

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2014

The State Board of Education met Friday, March 21, 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; Mireya Reith; Joe Black; Alexia Weimer, Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner

Absent: none

Reports

Office of Intensive Support Quarterly Report

Superintendent of the Office of Intensive Support Andrew Tolbert answered questions from the Board regarding the Office of Intensive Support report, provided February 14, 2014.

The Board requested Lee County and Strong-Huttig superintendents and school board presidents provide reports to the State Board at a future meeting.

Ms. Saviers recognized Mr. Tolbert and team for their hard work. She said it is the responsibility of the superintendent and school board to ensure students are progressing.

Report on Dollarway School District

Bobby Acklin, Superintendent of Dollarway School District, gave a brief history of Dollarway School District and the involvement with parents and community. Ms. June Haynie reported on the progress the district is making toward increased student achievement.

Mr. Ledbetter recognized the work of the Dollarway leadership team. Mr. Acklin recognized that students are taking leadership roles in the rebuilding of Dollarway School District. He also thanked the Office of Intensive Support for ongoing support.

School Improvement Report

School improvement Director Elbert Harvey said focus and priority schools set interim measurable objectives (IMO) in four areas: 1.) Change in Teacher and Leader Practice; 2.) Student Achievement and Progress; 3.) Student Safety and Discipline; and 4.) Parent and Community Engagement.

Mr. Harvey identified areas of concern: 1.) teacher retention and the lack of recruitment plans; 2.) lack of capacity building; 3.) lack of targeted professional development and feedback of implementation progress; and 4.) a continuing culture of status quo.

Mr. Harvey identified areas of positive growth: 1.) use of IMO; 2.) leadership teams in place and functioning; 3.) true buy-in; 4.) transparency inside the school and district related to the school improvement process; and 5.) instructional facilitators targeting support for teachers.

Mr. Harvey said Augusta High School is making progress. He said the principal is involved in Arkansas Leadership Academy, leadership teams are working, and SREB recognized the implementation of MDC.

Mr. Harvey said Strong High School is also making progress. He said they are working with LDC and MDC and Dr. Tucker is providing direct support. The school is celebrating student success and the students are buying into the changes.

The Board recognized the efforts of Mr. Harvey and his team.

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

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Megan Witonski said the Educator Leader Cadre continues to work on sample units. She said schools are signing on to LDC and MDC training. Course code approval is due May 1.

Digital Learning providers are approved. Districts will make determination if the provider is best for the district and students. Dr. Witonski cautioned districts to read contracts carefully. The Department is putting out a digital learning resource guide.

Schools of Innovation applications are due May 1.

The PARCC field-testing begins on March 23 for some districts. Other districts will field test after spring break. Support teams are assisting schools with testing internal technology infrastructure readiness. The National Center and State

Collaborative (NCSC) will provide a phase one pilot assessment on April 14.

Dr. Barth asked about assessments for home school. Dr. Kimbrell said home school would continue to use a norm-referenced assessment. Dr. Kimbrell said that plan might need to be reviewed in the future.

Reports from Board Members

Mr. Ledbetter recognized Jeremy Lasiter, Department General Counsel, for his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard.

Ms. Zook recognized the Sonora Elementary School in the Springdale School District as the recipient of this year's Timothy R. Stephenson Founder's Award for its Environmental and Spatial Technology program, also known as East. The students are the youngest winners of this award.

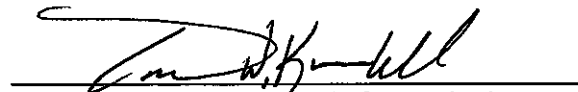
Ms. Newton recently visited the Dumas School District. She recognized the diversity of problem solving by the students.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.


Brenda Gullett, Chair


Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner