

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, January 15, 2016

The State Board of Education met Friday, January 15, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Vice-Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Absent: Toyce Newton, Chair and Vicki Saviers

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Ms. Reith thanked the Pulaski County Special School District and patrons for their hospitality in hosting the State Board work session last night.

Dr. Barth said the ForwARd working group was focused on the quick wins identified in the vision <http://www.forwardarkansas.org>. He said the group was also focused on how to reduce regulations in order to increase innovation while achieving increased student achievement.

Report-2 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said the proposed K-12 Math Standards have been released for community feedback. He said a Commissioner's Memo was posted and the community feedback link was posted on the ADE website. He said the Department has received more than 1000 responses to date. He said Arkansas math educators revised 65% of the standards. He said the meetings were live streamed so that all members of the community could be involved. He said a similar process would be implemented for the ELA Standards.

Commissioner Key introduced the next video in the Innovation in Arkansas Education series. The Mountain Home High School Career Academies video is posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services>. He said the video highlighted the working relationships among ADE, ACE, schools, colleges and universities. He encouraged schools to submit videos of the great things that are happening in districts.

Commissioner Key said there was some confusion about the action taken by the Board regarding National Board. He clarified that the Department has been working with the National Board Advisory Board to make recommendations. The Board approved the rules for public comment.

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said National Board certified teachers go through a rigorous process that elevates the profession.

Report-3 Recognition: 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Meghan Ables

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton said Ms. Meghan Ables, an English teacher at Stuttgart High School in the Stuttgart School District, was named the 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year at a surprise event on December 7, 2015. She said Governor Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key honored Ms. Ables at the event. Ms. Ables is an 11th-grade English/literacy and journalism teacher. Because of her contribution to learning, student test scores have dramatically improved during her tenure at the district. Ms. Ables also serves as a leader at her school, having conducted professional development activities for using literacy techniques in the classroom. A native of Stuttgart and a graduate of Stuttgart High School, Ms. Ables received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism in 2002 from Arkansas State University at Jonesboro. Ms. Newton said Ms. Ables was licensed through the non-traditional licensing process.

Ms. Ables said she is very honored to be named the Arkansas Teacher of the Year. She said all should accept their challenges and step outside of their comfort zone to learn and grow from new experiences. As a teacher from a non-traditional pathway, she said she hopes to be a voice for all teachers.

Report-4 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton said she has been partnering with the Arkansas Public School Resource Center to provide professional development through the teacher practice network.

Ms. Newton said that her blog this month was focused on computer science. She said there are approximately 2000 computer science jobs available in Arkansas. She said the Board's approval of the Computer Science Standards would be instrumental in moving our state forward. She said she had participated in code.org training and that the training would be excellent for teachers.

Report-5 Recognition: Arkansas AP Honor Roll Districts

Gifted and Talented and Advanced Placement Director Dr. Mary Kathryn Stein said five Arkansas school districts recently received recognition as an AP Honor Roll District. She said the five districts are among 425 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 6th Annual AP® District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. She said reaching these goals indicated that a district was successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP. She said inclusion on the 6th Annual AP District Honor Roll was based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2013 to 2015, looking across 34 AP Exams, including world language and culture. She said districts must increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts; increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2015 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2013 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

Dr. Stein said the districts recognized are the Atkins School District, the Cedar Ridge School District, the Cedarville School District, the Springdale School District and the White Hall School District.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher (former Superintendent of the Atkins School District) recognized the work of the Atkins School District team. He extended congratulations to the Atkins School District Superintendent Mr. Joe Fisher, Atkins High School Principal Ms. Mary Beth Cox, and Grants and Federal Programs Director Ms. Carol Sober.

Cedar Ridge School District Superintendent Mr. Andy Ashley and High School Principal Mr. Greg Thetford said this was an honor for the district because the students are following their passions.

Cedarville School District English Teacher Ms. Holly Brown and Federal Programs Coordinator Ms. Susanne Roth said the district was fortunate to have dedicated, passionate teachers that help the students take a risk to learn.

Springdale School District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Marcia Smith, Springdale High School Principal Mr. Pete Joenks, and Har-Ber High School Principal Dr. Danny Brackett said great leaders, great teachers, and a great diversity of students taking the AP exams are the reasons for their success.

White Hall School District Superintendent Mr. Larry Smith thanked the administrative staff, dedicated teachers and hard-working students at the White Hall School District.

Commissioner Key said that 2003 legislation was passed so that all schools offer AP courses. He said prior to that legislation some schools did not offer AP courses. He gave credit to the school districts for embracing this work.

Report-6 Career Education Report

Ms. Reith said through her work on a National Association State Board of Education (NASBE) study group on career education, she had the opportunity to better understand career education both nationally and in Arkansas. She said career education was about building skills, credentials and a post-secondary education for a career and citizenship. She said the study group report, *Bolstering the Second C in College and Career Ready*, was available at http://www.nasbe.org/wp-content/uploads/Career-Ready_10_26.pdf. Ms. Reith said two recommendations from the report that needed to be addressed are communicating workforce initiatives and defining career readiness.

Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) Deputy Director Ms. Kathi Turner said ACE was working collaboratively with the Arkansas Department of Education. She said ACE Director Dr. Charrise Childers and a new thirteen-member ACE Board are very interested in making necessary changes to address several issues that needed to be resolved to better serve students in Arkansas. She said regional advisory councils are listening to the needs of the regions. She encouraged schools to contact ACE to address any needs.

Ms. Reith said the Northwest Education Service Cooperative convened a meeting to discuss how to address the issues. She said 70% of current jobs in Arkansas are low skill and low wage.

Ms. Turner said schools are discussing ways to better teach the soft skills that employers are requesting.

The Board agreed to draft a proposal for NASBE funding for continued work on career education.

Report-7 Performance Based Assessment Options for Teacher Licensure/Certification

Educator Preparation Unit Coordinator Ms. Joan Luneau said the Department wanted to ensure that all students have access to highly effective teachers.

Teacher Performance Assessments (TPAs) are one way to achieve this. TPAs assess not only what a teacher candidate knows, but also what they can do. She said the TPAs also give the teacher candidate the opportunity to demonstrate the application of national and state standards. Many of Arkansas's teacher preparation programs are already exploring ways to use TPAs. At the discretion of a teacher preparation program, teacher candidates that are required to complete a TPA for a program should be allowed to use a nationally scored assessment in lieu of the PLT. She said this substitution is a way to allow educator preparation programs the flexibility to use TPAs as part of their programs of study.

Report-8 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the Department is seeking to fill Migrant Coordinator position. She said there are approximately 7000 migrant students in the state.

Dr. Jones said the standards review team conducted a transparent review of the standards. The Department met with the Common Core Task Force this week. The math standards are now available for community review.

Dr. Jones said the ADE will host a Dyslexia conference, free to K-12 Arkansas public, private and charter school employees, on Monday, March 7- Tuesday March 8, 2016 in the Hot Springs Convention Center. She said educators would learn strategies for successfully working with students from nationally renowned speakers as well as Arkansas educators.

Dr. Jones said the Assessment Unit was providing testing professional development at each co-op preparing teachers to administer the ACT Aspire assessment for grades 3-8.

Dr. Jones said in 2014, Arkansas was selected as one of ten pilot states in a new Americans for the Arts grant program called the State Policy Pilot Program or SP3. This program was created to support arts education, and the Arkansas SP3 team was heavily involved in implementing, assessing, and providing resources to support the 2014 Arkansas Fine Arts Curriculum Frameworks. She said planning for 2016 professional development in music, visual arts, theater, and dance was underway and focused on developing and sharing instructional modules and resources for arts educators. She said ADE's intention was to broaden the vision of professional development in the 2016 workshops by including teaching artists and community-based arts organizations as participants. The workshops would be held in authentic arts spaces such as galleries, theaters, and studios around the state, including the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado, Delta Arts in West Memphis, the Arts and Science Center in Pine Bluff, and the Mosaic Templar Cultural Center in Little Rock. She

said after receiving enthusiastic responses from arts venues, teachers, and teaching artists in the field, the Arkansas Arts Council committed \$7,500 to fund teaching artists to join classroom teachers as presenters in these workshops, modeling the partnership of teacher and teaching artist for workshop participants. She said the Windgate Foundation and Arkansans for the Arts supported this new model for professional development in arts education.

Dr. Jones recognized School Health Services Director Ms. Jerri Clark, Associate Director of Medicaid in the Schools Ms. Tracy Starks, and School Based Health Center Advisor for the Arkansas Department of Health Ms. Tamara Baker for their work in the school based health centers. She said school based health centers received start up funding from a competitive grant. She said Charleston recently opened a school based health center.

Ms. Clark announced a school based health center grand opening January 28 at Bryant Elementary.

Ms. Starks said the team would be working in the Delta (Dermott, Helena-West Helena, and Marvell School Districts) to assist schools in planning grants for future application for funding of a school based health center.

Ms. Clark said dental services are not required for the grant however 11 of the 27 centers offer dental services. She said grant awardees are provided five years of funding that lead to a plan for sustainability. She said partnerships were important to sustainability of the centers. She said the Department was working on methods to better study the impact of the centers.

Ms. Baker said the medical providers receive Medicaid funding for services provided in the schools. She said these partners are critical to the sustainability of the centers.

Ms. Starks said the school does not have access to medical files of students and that all HIPPA laws are followed.

Dr. Jones said the curriculum and professional development units are working on study skills and critical thinking skills to better prepare students for success.

Report-9 My Child/My Student Quarterly Report

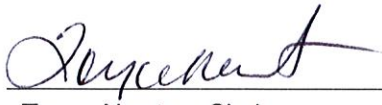
Director of Communications Ms. Kimberly Friedman said the ADE Communications Unit provided a quarterly report about the My Child/My Student public awareness campaign. She said the latest campaign resources are available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>. She said the Communication Cabinet would meet in February for additional planning.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education