

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, May 9, 2014

The State Board of Education met Friday, May 9, 2014, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education building. Chair Brenda Gullett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Brenda Gullett, Chair; Sam Ledbetter, Vice-Chairman; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Vicki Saviers; Toyce Newton; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Alexia Weimer, Teacher of the Year; and Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner.

Absent: Mireya Reith

Reports

Chair's Report

Ms. Saviers said the Rockefeller Foundation provided an opportunity to meet at Harvard to discuss innovation in learning. Ms. Newton said the amount of support and investment from industry was impressive in the case studies. Ms. Newton said the state should look to larger foundations for support for innovation in Arkansas and shine the spotlight on rural Arkansas.

Ms. Weimer said the ADE was accepting applications for 2015 ATOY. She encouraged schools to send in their nominations.

Ms. Reith attended a *Readiness Matters/State Collaboration for Success* Hunt Institute to create an action plan for English Language Learners. Ms. Reith will be attending a NASBE meeting in June to continue the work for ELL.

Ms. Mahony and Ms. Newton will be sponsoring 255 girls in Girls Learning about Math (GLAM). They encourage girls to take rigorous math courses in high school.

Dr. Barth said he is working on a NASBE Next Generation Science grant proposal that will focus on work with the State Board and a public component to understand the value of Science Education.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Kimbrell said a reception would be held in the ADE Auditorium on June 12 at 9:00 a.m. to recognize Brenda Gullett, State Board Chair, for her seven years of service on the State Board of Education.

He also said the Special Committee for Distressed Schools meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, May 13, at 11:00 am in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

Dr. Kimbrell said the Special Committee on Parental Involvement would meet June 13 at 1:00 in the Commissioner's Conference Room.

Recognition of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Curriculum and Instruction Director Dr. Tracy Tucker said the presidential award is the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers for grades K–12. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. A national committee of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators selected only 102 teachers from the nation to receive these awards. The awardees received a \$10,000 award and a trip to Washington, DC for professional development activities and an awards ceremony. The National Science Foundation, on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, administered the award. Both award winners will also be recognized at the state level during the 2014 Arkansas Curriculum Conference.

Dr. Tucker and Dr. Kimbrell recognized Jennifer Richardson, a fifth grade science teacher at Wooster Elementary in the Greenbrier School District as the Arkansas 2012 winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science.

Dr. Tucker and Dr. Kimbrell recognized Christi Snow, a first grade mathematics teacher at Harp Elementary School in the Springdale School District as the Arkansas 2012 winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching.

Recognition of the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award

Curriculum and Instruction Director Dr. Tracy Tucker said the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award promotes and celebrates the teaching of American history in classrooms across the United States. The award honors one exceptional K-12 teacher of American history from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and US Territories.

Dr. Tucker and Dr. Kimbrell recognized Chrissy Hallwachs, a teacher at Cooper Elementary in the Bentonville School District, as the 2013 Arkansas recipient of the History Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Tucker said Ms. Hallwachs was chosen as the winner because of her commitment to teaching American history and her use of creativity and imagination in the classroom. The award is co-sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, HISTORY® and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on behalf of its Preserve America Program. Dr. Tucker said as the American History Teacher of the Year, Ms. Hallwachs received a library of primary and secondary sources to be housed in the school library, a certificate, and a \$1000 award. Cooper Elementary School will be designated as a Gilder Lehrman Affiliate School.

Recognition of Master Principal Awardees

Mr. Blaine Alexander, on behalf of the Arkansas Leadership Academy, recognized three Arkansas school principals who have successfully completed the Master Principal Program and rigorous assessment to be designated Master Principals.

Mr. Alexander and Commissioner Kimbrell recognized Ms. Georgia Chastain, Cabot Middle School South Principal at Cabot School District. Ms. Chastain recognized the support of the Cabot parents, staff, administration and community. Dr. Barth recognized Ms. Chastain's contribution to learning.

Mr. Alexander and Commissioner Kimbrell recognized Ms. Thelma Forte, Principal of the Union Elementary Magnet School in the Texarkana School District. Ms. Forte said public school does work. She said her school was focused on becoming transformed, transparent, and transfigured.

Mr. Alexander and Commissioner Kimbrell recognized Ms. Tammy Woosley, Principal at Jones Elementary in the Conway School District. Ms. Woosley thanked the Board for continued support of the Arkansas Leadership Academy in replicating a process to build capacity.

Update on Common Core State Standards, PARCC, Schools of Innovation and School Improvement

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Dr. Megan Witonski spoke about the conference Ms. Reith attended and said English language learners incorporate 95 languages in Arkansas.

Dr. Witonski reported she has received 130 applications for Schools of Innovation and that approval or denial letters will be sent to districts by June 30.

Dr. Witonski shared a video compilation of student video contest entries. Students submitted videos describing their experience with Common Core State Standards.

Dr. Witonski reported a team is checking technology capacity for districts and a full report will be submitted to superintendents.

Student Assessment Director Melody Morgan said PARCC field test performance based assessment is complete and schools are working on end-of-year field-testing. Ms. Morgan said several school districts volunteered to engage in more field-testing. She said survey data included testimony from students such as <http://www.kuaf.org/content/technology-arkansas-schools-good-start>. Ms. Morgan thanked the Board for their support of the K-2 Assessment study. She said Dr. Denise Airola would lead the task force.

Dr. Kimbrell recognized Ms. Morgan for her exceptional work with PARCC on behalf of Arkansas. He said her expertise is recognized nationally.

Educator Preparation Program Reports

Assistant Commissioner of Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Karen Walters shared the report from the institutions of higher education. The full reports are available on the ADE website at <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/eppr/>. Dr. Walters said triangulation of data including CAPE indicators would guide next steps for differentiated support.

Ms. Saviers recognized the work of Dr. Walters.

Dr. Walters said the Teacher Cadet Program would help to address teacher shortage areas.

Dr. Walters recognized Human Resources/Licensure Director Karli Saracini for the innovative changes made to the Educator Licensure Program.

Proposed Revisions to the State Board of Education Operating Procedures

Attorney Specialist Kendra Clay said the State Board of Education Procedures have not been revised since 2008. ADE staff proposed revisions to the State Operating Board Procedures to align them with current practices of the State Board. Board members asked Ms. Clay to move forward with putting the proposed revisions into a draft document and prepare action for public comment.

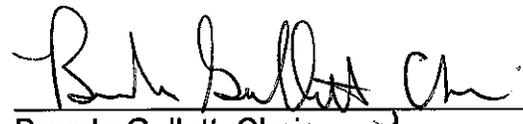
Appointment

Ms. Gullett appointed Ms. Reith to an ELL committee with ADE staff.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.


Brenda Gullett, Chair


Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell, Commissioner