

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

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

Minutes January 21, 2016

Members in Attendance: Dr. Luis Restrepo Interim Chair, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Darin Beckwith, Nathaniel Todd, Lillian Williams, Jack Crumbly

Members Absent: Kathy Powers

Meeting Location: Arkansas Department of Education, #4 Capitol Mall, Room 201-A, Little Rock, AR 72201

Welcome/Call to Order

Dr. Luis Restrepo opened and called the meeting to order 1:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes were not available to approve, tabled to the next meeting

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mr. Todd

Second by Mr. Crumbly

Motion carried

Dr. Restrepo gave updates to the Commission from Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education regarding the role and purpose of the committee and discussed options for the committee. Mr. Restrepo expressed concern about districts not supporting the Commission.

Dr. Restrepo asked everyone to give the expiration dates of his or her term on the Commission.

Dr. Luis Fernando Restrepo –2016 – In 2016, not wishing to be re-appointed
Darin Beckwith – Expires in 2020, but is taking a position as the Coop Director at the Dawson Educational Service Cooperative. Therefore, his term might be abbreviated since he will no longer serve as a superintendent.

Jack Crumbly - - Needs reappointment

Nathaniel Todd – 36 months left

Vera Lang Brown – interested in returning

Lillian Williams - Ex- Officio from the Department of Higher Education.

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Meeting with Commissioner Key Update

Dr. Restrepo discussed with the Commission the concerns of the Commissioner and the importance for the Commission to focus on the task outlined in ACT 33. Dr. Restrepo handed everyone a copy of the Commissioner's concerns for discussion.

Mr. Todd addressed the concern for holding a symposium. Dr. Restrepo acknowledged the importance of a symposium, but due to the lack of members and funding he suggested focusing more on a strategic plan for the Commission.

Mr. Todd suggested to sunset the committee in 10 years and gives ADE the suggestive policies and recommendations to close the gap by 40%.

Ms. Brown agreed with the Commissioner's recommendations and reevaluates the Commission's responsibilities as outlined in the ACT designated in 2004.

Mr. Beckwith suggested bringing an outside source to help with the strategic planning. Dr. Restrepo agreed and reaffirmed the importance to include stakeholders in the strategic planning. Dr. Restrepo suggesting the strategic plan to include goals and help redefine the Commission.

Election of Gap Commission Chair

Mr. Todd made the motion Mr. Beckwith serves as interim chair. Mr. Beckwith expressed concern that his might be asked to step down, if he was unable to continue his involvement due to his new position on July 1. Mr. Crumbly amended the recommendation that Mr. Beckwith and Ms. Brown serve as Co-Chair until June 30, 2016.

Mr. Beckwith seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Presentation to the State Board of Education - Annual Report

Dr. Restrepo said he would gladly give the annual report to the State Board of Education and continue to give his support to the Commission until the end of his term, which is April 2016.

New Business

Strategic Planning

Mr. Beckwith made the suggestion to work on the strategic plan and not spend the taxing effort on a symposium.

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Upcoming Dates for Commission

February 12, 2016 – State Board of Education

No other dates set at this time. To be determined by the new co-chairs.

New Business

Arkansas Department of Education Staffing

Mr. Todd made the recommendation that the minutes be sent to Mr. Key.

Dr. Restrepo acknowledge the importance of Mr. Key and ADE supporting the commission.

Recommendations to the Arkansas Department of Education

Mr. Beckwith made the awareness that there needs to be a plan of action with measurable objectives. Mr. Crumbly addressed the concern of the local districts not have a functional Closing the Achievement Gap committee. Mr. Todd suggested a policy be included as part of the school district grading on whether they are closing the achievement gap and be part of the report card.

Mr. Todd suggested four events.

February 12, 2015

Workshop for Strategic – May

Latino Symposium – June 21

Symposium September – Forrest City

Dr. Restrepo suggested the co-chairs discuss future events at the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Todd suggested Mr. Key attend these events

Next Meeting:

No meeting date set

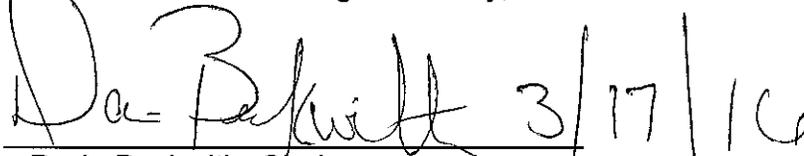
Adjournment

Dr. Restrepo made the motion to adjourn

Motion was unanimous to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 3:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted: Doug Bradberry, ADE Staff


Darin Beckwith, Chair