMemo.aspx?Id=1877>.

Ms. Newton visited Ms. Cynthia Murphy's third grade classroom at Clinton Elementary in the Hope School District. She said as a high school mathematics teacher she learned so much from the visit with Ms. Murphy and her intern, Ms. Patience Walker, an education major from Henderson State University. She said Ms. Walker had also

posted a Teacher Impact post about Ms. Murphy. The video is posted on the ADE Facebook page. Ms. Newton encouraged the State Board members to thank a teacher that has impacted them. More information about the Teacher Impact Celebration is posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-impact-celebration>.

Report-7 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Ms. Stacy Smith submitted the Learning Services Report. She said that this information was provided to keep the State Board of Education apprised of the Department's work activities associated with college and career readiness.

Report-8 Priority School Third Quarter Progress Reports

School Improvement Director Dr. Richard Wilde presented the third quarterly progress reports related to Schools in Priority Status. He said the structure of the reports separated the school improvement data reports and the principal's reports. He asked the schools to reflect on the movement of students within the school. He said the enrollment numbers are steady but students are coming and going from the school. He said the conversations in the school and with the district should focus on the needs of the students, why the issues are occurring, and the best solutions. He said the schools are showing progress.

Dr. Wilde said future opportunities to focus assistance in priority schools and academic distress schools will be discussed at a later time.

Report-9 Discussion of Committee Membership and 2016-2017 School Improvement and Academic Distress Reporting

Chair Newton said on March 28, 2014, State Board Chair Brenda Gullett appointed a special committee to study chronically underperforming school districts. She requested Ms. Saviers, Ms. Newton, and Mr. Ledbetter serve on the special committee, with Ms. Saviers serving as chair of the committee. Dr. Kimbrell requested the committee initially focus on the academic distress districts. Ms. Zook joined the committee at a later date in 2014. Mr. Ledbetter's term on the Board ended June 2015. Ms. Saviers' and Ms. Newton's terms end June 2016.

Ms. Newton appointed Ms. Zook, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Dean and the 2016 ATOY to the Special Committee on Academic Distress. Ms. Newton asked Ms. Zook to serve as chair of the special committee for the meeting later in the day (due to Ms. Saviers absence).

Dr. Wilde said he would like to schedule a year in advance for the special committee review of schools. The Board supported the recommendation.

Report-10 Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Zook said the nominating committee, consisting of Ms. Saviers, Mr. Black and herself, met to discuss nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016-2017. Ms. Zook presented nominations of Ms. Mireya Reith as chair and Dr. Jay Barth as vice-chair.


Public Comment Mr. Ryan Gore presented information regarding issues related to a Pine Bluff School Board member. He requested an investigation.

Adjournment

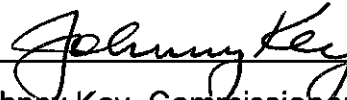
Ms. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Williamson, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education