

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, April 11, 2014

The State Board of Education met Friday, April 11, 2014, in the auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chair Brenda Gullett called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Present: Brenda Gullett, Chair; Sam Ledbetter, Vice-Chairman; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Vicki Saviers; Toyce Newton; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Alexia Weimer, Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner.

Absent: Mireya Reith

Work Session

Work Session: School Calendars

Item pulled from the agenda.

Reports

Chair's Report

Ms. Gullett recognized Representative Harold Copenhaver.

Ms. Gullett asked Board members to complete the NASBE survey.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kimbrell had no report.

Recognition of the 2013 Arkansas Milken Educator, Erin Hodges

Commissioner Kimbrell said that in 1987, education pioneer Lowell Milken conceived and created the National Educator Awards program. Arkansas was invited to participate in the Awards program in 1991. Since that time, 70 Arkansas educators have been named Milken Educators. Dr. Kimbrell presented the 2013 Milken Educator award to Mrs. Erin Hodges. Mrs. Hodges is a teacher at MacArthur Junior High in the Jonesboro School District.

Mrs. Hodges thanked Dr. Kim Wilbanks, Superintendent of Jonesboro School District; Dr. Brad Faught, Principal; and Mr. Jim Hodges, her husband, for their support.

Update on Common Core State Standards, PARCC, Schools of Innovation and School Improvement.

Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Learning Services Dr. Megan Witonski gave a report on professional development activities and announced that a student video contest is posted to the ADE website.

Student Assessment Director Melody Morgan said over 40,000 Arkansas students were randomly selected to participate in the PARCC field test. She said the field test is being conducted online and with paper/pencil. She said a team including DIS, APSCN LAN, Education cooperatives, and the Office of Student Assessment are collaborating and conducting on-site visits to determine district and charter school's state of readiness to support digital learning and online assessments. Supports through these entities have been coordinated to provide site expertise, collaboration, and assistance with running infrastructure trials, proctor caching, and determining device to student ratios with regards to assessment. Ms. Morgan said that issues with regards to field testing involve the Pearson call center and some functionalities on the newly tested online platform. For the most part, other than double the load on school test administrators and the timing and release of information about field testing, everything is progressing according to plan. Ms. Morgan said additional online field testing opportunities will be available for the end-of-year field test.

Ms. Morgan recommended the State move to use a newer NRT form recently developed by the current vendor, Riverside. She said the new form would reflect more current norms and would allow the Department to report on student performance with regards to CCSS for the first time. In addition, she asked the Board to support the Department to form a task force to identify K-2 formative measures in lieu of summative assessments.

Ms. Zook resolved, seconded by Ms. Saviers, to support the formation of a task force to study K-2 assessments. The resolution was approved unanimously.


Report-5 2012-2013 Grade Inflation Report (Revised)

Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability John Hoy said Arkansas Annotated Code §6-15-421 requires the Division of Public School Accountability to create a report of the percentage of students who received a letter grade of "B" or above in courses for which the State Board has adopted a corresponding end-of-course test and who passed the end-of-course assessment on his or her first attempt; and create a report of the percentage of students who received a letter grade of "B" or above in the corresponding course and did not pass the end-of-course assessment on the first attempt. Mr. Hoy explained that revisions were made to the initial grade inflation report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman


Brenda Gullett, Chair


Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner