

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress Meeting**  
**Friday, May 15, 2015**

The State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress met Friday, May 15, 2015, in the Pulaski County Special School District Administration Building. Chairman Vicki Saviers called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m.

Present: Vicki Saviers, Chair; Toyce Newton; and Diane Zook

Absent: Sam Ledbetter

**Reports**

**Chair's Report**

No report.

**Consent Agenda**

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Zook, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes - March 12, 2015

**Action Agenda**

**Consideration of Progress - Lincoln Academy of Excellence, Forrest City Junior High and Forrest City High School**

Forrest City School District Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Hardrick said many of the findings from the academic distress team were aligned with the findings from her assessment of the schools. She said the district did not have a curriculum or interim assessments. The district has adopted curriculum and interim assessment for K-12. She said the teachers have worked on response to intervention. She said the district was working on improving the climate and culture. She said leadership is an action, and the professional development has been designed to support all educators. Dr. Hardrick said the school board has been very supportive of the urgency and innovation. She said the district made some reconfigurations to better meet the needs of students.

School Improvement Program Manager Dr. Richard Wilde said the ADE team conducted an onsite visit to examine validity of the school improvement specialists' weekly reports and the capacity of the Forrest City leadership team to implement the improvement plan and achieve measurable results. He said the district is hiring appropriate staff, the school board has a sense of urgency, and the district is supporting teacher leadership. The ADE encouraged the district to monitor if the taught curriculum is aligned to the written curriculum. He said the interim assessments are showing student progress. He said stability of leadership is key to sustainability.

School Improvement Specialist Mr. Zrano Bowles said the district has made noticeable improvements.

School Improvement Specialist Ms. Janie Hickman said the district and schools have been diligent about meeting the expectations of the 45-day plans.

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said the ADE is transitioning tools for districts. He said the IMO report would become the 45-day plan. He said the Indistar system would become the ACSIP tool.

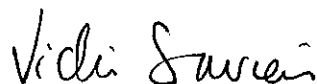
Forrest City School Board President Mr. Joey Astin said the school board is supportive of Dr. Hardrick's leadership. He said his daughter is in the right school.

The committee members expressed their support for the collaboration between the school board and the district leadership.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*



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Vicki Saviers, Chair - Special Committee