

Minutes
Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group Meeting
Monday, August 29, 2016

The Little Rock Area Public Education Stakeholder Group met Monday, August 29, 2016, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Tommy Branch called the meeting to order at 5:03 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.

Consideration to Approve Minutes – August 15, 2016

Mr. McKenzie moved, seconded by Ms. Edwards, to approve the August 15, 2016, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

State Procurement Process and Timeline

Assistant Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services Mr. Greg Rogers provided definitions for terms used in the procurement process. Mr. Rogers explained the procurement process and timeline.

Consideration of Report from ForwARd Arkansas

On July 11, 2016, the Stakeholder Group requested to learn more about ForwARd Arkansas. Executive Director of ForwARd Arkansas Ms. Susan Harriman said ForwARd Arkansas was a statewide coalition committed to ensuring all Arkansas students graduate prepared for success in college and the workplace. She said the work is a collaborative effort by the Walton Family Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and the Arkansas State Board of Education. She said the State of Education report provided a comprehensive view of the current state of education in Arkansas. She said the strategic goal of ForwARd Arkansas was to be the leading state in education by improving student achievement at a historically ambitious yet achievable rate and to close the achievement gap within a generation. She said there are seven (7) bold focus areas and 94 recommendations in the vision.

Associate Director Mr. Cory Biggs said survey data indicated that central Arkansas parents wanted a better education system for their children. He said the data indicated these stakeholders valued quality education. He said ForwARd Arkansas would continue to grow and support ForwARd Communities and the vision through listening, learning, and action.

Ms. Harriman said ForwARd Arkansas would be available to assist this group. The group requested any assistance and support available for the identified area south of the river.

Consideration of the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)

Deputy Policy Director for the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) Dr. Jordan Posamentier said CRPE was interested in identifying the key elements within education systems that produce student excellence. He said within the six identified issues there are four challenges: not all students are achieving at high levels, students are leaving for other options, declining funds, and resource challenges (e.g., facilities, human capital, expenses).

Dr. Posamentier outlined three theories of action. He said the central office guided the central driven model. He said schools compete for students in a market driven model. Schools respond to student need in a school driven model within a performance driven experience.

Dr. Sean Gill, Research Analyst for CRPE, said CRPE partnered with collaboration compacts in 25 districts. He said the collaboration theory of change would lead to shared resources and responsibility between school districts, charter schools, and communities. He said conditions that supported success for district-charter collaboration included a district-charter stake in the work, others taking interest in success, and agreements that specified tangible outcomes that provide accountability.

Dr. Posamentier said CRPE has used parent surveys and focus groups to answer questions about school choices. He said data could be analyzed to determine where the students are attending unless the students moved to private or homeschool. He said the portfolio strategy was a problem-solving framework to differentiate school opportunities and permit students to select the best fit. He said the effective schools were expanded or replicated. Less effective schools may be closed or repurposed.

Dr. Posamentier said analyzing the data would be a shorter process. He said focus groups and more personal interaction would take longer. He said CRPE would provide a timeline and scope of work to the group for consideration. Office of Innovation for Education Director Dr. Denise Airola said her office would collaborate with CRPE to

identify which data questions could be answered quickly and which sets would need additional information.

The Group requested information on additional researchers. Dr. Posamentier said he would provide a list of potential researchers to match the identified research questions.

Consideration of Additional Information Requested Information

Dr. Denise Airola said the focus of the Office of Innovation in Education was on supporting and growing innovation in public schools. She invited the group to attend the two-day Education Innovation Summit on September 26-27 at the Little Rock Marriott. A link to the registration is available at <http://innovateded.org>.

Consideration of Public Comment

Public Comment Parent Mr. Lill Lewis asked the group to consider transportation needs for equity of services to students.

Consideration of Agenda for Next Meeting

The group will meet September 26, 2016, from 5:00-7:00pm.

The group requested to discuss the Little Rock School District's School Improvement Plan at the next meeting.

Dr. Posamentier said he would provide a scope of work and timeline for consideration.

The group will consider feedback from the State Board. The group will provide a progress report to the State Board on September 9, 2016.

Adjournment

Mr. Phillips moved, seconded by Mr. McKenzie, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman


Tommy Branch, Chair