

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
February 20, 2014

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Mr. Jon Fulkerson, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Dr. Jesse Hargrove

Excused Absence: Dr. Luis Restrepo, Ms. Kathy Powers

Meeting location: Board Room (201A), Arch Ford Education Building, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

Welcome/ Call to Order:

Dr. Dawn Simpson, chair, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of January 16, 2014:

Mr. Jon Fulkerson made a motion to accept the minutes since corrections had been made, and Dr. Jesse Hargrove seconded the motion.

Updates for Symposium:

The date for the symposium was discussed to be changed from June 9th to another date because of conflicts with snow days for local schools.

Dr. Restrepo was asked to find out if attendance or facilities would be an issue.

Subcommittee Discussion:

With the absence of the chairs, Dr. Simpson said the group would wait to hear from Common Core and Local GAP Task Forces subcommittees. Dr. Simpson asked to hear from the attending subcommittee chairs.

- ACSIP chair, Dr. Brown discussed plans for the ACSIP committee this year.

The question about what districts do within their schools about ACSIP is one focus. Dr. Brown asked for suggestions on an approach. Mr. Fulkerson suggested getting a sample of ACSIP plans from varied schools. Questions to ask: What are schools doing? What are the follow-ups? Is there any unnecessary fluff? Is it a plan of action? What are some interventions?

The committee will try to gather hard data of results from districts' plans. Is there an inequity of educational resources? Are ACSIP plans driven by test results or other determinations by schools?

- Parental Involvement chair, Mr. Jon Fulkerson, said the committee wants to look at resources for parents to help their own students.

Mr. Fulkerson shared a story from the "Jonesboro Sun" newspaper about a quote from a parent, "What am I going to do to help my child without text books?" The committee will find out if most schools have parent help centers. Parents need to know what resources are available. Communications between schools and parents need improvement. The committee wants to look at ways to help the state be more pro-actively helping parents to become more involved. As the sub-committee looks into these centers, contact will be made to as many as we can compile before the May sub-committee meeting.

Transportation is another topic; challenges for getting students to school events. Can Title1 money transport parents to schools for involvement, or utilize existing funds to accomplish this?

Ideas for Future Presentations:

RTI – Pat Quinn.

PARCC Assessment, Melody Morgan, to give an update.

ADE representative for overseeing local task forces for GAP groups.

Future Meeting Date:

March 20, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Recorded by Connie Storey