



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AGENDA **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

November 13, 2014

Arkansas Department of Education

ADE Auditorium - Special Committee on Academic Distress

4:00 PM

[Back](#) [Print](#)

Work Session

W-1 Consider Next Steps

Presenter: Vicki Saviers, Chair

Consent Agenda

C-1 Minutes - September 15, 2014

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

C-2 Minutes - October 14, 2014

Presenter: Deborah Coffman

2011-2013 Three Year Proficiency for Arkansas Schools (49.5% or less)

District Number	District Name	School Number	School Name	Three Year %Prof/Adv	School Year 2012-13 Priority/Focus	School Year 2010-11 %Prof/Adv	School Year 2011-12 %Prof/Adv	School Year 2012-13 %Prof/Adv
7401000	AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT	7401003	AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL	43.428%	Priority	36.2	46.8	47.2
4702000	BLYTHEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT	4702706	BLYTHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NEW TECH	47.744%	Focus	54.8	48.1	40.7
6044700	COVENANTKEEPERS CHARTER	6044702	COVENANT KEEPERS CHARTER	46.965%	Priority	42.9	50.4	46.9
3502000	DOLLARWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT	3502010	DOLLARWAY HIGH SCHOOL	28.481%	Priority	30.1	28.4	26.8
2002000	FORDYCE SCHOOL DISTRICT	2002007	FORDYCE HIGH SCHOOL	43.640%	Focus	35.4	48.8	48.5
6201000	FORREST CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6201011	FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL	44.728%	Priority	44.3	51.9	37.9
6201000	FORREST CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6201010	FORREST CITY JR. HIGH	46.154%	Priority	38.6	50.1	50.2
6201000	FORREST CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	6201702	LINCOLN ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE	47.519%	Focus	50.2	47.6	44.7
5403000	HELENA/ W.HELENA SCHOOL	5403019	CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	43.625%	Priority	43.4	36.9	46.6
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001052	BASELINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	48.251%	Priority	50	52.1	42.9
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001702	CLOVERDALE AEROSPACE TECH CHAR	41.470%	Priority	39.3	44.1	40.9
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001002	HALL HIGH SCHOOL	40.642%	Priority	40.6	41.8	39.9
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001013	HENDERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL	46.049%	Priority	43.4	52.9	42
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001063	J.A. FAIR HIGH SCHOOL	43.304%	Priority	39.1	49.5	42.1
6001000	LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT	6001064	MCCLELLAN MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL	40.748%	Priority	39.2	39.9	43.4
5404000	MARVELL-ELAINE SCHOOL DISTRICT	5404032	MARVELL-ELAINE HIGH SCHOOL	48.974%		37.9	57.5	52.4
4713000	OSCEOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT	4713051	OSCEOLA HIGH SCHOOL	47.043%	Priority	36.6	49.8	55.2
3505000	PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT	3505025	BELAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL	48.302%	Priority	47.8	53.2	43.4
3505000	PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT	3505034	OAK PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	46.429%	Priority	43.1	48.1	48.1
3505000	PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT	3505042	PINE BLUFF HIGH SCHOOL	37.380%	Priority	37.7	43.7	31.7
6003000	PULASKI CO. SPEC. SCHOOL DISTRICT	6003102	HARRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	48.790%	Priority	44.9	48.1	54.3
6003000	PULASKI CO. SPEC. SCHOOL DISTRICT	6003123	JACKSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	46.877%	Priority	38.6	46.6	58.1
6003000	PULASKI CO. SPEC. SCHOOL DISTRICT	6003125	WILBUR D. MILLS HIGH SCHOOL	45.017%	Priority	41.2	51.9	42.1
5206000	STEPHENS SCHOOL DISTRICT	5206033	STEPHENS HIGH SCHOOL	44.603%	Priority	38.6	47.7	47.7
7009000	STRONG-HUTTIG SCHOOL DISTRICT	7009049	STRONG HIGH SCHOOL	41.667%	Priority	40.2	41.4	43.6
3509000	WATSON CHAPEL SCHOOL DISTRICT	3509067	WATSON CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL	47.109%	Focus	49.9	47.6	43.7

Proficiency is 49.5% or less using the calculation: (number of students proficient or advanced for math in the last three years + number of students proficient or advanced for literacy in the last three years) / (the number of math and literacy tests in the last three years)

Minutes
State Board of Education Special Committee Meeting on Academic Distress
Monday, September 15, 2014

The State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress met Monday, September 15, 2014, in the Commissioner's Conference Room of the Department of Education Building. Chair Vicki Saviers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present Via Phone: Vicki Saviers, Chair; Sam Ledbetter; and Diane Zook
Absent: Toyce Newton

Reports

Request by the Little Rock School District

Ms. Saviers said Greg Adams, President of LRSD School Board, requested to come before the Academic Distress Committee. She said the District and School Board are eager to show their plans for going forward. The Committee tentatively scheduled the meeting for Tuesday, October 14, from 1:00-3:00 in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium.

Discussion and evaluation of the prior meetings with districts in Academic Distress

Ms. Annette Barnes, Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability, said the school improvement specialists assigned to the schools classified in academic distress are writing recommendations, and the schools will include these in their improvement plans. She said she would not have post appeal data at the October State Board Meeting, but it should be available in November.

Ms. Saviers said the Committee may revisit some schools at mid-year to check the progress of their plans.

Next Steps

The Committee agreed to review the Quarterly Reports of the Academic Distress Schools at the October State Board Meeting before setting a timeline of possible meetings with Schools in Academic Distress.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting of the
Special Committee on Academic Distress
Tuesday, October 14, 2014

The State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress met Tuesday, October 14, 2014, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chair Vicki Saviers called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Vicki Saviers, Chair; Sam Ledbetter; Toyce Newton; and Diane Zook

Absent: None

Work Session

Review Data and Information Pertaining to the Academic Distress Schools in the Little Rock School District

Ms. Saviers said on March 28, 2014 at the Special Board Meeting, Chair Gullett appointed a special committee to study chronically underperforming school districts. Chair Gullett requested Ms. Saviers, Ms. Newton, and Mr. Ledbetter serve on the special committee, with Ms. Saviers serving as chair of the committee.

Ms. Saviers said the State Board of Education classified Schools in Academic Distress on July 10, 2014. She said the Special Committee on Academic Distress would review the schools classified as Academic Distress Schools in the Little Rock School District.

Little Rock School District Representatives:

- Dr. Dexter Suggs, Superintendent
- Dennis Glasgow, Associate Superintendent of Accountability
- Marvin Burton, Deputy Superintendent
- Henry Anderson, Principal of McClellan High School
- Larry Schleischer, Principal of Hall High School
- Wanda Ruffins, Principal of Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Charter School
- Katina Ray, Principal of Baseline Elementary School
- Greg Adams, President LRSD School Board
- Frank Williams, Principal of Henderson Middle School
- Jeremy Owoh, Principal of J. A. Fair High School

Additional Little Rock School District representatives were in attendance.

External Provider: none

ADE Staff:

Elbert Harvey, Coordinator for Public School Accountability
Dr. Richard Wilde, Director of School Improvement
Dr. Robert Toney, School Improvement Specialist
Lisa Knoedl, School Improvement Specialist
Chantel'e Williams, School Improvement Specialist
Kyron Jones, School Improvement Specialist
Roxey Browning, School Improvement Specialist
Dr. Debbie Jones, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services
Additional ADE staff members were in attendance.

Ms. Saviers said this was an informal meeting to determine barriers and solutions to the success of these schools. She said the purpose of the meeting was to examine data, talk to people in the schools and identify next steps.

The following schools have been classified as academic distress:

Baseline Elementary School
Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Center
Hall High School
Henderson Middle School
J.A. Fair High School
McClellan Magnet High School

Superintendent Suggs said he was hired to improve student learning. He focused on the restructuring of the curriculum and instruction division.

Mr. Glasgow explained that historical classroom walk-through data showed mostly whole group instruction with low levels of instruction and compliant engagement of students. He said the district wanted a plan in which the central office could pay attention to the implementation. He highlighted the focus points of the improvement plan to include teachers designing lesson plans with eight essential components and principals monitoring the lesson plans for these components. He said schools would utilize leadership teams to examine data and make shared decisions. He said the central office had let the schools down because they did not follow through with support.

Dr. Wilde said an ADE team reviewed the information available regarding the schools. He said the use of data and the science of school improvement is not applied uniformly across schools. He said this year the LRSD has embraced the ADE team. Dr. Wilde said constant change in leadership has brought no cumulative benefit to the district. He recommended a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a principal about the expectations and commitment between district and principal. He recommended spreading literacy across the school. He also recommended stabilizing the superintendent's position.

Dr. Suggs said he has had an opportunity to listen and learn about the district over the past year. He said the LRSD has silos of excellence and distress. He

said the district needed to put students first and monitor it. He said this plan was more conducive to what the district needed to do, not relying on programs or vendors. He said he was concerned about the sense of urgency needed and the stamina to stay with it to see it through for results. He said he was concerned about the grit to make hard decisions. Dr. Suggs said the district had become an employment agency and has failed generation after generation of students. He said the district would have to ensure that they are willing to do something different - be bold, courageous, and intentional in the work.

Ms. Newton said it was egregious to allow this lack of progress to continue. She said the district needed to have an attitude to do what works for students. She said the district does not need a system feeding poor performance.

The committee members asked questions of the group regarding the current status of the work and the outcomes or expected outcomes of the work in the schools classified in academic distress in the Little Rock School District.

Mr. Adams said the enrollment in the distress schools have declined while the percentage of high-poverty students has increased. He said parents have more choices and this increases the urgency to do something. He said Dr. Suggs' comments about the history of change in leadership were a concern. He said the public perception of the past twenty years overshadows the current school board's attempt to work together. He said the school board members know they need to have these hard conversations and set the bar higher.

Mr. Ledbetter said that he heard commitment to this plan but would need to see success.

LRSD Board Members expressed their commitment to working together to assist schools in academic distress and other schools on needs improvement list. The following LRSD Board Members addressed the State Board:

Joy Springer
Tara Shephard
Diane Curry
Jim Ross
Leslie Fiskien

Ms. Saviers called upon each building principal to provide a few words about their school. Each principal highlighted the work being done to implement progress.

Ms. Newton said this meeting was an opportunity to memorialize the LRSD commitment. She said the young people should come back and demand an accounting because the district was on the record to do the right thing.

Ms. Saviers said she would make a recommendation that LRSD come back in three (3) months with a progress report of the plan. Ms. Zook outlined questions that should be answered in the progress report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.