

Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, April 10, 2015

The State Board of Education met Friday, April 10, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

Absent: Dr. Jay Barth

Reports

Chair's Report

Chairman Ledbetter said he appointed a nominating committee for officers. He said committee members are Dr. Barth, Ms. Saviers, and Mr. Black.

Ms. Reith said she was privileged to be part of the outreach for the equitable educator conversation. She attended a co-op meeting with Mr. Davis, and the Northwest Co-op superintendents were complimentary of the PARCC assessment. She attended the NASBE meeting in Washington, DC with Dr. Barth, and she facilitated a policy group on college and careers. She said there was bipartisan support for reauthorization of the ESEA.

Ms. Newton said the Black Women's Agenda Organization partnered with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to engage thirty-one (31) girls from Henderson Middle School last weekend. She said this event introduced the girls to nontraditional fields of study and was an opportunity for public and private partnerships to work together to help students.

Ms. Zook said Senator Jane English, Director of the Arkansas Career Education Dr. Charisse Childers, and the State Chamber are working together regarding career education. She said Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner Key, Dr. Sadie Mitchell, and Dr. Barth did a great job presenting at the KATV 7 town hall. She said the speakers at the Special Committee for the Pulaski County Boundaries Study meeting did an excellent job and demonstrated their respect and passion for doing what is best for students.

Mr. Davis said the Bentonville School District held a meeting to create additional CTE opportunities. He said the Northwest Co-op CTE leaders continue to seek

more opportunities for students to prepare for careers.

Mr. Crossley shared a second video in the Teacher Leader series. The video focused on Ms. Jaclyn Dean, an educator at the Lee County High School.

Ms. Mahony said at the national level the conversation has changed to include college, career and civic readiness.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said four students from Arkansas are National Achievement Scholarship winners. He said Dr. Brett Powell at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education will award 450-460 Governor's Distinguished Scholarships this year. He said over 500 students qualified for the scholarship.

He said Act 1091 made a few changes to TESS. He said the ESEA Flexibility Principle Three has not been approved. He said the earliest that student achievement scores could be considered in teacher evaluation would be 2016-2017. Ms. Ivy Pfeffer, Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, said a growth calculation would not be part of the educator evaluation this year.

Commissioner Key said the A-F grades would be released Wednesday, April 15. He said the Department has prepared talking points to better understand the grades. He said this is an opportunity for parents and communities to have conversations about how the school can improve. He said the A-F grades are now included in the ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

PCSSD and JNPSD Report

Item pulled from the agenda. Commissioner Key said he was notified yesterday that the two groups are at an impasse and the dispute resolution procedures will be followed as per Board order.

Update on Content Standards and Assessment

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the Migrant Education Program was responsible for recruitment of eligible migrant students and youth ongoing throughout the year. She said during the months of February and March recruitment of migrants working in the pine forests, poultry farms and preparation of cultivated lands were the focus of their work. She said no child may be served by the MEP unless they have been determined to meet the eligibility requirements and the eligibility is documented in a federally-approved

format. The Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR) on the Migrant Education Program has been completed and certified by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). She said the ADE has received word from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education that the Migrant component was accepted and no further comments or revisions will be necessary. The data from the CSPR will be used in the federally-approved formula to begin the preliminary calculations of Migrant Education Grants for the 2015-2016 Program Year. She said the federally-required re-interviewing of migrant families began in December and will continue throughout the year. She said in February and March, the ADE continued the federally-required monitoring of district migrant programs.

Dr. Jones said since the fall of 2013, Ms. Sherri Thorne has represented Arkansas at the Formative Assessment for Students and Teachers (FAST) State Collaborative on Assessments and Student Standards (SCASS) meetings that are supported by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). She said the FAST SCASS is a very active multi-state collaborative that has produced a number of documents and resources to support the Formative Assessment process.

Dr. Jones said the ADE submitted a five million dollar grant application designed to restructure Arkansas's Response to Intervention model using evidence based personnel development to implement a multi-tiered system of supports for behavior and academics. She said focused on state, regional and district level implementation teams, evidence-based practices will provide sustainability over time to improve outcomes for all students, especially students with disabilities.

Dr. Jones said 525,670 students successfully completed the mid-year performance assessment in Arkansas. She said the final window will open in a few weeks.

Recognition of Milken Award Winner - Ms. Carman McBride

Special Project Manager Mr. John Kaminar said Carman McBride has been chosen as Arkansas's 2014-2015 Milken Educator. He said Ms. McBride holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Texas A&M University at Texarkana, and she is currently working on a Master of Education at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. He said Ms. McBride began her teaching career as a fourth-grade teacher at College Hill Elementary School in Texarkana. In 2010, she moved to Little Rock and joined the faculty at Don R. Roberts Elementary School as a fourth-grade teacher. He said in 2013, Ms. McBride became the Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) coordinator at Don Roberts Elementary, Little Rock School District. Ms. McBride is certified in the International Baccalaureate Primary Program, is National Board Certified, and is a Pathwise-trained mentor. She was selected as the school's 2010-2011 Teacher

of the Year. He said Ms. McBride and her husband, Stephan, reside in Little Rock. He said Ms. Barbara Anderson, Principal of Don Roberts Elementary, Little Rock School District, and Mr. Matt Dozier, President and Chief Executive Officer of the EAST Initiative were present in support of Ms. McBride.

Commissioner Key presented the obelisk to Ms. McBride. Ms. McBride said she was fortunate and appreciative of the leadership and educator colleagues that support her.

Equitable Access Update

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said the Department is in the process of drafting the Equitable Access Plan. She said her unit is engaging a variety of stakeholders. She said team members will attend a meeting next week and will have an equitable access coach provided by CCSSO. The State submitted equity plans in 2010 but the plans did not have specific strategies. She said this plan will be very specific and will have strategies and actions that can be monitored. She said the ForwARd Arkansas report would align with many of the same strategies. She said the metrics include meeting the needs of high minority and high poverty students, teachers teaching out of field, long term substitutes, and turnover rate of teachers.

Ms. Pfeffer said the job fair will be held on April 18, 2015, at the Metroplex. She said the state loses approximately 15% of teachers after their first year, 24% after two years and approximately 35% of teachers after three years. She said the unit is in conversations with higher education about how to be more supportive of pre-service educators.

Ms. Pfeffer said Ms. Barbara Culpepper, Mr. Jeff Dyer, Dr. Frank Servido, Ms. Joan Landow, and Ms. Karli Saracini are leading the equitable access work.

ESEA Flexibility Renewal

Mr. Reg Leichty, Project and Grants Manager for EducationCounsel LLC, joined the Board meeting via phone. He provided a progress report on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act.

Assistant Commissioner for Public School Accountability Ms. Annette Barnes said the current ESEA accountability waiver expires June 20, 2015. She said the USDOE gave states options for renewal. She said the Department released a commissioner's memo requesting public comment. She said the comments and suggestions were included in the March 31, 2015 renewal submission. Ms. Barnes said Dr. Denise Airola has provided invaluable assistance to this work.

She said the data show the achievement gap is closing in Arkansas. Ms. Barnes has posted Commissioner's Memo #COM-15-063 and requests additional public comment.

My Child/My Student Quarterly Report

Director of Communications Ms. Kimberly Friedman said the Arkansas Department of Education continues to promote the My Child/My Student public awareness campaign. She said the campaign was launched in August 2014 as an initiative of the ADE, the State Board of Education, and educational advocacy organizations.

Since the last report in February 2015, the following has occurred.

- ADE's Facebook page has 3,233 followers, an increase of 389 since December 2014. The recent increase is slightly larger than the increase of 349 between August and December.
- ADE's Twitter page has 7,898 followers, an increase of 664 since December 2014. The recent increase is slightly lower than the increase of 738 between August and December.
- The 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ouida Newton is sharing ADE's My Child/My Student Facebook and Twitter messages on her social media sites.
- The Arkansas Education Association's homepage (<http://www.aeaonline.org>) has a link to the My Child/My Student webpage, and AEA has shared My Child/My Student messages on its Facebook and Twitter sites.
- The Arkansas Home Visiting Network has been sharing social media posts on its Facebook page.
- The ADE Communications Team continues to post weekly social media posts. Six posts (including English and Spanish) were posted in February. As of March 23, six messages were posted in March. These are also available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>.
- The Communications Team continues to post monthly parent and teacher newsletters, which also are available at <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>.
- Ms. Paulette Blacknall, the Education Renewal Zone director at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, has been an advocate for the

initiative. Ms. Blacknall has shared My Child/My Student resources with ERZ partner schools during their Quarterly Advisory Meetings. She also shared resources with university faculty. The resources are currently being integrated into the program's Family and Community course and will be reflected in the course syllabus in the fall.

- The ADE Communications Cabinet was recently established to provide input on various communications efforts, such as the website and the My Child/My Student campaign. The cabinet, which consists of representatives from ADE, school districts, and education organizations, will be asked to provide monthly updates on My Child/My Student outreach efforts.

Planned outreach activities include:

- The ADE Communications Team will tie the Month of the Military Child in April to the My Child campaign. The team will develop and post additional social media messages about military children.
- Ms. Deb Roush, the Director of Communications at the Pulaski County Special School District, plans to designate every Monday in May as My Child Monday. Ms. Roush will post a My Child message on PCSSD's social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) each Monday and promote a photo of the week on the district's website.

ForwARd Arkansas Update

Managing Director for ForwARd Arkansas Mr. Jared Henderson said the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Arkansas State Board of Education established ForwARd Arkansas, an initiative to develop a comprehensive plan for P-16 public education in Arkansas.

Mr. Henderson said the stakeholders are finalizing the strategic goals and recommendations with the goal of reporting the plan in Summer 2015. He said the vision is every Arkansas student will graduate prepared for success in college and the workplace. He said the work has seven focus areas that are key for achieving the vision. The State of Arkansas report is available at <http://www.forwardarkansas.org>. Forward Arkansas has received input by convening focus groups, conducting interviews, and surveying citizens across the state. Mr. Henderson said the plan will include metrics for strategic goal measurement of progress along the student academic development pathway. He said the targets for the strategic goals were based on progress for the next 25 years.

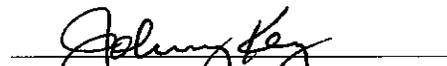
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Johany Key, Commissioner of Education