

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Meeting**  
**Friday, July 10, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Friday, July 10, 2015, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Commissioner Key called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Diane Zook; Joe Black; Dr. Jay Barth; Vicki Saviers; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Toyce Newton, Chair; Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; and Susan Chambers.

Commissioner Key said in absence of the chair and vice chair a vote would be required to seat a temporary chair.

Ms. Zook made a motion, Dr. Barth seconded, to nominate Ms. Saviers to chair the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

Ms. Zook said she visited Trusty Elementary in Fort Smith. She said the school was working collaboratively to improve student achievement.

Dr. Barth said the NASBE annual meeting is in October. He encouraged Board members to attend.

Ms. Newton said she attended the National Forum on Education Policy in Denver. She will be attending the Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching (ECET2) conference in Seattle.

**Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Key said Corey Boby of Lakeside High School in Hot Springs, Cynthia Cardwell of Fulbright Junior High in Bentonville, Beth Jones of Bentonville High School, Mary Parson of Little Rock Central High School, Daniel Moix of Bryant High School, Cynthia Robinson of Springdale High School, Dennis Show of Parkview Arts and Science Magnet School in Little Rock, and Diedre Young of Ridgway Christian High School in Pine Bluff were recently selected as the Arkansas State Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Commissioner Key said Cynthia Cardwell, Mary Parson, and

Diedre Young were selected as state science finalists. Corey Boby, Beth Jones, Daniel Moix, Cynthia Robinson, and Dennis Show were selected as mathematics finalists. They were chosen from 121 nominated teachers and will receive state level recognition at the Arkansas Science Teachers Association and Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics luncheons hosted during the Arkansas Curriculum Conference on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. He said these finalists are now eligible to be considered by the national committee in 2016.

Commissioner Key said food insecurity is a very important issue in America. More importantly, Arkansans are affected by food insecurity at a very high rate. He said the Department, in its continued support of the health, development, and the well being of Arkansas children, engaged in a food drive to support community outreach through the Arkansas Rice Depot. Through the encouragement of one of the ADE employee's daughters, Ms. Anne Marie Coy, the Arkansas Department of Education asked all of its employees to participate in a food drive to help eliminate food insecurity in Arkansas.

Student Ms. Ann Marie Coy thanked the ADE and the Board for their contributions to the Rice Depot. Through the generous donations of ADE employees and Board members, over 300 pounds of food, 200 backpacks and \$400 was donated to the Arkansas Rice Depot to help support outreach programs dealing with food insecurities, especially those that affect children. She said students would be able to use the backpacks to take food home to supplement the nutrition in their homes.

## **Learning Services Report**

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones provided reports from the Learning Services Division.

### Dyslexia

Dr. Jones said ACT 1268 revised the previous legislation on dyslexia for Arkansas schools. The updated legislation requires that a committee of ten, representing several organizations with dyslexia professionals from the field, revise and maintain the Dyslexia Resource Guide. She said the committee has been appointed by the Commissioner of Education and met in June to begin its work on the resource guide. The resource guide is posted on the ADE website <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/dyslexia>.

She said the new legislation allowed for schools to use a dyslexia interventionist to provide intervention to students identified with characteristics of dyslexia. A dyslexia interventionist, as defined in the law, is a school district or public school employee trained in a dyslexia program. Personnel included in this definition of an interventionist are dyslexia therapists, dyslexia specialists, reading interventionists, certified teachers, or tutors and paraprofessionals working under the supervision of a certified teacher.

### Response to Intervention (Rtl)

Dr. Jones said the Arkansas Department of Education recognized that early identification of barriers preventing students from mastering basic skills is critical to the future success of children and would support the implementation of an effective Response to Intervention System (Rtl). As a result of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Dyslexia legislation in Arkansas, Dr. Jones said the Learning Services Division has a renewed commitment to informing Arkansas educators about the Rtl process and research-based interventions.

She said the Curriculum and Instruction unit partnered with Academic Institutes of Research (AIR), AETN, and specialists from Arkansas Education Service Cooperatives to create a series of professional development modules that will guide the establishment or improvement of Rtl systems in Arkansas Schools. These modules would be used in a blended mode of professional development through education cooperatives, AETN, or embedded professional development within a school. She said the modules feature effective Rtl in Arkansas, short interactive sessions and a facilitator's guide for ease of use in the school setting. Three modules will be finalized and released by August 2015:

1. Rtl Arkansas Overview
2. Rtl Arkansas Leadership
3. Rtl Arkansas Multi--tiered System of Support/Handbook

### College and Career Readiness Planning Program

Dr. Jones said the College and Career Readiness Planning Program (CCRPP) establish by Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-16-601 allowed school districts and higher education institutions who partnered with schools to provide a program of study designed to improve student ACT scores. She said the following schools submitted programs that were approved by a CCRPP committee:

- Fort Smith Public Schools \$311,455.60
- UALR \$72,000
- Fayetteville Public Schools \$72,463.98
- Southwest Arkansas Prep \$259,200
- Magnolia School District \$18,000
- West Memphis School District \$109,775
- ASU--Newport \$50,400
- Little Rock School District \$118,102.50
- SAU--Tech \$55,376
- Arkansas Northeastern \$129,600

### ADE Guidance and School Counseling

Dr. Jones said the ADE Guidance and School Counseling unit presented a session at the AASCD 2015 Conference on the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model. This model defines the components of a comprehensive school-counseling program and correlates with the Public School Student Services Act, TESS, and RTI. Many Arkansas school counselors use this model to support their programs.

### School Health

Act 1220 of 2003 established a child health advisory committee charged with coordinating statewide efforts to combat childhood obesity and related illnesses in order to improve the health of the next generation of Arkansans. Linked is the 2015 Child Health report that is submitted to the legislature.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4cBgibWYwNRQXB0b204OXo0RWc/view?usp=sharing>

Dr. Jones said ACT 952 of 2015 required that a unit on dating violence be taught annually as a component of a health course offered in grades 7--12. Resources have been shared with health teachers at the 2015 School Health Conference by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence and additional teacher resources are posted on the ADE website:

[http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning\\_Services/School\\_Health\\_Services/Dating\\_Violence\\_Resources\\_2015.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/School_Health_Services/Dating_Violence_Resources_2015.pdf)

### **My Child/My Student Report**

Communications Director Ms. Kimberly Friedman said the Arkansas Department of Education continued to promote the My Child/My Student public awareness campaign. She said the campaign was launched in August 2014 as an initiative of the ADE, the State Board of Education, and educational advocacy organizations to promote teacher and parent communication.

She said since the last quarterly report in April 2015, the following has occurred.

- The ADE Communications Team posted 19 *My Child/My Student* messages (in English and Spanish) via Facebook and Twitter in April and May. She said monthly parent and teacher newsletters were available at <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>.
- The ADE Communications Team tied the Month of the Military Child campaign in April to the *My Child/My Student* campaign and posted messages on ADE's social media.
- Ms. Deb Roush, the director of communications at the Pulaski County Special School District, designated every Monday in May as *My Child/My Student* Monday in May. She posted a *My Child/My Student* message on PCSSD's social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) each Monday and promoted a photo of the week on the district's website.
- Ms. Ouida Newton, the 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, continued to share ADE's Facebook and Twitter messages on her social media sites and received positive feedback from parents and teachers.
- Fayetteville Public Schools and the Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level

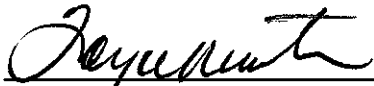
Reading shared *My Child/My Student* messages on social media.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Barth moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*



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Toyce Newton, Chair



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Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education