

**Minutes**  
**Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**Monday, September 26, 2016**

The Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group met Monday, September 26, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Tommy Branch called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Members Present: Tommy Branch, Chair; Jim McKenzie, Vice-Chair; Tamika Edwards; Ann Brown Marshall; Antwan Phillips; Leticia Reta; and Dianna Varady.

Members Absent: none.

Audience: ADE staff, general public, and press.

The meeting was live streamed and the recording was posted on the ADE website at [http://www.arkansased.gov/state-board/minutes/board\\_meeting\\_categories/2016](http://www.arkansased.gov/state-board/minutes/board_meeting_categories/2016).

**Consideration to Approve Minutes – August 29, 2016**

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Ms. Edwards, to approve the August 29, 2016, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Feedback from the Arkansas State Board of Education**

On September 9, 2016, Vice-Chair Jim McKenzie presented a progress report to the State Board of Education. He said the State Board encouraged the group to keep working on the assigned task.

State Board Chair Mireya Reith thanked the group for their service to the task.

**Consideration of the Little Rock School District School Improvement Plan**

The group requested to table the item until Little Rock School District Superintendent Mr. Michael Poore was available.

## **Consideration of the Scope of Work and Timeline Proposal from the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)**

On August 29, 2016, the group requested a scope of work and timeline from the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE). Director of the Office of Innovation in Education Dr. Denise Airola said she also checked with Rand Education. She shared a research report summary of work in New Orleans. Dr. Airola said the government structure in New Orleans was very different from Little Rock and therefore, as the authors noted, the findings are not generalizable to other cities with different governmental school structures. Rand provided names of potential researchers in addition to the names identified by CRPE.

Commissioner Key said the Department of Education did not anticipate the proposed expenses. He suggested the group revisit the task with the State Board.

Mr. Phillips said Ms. Cynthia Williams, a researcher, had reached out to him and was interested in being considered for part of the research.

Dr. Airola suggested the group consider prioritizing the research questions.

Ms. Marshall emphasized that decisions at all levels need to be based on data that are current and reliable.

## **Consideration of Next Steps**

The group discussed scheduling additional meetings as needed to support the process. The group discussed the need for a framework to ensure success, sustainability, and support from the public. The group discussed the need for public input.

Dr. Airola said the Office of Educational Policy has been conducting research on migratory patterns as noted within question four. The group was also very interested in why parents and students made their choices for schools. Dr. Airola said that information on question four would be immediately useful.

Dr. Airola recommended asking the State Board to revisit the task. She said she would check to see if any graduate students are available to conduct research.

## **Consideration of Public Comment**

Public Comment from Elected Official Senator Joyce Elliott suggested the public have an opportunity to input to the Stakeholder Group, including additional questions for

research before the final decision was made regarding a researcher. She said she would consider a venue and timeline for public input.

### **Consideration of Agenda for Next Meeting**

The group requested to hear from the State Board and Senator Elliott before scheduling the next meeting. The group also requested to receive the report from Dr. Ritter when available.

State Board Chair Mireya Reith said the coexistence of traditional schools and charter schools must be examined holistically. She said the public must be informed in order to work and support the schools collaboratively. She said the data are needed to inform future decisions by the State Board.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Ms. Marshall, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*

  
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Chair, Tommy Branch