

## **Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap**

The Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap was established by the Arkansas State Legislature, under Act 33 during the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.

Minutes  
January 16, 2014

**Members in Attendance:** Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Ms. Kathy Powers (via conference call), Dr. Luis Restrepo, Mr. Jon Fulkerson, Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Ms. Susan Harriman, Senator Jack Crumbly

**Excused Absence:** Dr. Vera Lang Brown

**Meeting location:** Commissioner's Board Room (201A), Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

### **Welcome/ Call to Order:**

Dr. Dawn Simpson, chair, opened the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

### **Minutes of November 7, 2013:**

Minutes for November were tabled until all members could read them for approval via e-mail. October 10, 2013 minutes were updated, approved on November 15<sup>th</sup> and posted on the website.

### **Updates:**

#### **Review/ Feedback of Annual Report:**

Dr. Simpson asked for suggestions about the monthly meetings and times for the year. After some discussion, the commissioners decided to have 8 meetings and use February, May, and September for sub-committee meetings. In a two hour meeting, the sub-committee group will meet the first hour. Sub-committee groups will rotate and the sub-committee chair will preside over the hour. The second hour will be used for guest presentations.

### **Sub-committee memberships**

- Common Core: Chairman – Ms. Kathy Powers, Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Dr. Luis Restrepo, Dr. Vera Lang Brown
- ACSIP/Educational Resources: Chairman – Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Ms. Kathy Powers
- Parental Involvement: Chairman – Mr. Jon Fulkerson, Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Senator Jack Crumbly
- Interfacing with Local GAP Task Forces: Chairman - Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Co-Chair - Dr. Luis Restrepo, Rev. Charles Killion, Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Dr. Vera Lang Brown

### **Plans for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Educational Symposium:**

- Date, June 9, 2014
- Budget, Sen. Crumbly will continue to see if the commission can be placed on the agenda of the House and Senate Education Committees.
- Symposium will replace the regular Hispanic symposium on Fayetteville campus. Parking will be difficult on campus therefore checking for a local school use.
- Have 2 sessions, one for public free to come and second session an opportunity for professional development for educators. U of A could host and try to look at budget.
- Suggested Keith Jackson as possibly keynoter of second session, Gary Reader will be first session Keynote speaker, 3 or 4 break-out sessions to continue conversation about keynoter's talk.
- Breakouts to focus on groups to a single topic: educators, administrators, parents/community
- Drafting out two speakers for each session.
- Concurrent session called world café.
- Mandate is to support local gap groups, which would benefit these groups. Recognize districts active in local group with an award.

### **Ideas for Future Presentations:**

- ELL , ACT 1280 (all schools require digital learning), Kathy Swine courses on-line, bandwidth, impact computers at home, and Cody Decker could speak about who has bandwidth inequities.
- Dr. Tucker, PARCC Assessments progress
- RTI (Response to Intervention) data , intervention programs, research

**Four working subcommittees:**

- Scholastic Audit/Distribution of Resources; Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Chair
  - o Ms. Kathy Powers and Ms. Kim Wilson will serve on this committee
  - o This committee will study how the impact of the flexibility plan, the new tag group, and the distribution of resources among school districts
- Parental Involvement; Mr. Jon Fulkerson, Chair
  - o Ms. Kim Wilson, Rev. Charles Killion, and Dr. Luis Restrepo will serve on this committee
- Common Core State Standards; Ms. Kathy Powers, Chair
  - o Dr. Luis Restrepo, Dr. Jesse Hargrove, and Dr. Vera Lang Brown will serve on this committee
- Interfacing with Local Gap Commissions; Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson, Chair and Dr. Luis Restrepo, Co-Chair
  - o Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, and Mr. Jon Fulkerson will serve on this committee
  - o This committee will help coordinate future events.

Future Meeting Dates:  
February 20, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Recorded by Connie Storey (ADE)