

ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

January 29, 2013

Arkansas Exemplary in Rolling Out Common Core Curriculum (KARK-Channel 4)

Arkansas Schools are getting a pat on the back.

Educators at a national leadership conference are praising the state's implementation of the Common Core, a curriculum adopted by more than 40 states focused on getting students ready for college and careers.

The Counsel of Chief State School Officers says other states should follow Arkansas' example rolling out the program.

School Secretary Denied Grievance Hearing Over Substitute Nurse Policy (KARK-TV)

Video is available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=632752

"I would hate for my not being properly trained to cause a child to be hurt or killed. I couldn't live with that," Shelley Sledd told us before the school board meeting.

Sledd works as a school secretary in Bauxite School District. In November, she filed a grievance after her school ordered her to act as school nurse substitute for a day, administering medications and responding to emergency situations if one arose.

"We follow the Arkansas State Board of Nursing guidelines for schools and adhere to those," said district spokesperson Kim Arnold.

But Sledd, saying she received only a 10 minute training in August and felt unprepared to take on the role. She was reprimanded by her principal over the policy, one Sledd and her lawyer believe violates state and federal laws.

"I probably would have done the same thing she did -- I wouldn't have given out medication" one school board member said.

Many board members had questions over the nurse policy, but they declined Sledd's grievance. According to the school handbook, a grievance over a reprimand isn't a claim the board can hear.

"There could be a good outcome to it. The good outcome could be, yes she's still reprimanded but we take a look at this thing and do change the policy," said Board President Jim Parsons. "That's if we're speaking hypothetically. We'll review the policy and see if anything needs to be changed."

The fact that the board declined to hear Sledd's grievance tonight, puts an end to her recourse at the district level. She has, however, filed a complaint with the State Board of Nursing over the policy as well.

The Monday line (Arkansas Times Blog)

It's open. Finishing up:

* UA TO DEBATE GUNS: Students at UA-Fayetteville are preparing to debate resolutions calling for a change in the current university policy banning guns on campus. Some student legislators want to open the campus to concealed carry permit holders.

* FISHING FOR SOULS, NOT BASS: Arkansas Business reports that the Dark Hollow land along Interstate 40 in North Little Rock has been acquired by the First Pentecostal Church on the north side of the freeway for possible expansion. It was once considered as a site for a shopping center to be anchored by Bass Pro Shops, a development stopped by a lawsuit over the lack of a sufficient environmental impact study on use of the wetland. A change in potential use of the land doesn't change federal regulations that apply to these wetlands.

* NO WORD ON GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONER: No change in status of the matter of Rick Watkins, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission member arrested in Lonoke County last week, apparently intoxicated and firing a weapon some distance from his vehicle, its engine still running. Watkins has not been available for comment. I asked the governor's office if Watkins, a Beebe appointee, had resigned or if Gov. Mike Beebe had asked him to resign. Said Matt DeCamp:le:

We have received no written or verbal resignation from Watkins. The governor recognizes the serious nature of the situation and the charges, but is simply monitoring the legal proceedings for now.

I've heard multiple reports that Watkins has been making apologies to Game and Fish people. That might not be good enough for many, including other members of the commission, for the embarrassment. If he doesn't resign from the commission, other commissioners could deny him ascension to the position of chairman as internal reprimand.

* PRAY FOR — AND IN — CONWAY SCHOOLS: Belatedly, I've received a response to my FOI request for communication by Conway School Superintendent Greg Murry related to his handling of a complaint over the widespread practice of lunchtime school visits by evangelical organizations. Response was belated because Murry, custodian of his own records, is turning over responses to a conservative Christian legal advocacy group in Texas that is defending Conway from the complaint and is to report this week on a policy that Murry clearly hopes will continue to allow the visits. To get anything from Murry, I have to wait for him to go through them. The record produced today shows the Conway evangelical group K-Life suggested to Murry that he bring in the Liberty Institute. You might disagree, but Murry's sympathies seem to lie with keeping the churches happy.

Here's the thing: I don't doubt that if the school district allows outside visitors at lunchtime, of any sort, it can't prohibit visitors from a religious group. The problem comes in the activities pursued by the religious groups when they visit. Are they recruiting? Are they proselytizing? Are they holding public prayer exercises? That's the question not yet answered in any of the communications I've seen.

Mother Upset Over Elementary School's Breach In Safety (KARK-Channel 4)

Video is available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=632652

Parents in one central Arkansas town are concerned after their children were let out of their elementary school late and missed their buses.

"She left from here and took off to the opposite side of campus," said Amy Kennedy.

Kennedy's 11-year-old daughter Sierra was picked up by a friend of the family Friday afternoon after she missed her school bus.

"She saw my daughter sitting across campus crying in the grass," said Kennedy, but she soon came to find out it was not her daughter's fault.

"I asked her I said tell me exactly what happened," she said.

Sierra said a group of fifth graders at H.L. Lubker Elementary in Bald Knob were having class in a room with no clock.

The teacher lost track of time and let the students out late.

Completely unsupervised, and watching her ride home drive away, Sierra panicked and chased after her bus.

"I guess she just collapsed from what I understand she's okay," Kennedy added, "Nothing happened, and I am so thankful for that."

Considering what happened at the school just over one year ago when, school officials confirm, a strange man came to campus and tried to take a student home.

"The teacher had enough sense to stop and say something's not right here," Kennedy said.

The school she said responded quickly to that breach, notifying parents that steps were being taken to ensure it would never happen again.

"Which is basically what I'm looking for here," she said.

"Student safety is the utmost importance," said Bald Knob Superintendent Dr. Keith Williams.

He said they constantly try and improve their bus system and this is now a top priority.

"This is one area we'll pay even more attention too and hopefully it'll never happen again," he said.

"I have to trust these teachers are going to watch my child like I do at home," Kennedy said.

So that nothing can go so wrong, so quickly, again.

Dr. Williams said the school district's transportation director was on site during this incident and helped the other stranded students get home safely.

Group formed to answer billionaires' school push (Arkansas Times Blog)

Well, how about this? As you know, the Billionaire Boys Club has a couple of dog-and-pony shows scheduled tomorrow in Little Rock at which Jeb Bush, Jim Walton, Walter Hussman, Bill Dillard and Claiborne (Murphy Oil) Deming will sing the praises of school reform — by their lights. Kill unions. Kill conventional public schools. End careful state oversight of charter schools. Pass out public dollars for home school, virtual schools and anything that isn't a regular public school. And, whatever you do, don't allow elected public officials have any say over any of it.

Well. A group has formed to speak out in opposition to their radical agenda, though I think the heirs' money has already talked loudly in election of the current Republican legislature. News release:

A press conference to promote the advancement of public education for ALL students, rather than radical reforms that will seriously undermine traditional public schools. A group of parents, teachers, administrators, advocates, legislators, and others will discuss Arkansas' recent progress in improving educational opportunities for all students and the threat posed by recently filed bills such as HB1040, SB104, and SB117.

Many are concerned that the recent push by some members of the business community for a shift toward an unaccountable charter school driven education system is a potentially expensive distraction that threatens to undermine the principles of equity and adequacy that have guided the state's progress in education over the past decade. Now is not the time to abandon those principles by opening the floodgates for unaccountable and unregulated experiments by removing the oversight of charter schools from the State Board of Education.

WHO: Parents, teachers, administrators, advocates, legislators, and representatives from several organizations including the Arkansas Opportunity to Learn Campaign, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Rural Community Alliance, Arkansas Education Association, Arkansas Rural Education Association, Arkansas School Boards Association, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, Arkansas Public Policy Panel, and others.

WHEN: 1:00-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 30, 2013

WHERE: Old Supreme Court Room, State Capitol Building

And, hey, speaking of Jeb Bush. I mentioned the other day some good Florida research on the poor showing of charter schools in Bush's home state. Here's some more reading on the Jeb Bush Florida miracle you won't hear at the Billionaires' revival show, sent along by another Bush doubter.

* [A Harvard school paper](#) "The Effects of Early Grade Retention on Student Outcomes over Time: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Florida," found that, "Regression discontinuity estimates indicate large short-term gains in achievement among retained students and a sharp reduction in the probability of retention in subsequent years. The achievement gains from retention fade out gradually over time...and are statistically insignificant after six years."

* [A National Education Policy Center report](#) It found that in Florida, "NAEP performance of grade 4 students was artificially inflated due to the screening out and elimination of the weakest readers by the state's retention

policy mandate, particularly Hispanic and Black students, and the presence of smaller numbers of older retained 4th-grade students."

* [Palm Beach Post](#) article from November:

Florida has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, according to preliminary data released this week by the federal government.

* [Orlando Sentinel](#) article that evaluates Bush's touting of letter grades for schools. Not pretty.

* And more general summaries from Reuters and also from the National Education Policy Center (again) on Bush "overselling" his school reform. In short. Bush is great at lining up corporate clout. Together, they can create a formidable PR machine (right, Mr. Gordy? Ms. Lee?) The facts just happen to be inconvenient.

UAFS Student Addresses League Of Women Voters, Discusses DREAM Proposals (SW Times Record-Fort Smith)

As a junior at Waldron High School, Lidia Mondragon considered dropping out after learning she would have to pay out-of-state tuition at Arkansas colleges.

Despite attending Arkansas schools since elementary school, as the daughter of undocumented immigrant parents Mondragon isn't eligible for in-state tuition or any traditional financial aid.

Mondragon, now 20, talked about her experience Monday at a Fort Smith League of Women Voters meeting, where Mireya Reith, executive director of the Arkansas United Community Coalition, also addressed the crowd.

Both women expressed their support for the DREAM Act at both state and federal levels and for comprehensive immigration reform.

The federal DREAM Act provides a path to citizenship for certain undocumented immigrants of "good moral character" who meet certain criteria, while the DREAM Act proposed at the state level in 2005 and 2009 would provide in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria.

With the encouragement of family and teachers, Mondragon graduated as salutatorian of her class and is now a pre-med biology major at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

Mondragon choked up as she talked about her parents, who both work 12-hour days, seven days a week, to pay her tuition; her mother's battle with cervical cancer; and her concern she's robbing her younger sister of opportunities because of the resources her family dedicates to her college education.

Again, when faced with thoughts of quitting school when her mom was diagnosed with cancer, Mondragon's parents convinced her to remain.

But instead of simply remaining in school, Mondragon decided it was time for her to "stand up" and get involved with the "I DREAM Arkansas" campaign, which included a trip to Washington this summer to speak to members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.

“But I feel like they need the voice of you guys (non-Hispanic Arkansans),” Mondragon said. “From elementary through high school, every morning we had to stand up and pledge allegiance to the American flag. We may not be American citizens, but in our hearts we are Americans.”

Reith said state Sen. Joyce Elliott, D-Little Rock, is working on gathering co-sponsors to reintroduce the proposal for a state DREAM Act, and the unprecedented participation of Hispanic voters in the 2012 election has created momentum for comprehensive immigration reform.

But like Mondragon, Reith said it will involve more than immigrants and immigrant organizations lobbying lawmakers for change.

“This isn’t just an immigrant issue, this is an Arkansas issue, it’s a human issue ... so we really hope you’ll get involved,” Reith said.

State bills address groceries, abortions (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

The plan is dependent on paying off or reducing bond obligations that won’t end for years or resolving a decades old lawsuit that requires the state to pay millions for desegregation efforts.

Under Senate Bill 135 by Sen. Jason Rapert, R-Bigelow, the state’s chief fiscal officer could trigger the near end of the sales tax on groceries if a combination of the bond obligations and school desegregation costs has dropped by \$35 million or more for six straight months.

Gov. Mike Beebe has pushed for the gradual decline of the state’s sales tax on groceries since he was elected in 2006. The tax has since been lowered from 6 percent to 1.5 percent. The 2013 legislative session will be Beebe’s last full session as governor and he has said there is not money in the state budget to eliminate more of the tax this year.

A one-eighth percent tax on groceries is required by Amendment 75 of the state constitution for conservation matters such as the Game and Fish Commission and would not be removed.

Local governments would still be allowed to tax groceries.

Another bill filed Monday would ban abortions once a fetus has a heartbeat.

Senate Bill 134 by Rapert would prohibit a doctor from performing an abortion if the fetus has a heartbeat, except to save the mother’s life or in cases where pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. Doctors violating the law would be guilty of a Class D felony, punishable by up to six years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an embryo begins forming a heart at four weeks, and the heart beats by eight weeks.

“When there is a living, beating heart, there is life,” Rapert said.

The state Department of Health and Human Services would set rules defining the method used to determine whether a fetus has a heartbeat.

There were 4,033 abortions performed in Arkansas in 2011, according to the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services.

Of all abortions in the state, 33 percent took place before seven weeks of pregnancy, 53.43 percent between seven and 14 weeks, and 13.46 percent between 14 and 21 weeks. Two abortions occurred after 21 weeks, according to the department.

Planned Parenthood of the Heartland lobbyist Murry Newbern called the bill extreme legislation that undermines a woman's ability to make her own decision.

"There are many possible outcomes of pregnancy, including fetal development issues that cannot be detected in the first six weeks. Complications during pregnancy could put a woman's life in danger and this bill would leave her without legal medical options to save her life," she said.

Similar legislation has been filed in Mississippi and Wyoming.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision stated that a woman can legally have an abortion until the fetus is viable enough to live outside the mother, generally around the third trimester.

Also Monday, Rep. Kim Hammer, R-Benton, filed a bill to change the Arkansas School Choice Act.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments about the constitutionality of the law in St. Louis on Jan. 17 after a lower court threw out the entire school-choice law last summer. That ruling has since been stayed.

The School Choice Act allowed students to transfer out of their resident school districts with few exceptions. But it states: "No student may transfer to a nonresident district where the percentage of enrollment for the student's race exceeds that percentage in the student's resident district."

Hammer said he thinks his bill, House Bill 1181, would be constitutional because it doesn't determine if a child can change schools based on the racial mix of the districts. Instead, a superintendent would decide whether to accept a student based on how it would affect the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch Act.

Legislative summary (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

HOUSE

Bills

HB1140, J. Burris - An act to amend the law concerning Medicaid.

HB1141, J. Burris - To amend the law concerning public-assistance benefits.

HB1142, J. Burris - To clarify the laws regarding health-provider organizations.

HB1143, J. Burris - To improve the law concerning the health of Arkansans.

HB1144, J. Burris - To clarify the laws governing licensed health-care professionals.

HB1145, Nickels - To repeal the authority of local governments to pay taxpayer funds under service contracts for economic and industrial development management services.

HB1151, D. Douglas - To repeal the Arkansas Prevailing Wage Law, and to provide flexibility to cities and counties for capital construction projects.

HB1164, Kerr - To amend the general provisions of the Arkansas Code concerning retirement and pensions.

HB1165, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System.

HB1166, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System.

HB1167, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the State Police Retirement System.

HB1168, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System.

HB1169, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning Arkansas retirement systems.

HB1170, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

HB1171, Kerr - To amend the statutes concerning the Local Police and Fire Pension and Relief Funds.

HB1172, Fite - To amend various sections of the law concerning the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

HB1173, Perry - To resolve the unfunded liabilities of Arkansas retirement systems.

HB1174, Perry - To resolve certain unfunded liabilities of Arkansas retirement systems.

HB1175, Catlett - To promote interstate relations between law enforcement officers of different law enforcement agencies; and to allow a law enforcement officer to travel out of state in his or her emergency vehicle.

HB1176, Carnine - Concerning the retirement options for employees of state-supported institutions of higher education.

HB1177, Carnine - To allow certain members of the General Assembly to opt out of membership in the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and to declare an emergency.

HB1178, McLean - To clarify the law regarding Medicaid payments to chiropractors for chiropractic care.

HB1179, Rice - To provide coverage for collagenase clostridium histolyticum.

HB1180, Steel - Concerning improper lane usage on certain multilane highways.

HB1181, Hammer - To amend the Public School Choice Law and to declare an emergency.

HB1182, Hobbs - To revise the scope of practice for midwives.

HB1183, Wright - To amend various provisions of the Massage Therapy Act.

HB1184, Wright - To require the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to determine and prepare a list of prescription drugs that are considered specialty drugs by a pharmacy benefits manager.

HB1185, Wright - To modify the definition of prescription under the Pharmacy Act.

HB1186, S. Malone - To clarify the role of pharmacists with regard to ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine; to improve the process for identifying persons authorized to purchase ephedrine.

HB1187, Bell - To amend Arkansas law concerning the use of public funds to support or oppose ballot measures.

HB1188, Lenderman - To make technical corrections to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Act.

SENATE

Bills

SB131, Holland - An act to protect the privacy of owners of, and applicants for, concealed handgun carry licenses; to exempt the name and corresponding zip code of the applicant, licensee, or past licensee from disclosure; and to declare an emergency.

SB133, G. Stubblefield - To amend the law concerning the distribution of funds for the purchase of voting systems.

SB134, Rapert - To create the Arkansas Human Heartbeat Protection Act and to protect unborn children.

SB135, Rapert - To reduce the state sales and use tax on food and food ingredients if certain fund balances exist; and to declare an emergency.

SB136, Maloch - To revise benefit provisions under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

SB137, B. Sample - To address member deposit accounts, technical changes, cost of living increases, and the deferred retirement option plan in the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

SB138, B. Sample - Concerning deputy sheriffs and eligibility requirements in the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

SB139, K. Ingram - To revise the procedure for curing a deficiency in bond payments by a school district.

SB140, Irvin - The Safe School Initiative Act.

SB141, Irvin - To clarify the geographic boundaries of existing hospice agency service areas.

SB142, R. Thompson - To amend provisions of Title 24 of the Arkansas Code concerning public employee retirement plans generally.

SB143, J. Key - To resolve issues and requirements of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

SB144, J. Key - To resolve issues and requirements of the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board.

SB145, J. Key - To amend the law concerning the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System.

SB146, J. Key - To amend provisions of Title 24 of the Arkansas Code concerning the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Act.

SB147, J. Key - To amend provisions of Title 24 of the Arkansas Code concerning the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System.

SB148, J. Key - To repeal free railroad transportation for the College of Agriculture.

SB149, Files - To regulate the substitution of biosimilar biological products for certain prescribed products.

SB150, J. Dismang - To amend parole eligibility for persons convicted of a felony sex offense.

SB151, J. Dismang - To revise the usage fee for branches of an Arkansas bank located out of state.

NOTABLE RESOLUTIONS

SJR4, Rapert - The Taxpayers' Protection Amendment.

SR2, Bledsoe - To commend the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States of America and with the State of Arkansas.

Calendar (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

HOUSE

10 a.m. Education Committee, Room 138 10 a.m. Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee, Room 130 10 a.m. Judiciary Committee, Room 149 10 a.m. Public Transportation Committee, Multi-Agency Complex, Room B 10 a.m. Revenue and Taxation Committee, Room 151 1:30 p.m. House convenes

SENATE

10 a.m. Insurance and Commerce Committee, Room 171 10 a.m. City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Room 272 1:30 p.m. Senate convenes 10 minutes after adjournment: Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development Committee, Room 309 ALSO 9 a.m. Joint Budget Committee, Multi-Agency Complex, Room A

Second district in week closes citing sickness (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

LITTLE ROCK — For the second time within a week, a Northwest Arkansas school district has closed for two days because of illness and absenteeism.

The Lincoln Consolidated School District will be closed today and Wednesday primarily because of a stomach ailment that caused about 250 of the district's 1,200 students to be absent by noon Monday, said Superintendent Clay Hendrix. About 60 students went home after arriving at school in the morning, he said.

Hendrix said he made the decision to close Lincoln schools early Monday and reopen Thursday.

“Students were still getting sick as they were leaving the school,” the superintendent said in an e-mail. “I do hope they are all better by Thursday. We’re asking anyone that is not symptom-free to stay home when school resumes.”

The decision to close Lincoln schools came the same day that students in Eureka Springs public schools returned to class after a two-day hiatus because of a similar absentee rate last Wednesday. Eureka Springs is 67 miles northeast of Lincoln.

The illnesses involved appear to be different.

In Eureka Springs, it was primarily a flu-like problem, said Clare Lesieur, principal at Eureka Springs Elementary School. She said the district had 16 confirmed cases of influenza at the elementary school, but the school district had no confirmed cases of norovirus, which causes severe stomach problems.

Norovirus caused the closure of Hellstern Middle School in Springdale on Jan. 18 after about 300 of the 900 students there were ill the previous day. After a three day weekend, only 76 students were absent at Hellstern the next Monday, said Rick Schaeffer, a spokesman for the Springdale School District. He said norovirus usually runs its course in one or two days.

It wasn’t known Monday whether norovirus was the problem at Lincoln.

“We were told that the symptoms of the sick individuals consisted of [throwing up] and diarrhea,” said Ann Russell, a spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Health. “Our environmental health specialist is inspecting the kitchens, and our communicable disease nurse is trying to talk with some of the parents and school nurse to get more clinical information.”

Closing for two days helped in Eureka Springs, said Superintendent Curtis Turner.

On Wednesday, 121 students - about 19 percent of the district’s 655 students - were absent, according to numbers from the principals.

By Monday, the number had improved considerably in Eureka Springs. Only 80 were absent, which is 12 percent of the student body.

Those numbers include the preschool, which has about 40 children ages 3 to 4.

Turner said he met with the principals and they decided to shut down the school system in an attempt to keep diseases from spreading. He said it was only the second time in his 30-year career as a superintendent that he had closed an entire school district because of illness.

Students had a variety of illnesses at Eureka Springs, including stomach problems, he said.

“Closing the school for the two days was a good decision in that it gave both staff and students time to get well,” said Turner.

Lesieur agreed, saying it was a “great call.”

On Wednesday, Lesieur said 70 of her 270 students were absent. On Monday, she had 31 absent, including a dozen preschoolers.

“We’re rolling right along now,” she said.

Lesieur said 15 employees of the elementary school were sick Wednesday, but there were no staff ill on Monday.

Dr. Dirk Haselow, state epidemiologist and medical director for Communicable Disease & Immunization, said school closures work on the principle of “social distancing.” When sick, stay at home, he said.

Dr. Haselow also encourages people to practice good “cough etiquette” and personal hygiene to prevent spreading illnesses.

NLR school board meets, doesn’t choose (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

LITTLE ROCK — The North Little Rock School Board met for almost two hours Monday night about the five superintendent candidates it interviewed earlier this month but adjourned without making a selection.

“We’re very pleased with the candidates,” School Board President Scott Teague said after the meeting, the bulk of which was held in private. “We just want to do some additional, individual research.”

The board is seeking a replacement for Ken Kirspel, who plans to retire from the 9,000-student district at the end of this school year.

The five candidates for the job are Bobby Acklin, the North Little Rock district’s assistant superintendent for desegregation; Rhonda Dickey, the district’s director of secondary education; Kelly Rodgers Jr., superintendent of the 4,250-student Terrell, Texas, Independent School District; Larry Smith, superintendent of the 3,010-student White Hall School District; and Belinda Shook, superintendent of the 3,300-student Beebe School District.

“All is still well and on track,” Teague said about the search process. “It’s just a big decision and we want to make sure we take the proper amount of time to make the right decision.”

Teague said he anticipates another board meeting this week but none was scheduled as of Monday night.