

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 17, 2013

Members in Attendance: Dr. Dawn Simpson, Rev. Charles Killion, Ms. Kathy Powers, Ms. Kim Wilson, Dr. Luis Restrepo, Ms. Brittany Kincaid, Dr. Vera Lang Brown, Ms. Lillian Williams, Dr. Jesse Hargrove

Others in Attendance: N/A

Excused Absence: Mr. Jon Fulkerson

Meeting location: Commissioner's Conference Room, Arkansas Department of Education, 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 October 18, 2012:

A motion was made by Dr. Luis Restrepo to accept the revised minutes. Kathy Powers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Simpson welcomed Ms. Kathy Powers as an official member of the Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Commission (the Commission). Additionally, she announced the Ms. Brittany Kincaid will be attending the meetings for Ms. Susan Harriman as an Ex-Officio member.

Committee Work:

The annual legislative report has been posted to the ArkansasEd.org website.

Four working subcommittees:

- Scholastic Audit/Distribution of Resources; Dr. Brown, Chair
 - Ms. Powers and Ms. Wilson will serve on this committee
 - 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. Fulkerson, Chair
 - Ms. Wilson, Rev. Killion, and Dr. Restrepo will serve on this committee
- Common Core State Standards; Dr. Hargrove, Chair
 - Dr. Restrepo, Ms. Powers, Ms. Wilson, and Dr. Brown will serve on this committee
- Interfacing with Local Gap Commissions; Dr. Simpson, Chair
 - Dr. Hargrove, Dr. Brown, Dr. Restrepo, and Mr. Fulkerson will serve on this committee
 - This committee will help coordinate future events.

Dr. Simpson asked that each subcommittee meet once before the March meeting.

Updates on Pine Bluff symposium:

Dr. Brown is in the process of obtaining a facility in Pine Bluff for the upcoming symposium. She would like the event to be held at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (UAPB) campus if possible. Dr. Long has reached out to the School of Education at UAPB. Additionally, both Dr. Johnson and Dr. Rainey are supportive of the event.

After discussion, it was decided that June 6-7, 2013, would be the Commission's first choice of dates for the event. The evening of June 6th would be a meet and greet opportunity from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The symposium will be held on June 7th. The Commission discussed the idea of a panel to discuss Arkansas' future in regards to the academic achievement gap. Dr. Brown will check to see if the UAPB facilities are available for the proposed June dates.

Dr. Restrepo asked that the Family Literacy Program be contacted. This program helps illiterate families. Ms. Wilson suggested the event could include exhibit booths showcasing enrichment, summer, and non-profit programs. Dr. Simpson would be able to help with printing programs for the symposium.

Membership:

Dr. Simpson said the Commission was getting close to having eleven members. One more appointment is needed from the Senate who is a minority and who has demonstrated a commitment to education.

Motion:

Dr. Brown made a motion that the complete name, Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap, would be used in all official communication. Dr. Hargrove seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Future Meeting Dates:

February 21, 2013

March and April dates TBA

May 23, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Close to having full membership

Next Meeting:

February 21, 2013

March to be determined.

April 18--to be determined.

May 23

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm