

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, December 12, 2014

The State Board of Education met Friday, December 12, 2014, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Diane Zook; Mireya Reith; Joe Black; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Tony Wood, Commissioner

Absent: none

Reports

Recognition of 2014 Arkansas AP Scholars

Little Rock School District Central High School Principal Ms. Nancy Rousseau said State Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards are granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with scores of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and the highest average score (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken. Little Rock School District Deputy Superintendent Mr. Marvin Burton and Commissioner Wood recognized the 2014 Arkansas AP Scholars, Esther C. Park and Nathanael Y. Ji. Both students are graduates of Little Rock School District's Central High School. Ms. Park and Mr. Ji were unable to attend the Board meeting because they are attending universities out of state. Commissioner Wood, Ms. Rousseau and Mr. Burton presented certificates to the student's parents.

Recognition of 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Winners from Arkansas

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Otistene Smith said four Arkansas public Schools were recognized by U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan along with 337 other schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools based on their overall academic excellence. She said the U.S. Department honored 287 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony November 10-11 in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Wood presented a plaque to Centerpoint Primary School, Centerpoint School District; Eastside Elementary School, Rogers School District; Hardin Elementary School, White Hall School District; and Norfolk Elementary School, Norfolk School District. Commissioner Wood said he is always pleased to recognize the achievement of students and schools.

Update on Content Standards and Assessment

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Debbie Jones said the learning services report included ongoing work with curriculum tools and Response to Intervention (RtI). She said her team is working with representatives from across the state to provide resources for RtI.

Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS)

Arkansas Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) President Dr. Ken James presented the Arkansas Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) report. He said this program is providing a great return on investment as demonstrated by the data highlighted in the AAIMS report. He said AAIMS is working in 46 schools within 34 districts.

Board members requested future data disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity.

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Academic Achievement Gap

Arkansas Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap Chair Dr. Dawn Tirado Simpson presented the Arkansas Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap annual report and introduced other commission members in attendance: Dr. Jessie Hargrove, Senator Jack Crumbly, and 2011 Teacher of the Year Ms. Kathy Powers. She said information from the commission is posted on the Arkansas Department of Education website: <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/policy/arkansas-commission-on-closing-the-achievement-gap>.

Board members encouraged the commission to share their report with the Arkansas ForwARd Initiative and to provide specific policy proposals for the future.

Report-8 Interim Study of Pre-K

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Director of Education Policy and Finance Ms. Jerri Derlikowski presented the interim study of Pre-K. She said the needs, costs, value, and evaluations of early childhood education programs in Arkansas were examined in this interim study. The report focused on the Arkansas Better Chance program but touched on other needs as well. She said the need for additional funding is critical to meet the needs of Pre-K students.

Interim Study on Grade-Level Reading

Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Coordinator Ms. Angela Duran said the

Interim Study on Grade-Level Reading was presented to the House and Senate Education Committees in October. She said the report includes recommendations to help all children read on grade level by third grade by making sure that children are ready for school, improving what happens during the school day, and improving what happens after school and during the summer. She said school based health centers have helped school improve chronic absences. She said a professional development opportunity regarding school attendance would be available soon on Arkansas IDEAS.

Board members recommended the committee continue to work on a strategic plan to engage parents and more specific reports about funding options.

ESEA Flexibility Update

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Annette Barnes said a Department team will be attending a conference next week to seek assistance with ESEA Flexibility renewal.

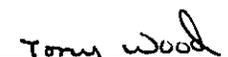
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Tony Wood, Commissioner of Education