

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, January 13, 2017

The State Board of Education met Friday, January 13, 2017, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Mireya Reith called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Chair; Dr. Jay Barth, Vice-Chair; Dr. Fitz Hill; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Ouida Newton; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Meghan Ables, 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: None

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

No report.

Report-2 State Board Standing Committees, Special Committees, Liaisons, and Appointments Report

Science Grant Manager and Appointment Dr. Jay Barth said the grant was completed. ForwARd Arkansas Liaison Dr. Barth said he had additional follow-up conversations with ForwARd staff regarding concerns raised by the State Board during the December 8, 2016, meeting. He said ForwARd is changing as the organization is progressing. He said the work is ongoing with many subgroups working on specific tasks across various agencies and organizations. He said the reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) also shifted the priorities of the work. He invited all State Board members to have one-on-one conversations with ForwARd staff.

Ms. Zook requested a meeting with Ms. Reith, Dr. Barth, the ForwARd team, the Walton Family Foundation, and Rockefeller Foundation to discuss the vision for ForwARd, ForwARd Communities, and the role/process for ongoing communication. Deeper Learning Grant Manager and Appointment Ms. Reith said one of the goals in the grant is to expand relationships. She said that could include holding a board meeting in an area outside of Little Rock. She said the board could invite special guests to the board lunch/dinner or a convening to forward the work of Deeper Learning. She said there may also be opportunities to speak with legislators.

Ms. Zook suggested inviting Ms. Tonya Williams, representing Pre-K, to explain the various Pre-K opportunities to students, funding, monitoring, hiring, etc. Dr. Hill recommended inviting business leaders to board lunches and community leaders to board dinners to expand two-way communications. He said the education service cooperatives could also be an important group for conversation.

Ms. Newton suggested considering communities or counties that have schools in academic distress.

Ms. Zook recommended hosting a meeting in the various congressional districts and considering night meetings.

Ms. Chambers recommended including student voice in the meetings. ESSA Steering Committee Liaison Ms. Newton said she was encouraged by the direction of the committee.

Standing Committee on Academic Distress Chair Ms. Zook said Marvell-Elaine and Covenant Keepers Charter School will come before the Standing Committee on Academic Distress today.

Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Liaison Dr. Barth said the next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Liaison Ms. Reith said Ms. Newton and Ms. Tina Smith will be participating in a conference to create strategies focused on building and sustaining engagement throughout ESSA implementation and beyond.

She said the legislative session for NASBE will be held March 19-21, 2017, in Washington, DC. Commissioner Key said Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mark Gotcher would attend the meeting.

Dr. Barth said Ms. Chambers will be joining the finance committee for NASBE.

Student Discipline Liaison Dr. Fitz Hill said the Student Discipline Committee has met twice. He said the committee is reviewing the system of student discipline and the impact on student achievement.

Commissioner Key discussed the on-going conversation regarding data collection and reporting of student discipline. He said Dr. Saunders was considering a plan to create a private side of My School Info to allow schools to examine their data.

Ms. Zook informed the board that she has been asked to work with the Special Education Unit on due process procedures as the Special Liaison.

Ms. Reith asked Ms. Zook to keep the State Board informed of the progress.

Report-3 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner of Education Mr. Johnny Key invited the Board members to the Mega Kingfest scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2017. He said the ADE team would live stream the noon event.

Commissioner Key shared a video for computer science. The ENIAC Programmers Project Trailer is available at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/resource-materials-for-lesson-plans/computer-science/promoting-computer-science>.

Commissioner Key also shared the latest video in the Innovation in Arkansas Education Series on the paraprofessional degree program at UA Monticello. The video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HyCxBuMb_A.

Report-4 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Meghan Ables shared that she recently attended the National Championship College Football Playoff in Tampa, Florida, as a guest of the College Football Playoff Foundation.

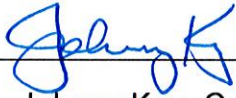
Ms. Ables posted her monthly blog on the ADE website, Everyone Needs a Teacher of the Year: It's Time to Celebrate Teachers! She said shared eight (8) ways to celebrate teachers.

1. Teacher Impact Celebration #ARTeacherImpact – She encouraged everyone to celebrate a teacher that made a difference in their life and post to social media.
2. Promote teachers every chance possible. She recommended using all forms of media to recognize great teachers.
3. Encourage a growth mindset. She said we should expect teachers to grow and then celebrate learning.
4. Inspire the next generation of educators. She said we should be inspiring the next generation to consider the education profession.
5. Fund special projects. She highlighted two methods for funding classroom projects. She said this is a great opportunity for business and community leaders to get involved.
6. Join organizations on a mission for educators. She identified foundations that support education.
7. Speak up on our behalf. She requested the Board speak about teacher retirement, insurance, professional pay, education funding, and education policy.
8. Select a Teacher of the Year (TOY) in every district. She said a district must select a district teacher of the year to become eligible for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) program. She encouraged every district to participate in the ATOY program.

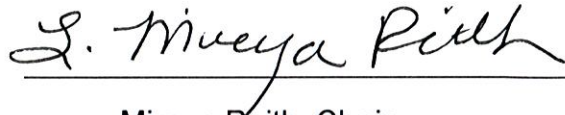
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman



Johnny Key, Commissioner



Mireya Reith, Chair