

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, December 11, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Friday, December 11, 2015, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Toyce Newton, Chair; Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; Vicki Saviers; Joe Black; Diane Zook; Dr. Jay Barth; Susan Chambers; Brett Williamson; Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Charisse Dean.

Reports

Report-1 Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said President Obama signed the ESSA. He said that next year the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) might offer a regional meeting in little Rock. It may be on a Friday and Saturday of a Board meeting (Apr/May/June).

Ms. Zook attend the Special Education Task Force meeting to discuss ways to be more efficient in the paperwork. She recently visited the Northcentral Co-op for a tour of the building and to learn more about the work of co-ops.

Ms. Reith spoke at Har-Ber High School in the Springdale School District about how to help parents with a career pathway for their children. She also spoke at the Arkansas Teachers of English to Speakers of Languages (ATESOL) Conference.

Report-2 Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said the ADE would immediately begin to study the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He said the current ESEA waivers would end August 2016. He said states and districts would now have a significant responsibility under ESSA.

Commissioner Key shared a story about a 2015 graduate from Northside High School, Fort Smith School District; Mr. Asher Parvu received a scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. He said this young man was homeless but through his perseverance he is now studying to be a doctor. Commissioner Key

said we have amazing students in Arkansas.

Report-3 Recognition of Arkansas Schools Designated as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015

Public School Program Coordinator Ms. Otistene Smith said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 335 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. She said these schools demonstrated that all students could achieve to high levels. The U. S. Department honored 285 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C. In its 33-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on more than 8,000 of America's schools. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

Ms. Smith said each school received an award plaque and flag from the U.S. Department of Education, Blue Ribbon Office. She said the award plaque affirmed the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. She said the award flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. She said all schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates.

Ms. Smith said all four (4) of Arkansas' schools below were in the category of high performing. Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates are also at the highest levels.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School, Melbourne School District
Park Magnet School, Hot Springs School District
Valley View Junior High School, Valley View School District
Vandergriff Elementary School, Fayetteville Public School District

Ms. Smith said Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years. Student subgroup performance and high school graduation rates for each subgroup are at high levels. The state had no schools nominated in the second category.

Ms. Smith said the U. S. Department invited National Blue Ribbon School

nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominated private schools. She said a total of 420 schools nationwide might be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction.

Commissioner Key and Ms. Smith awarded each school a plaque.

Mount Pleasant Elementary School, Melbourne School District Principal Mr. Steven Chaney said the community is the reason for their success. Mr. Chaney recognized Ms. Chrysti Turner, Mr. John Gardner, and Mr. Dennis Sublet.

Park Magnet School, Hot Springs School District Principal Ms. Diane Smith said the data teams have made the difference in their school. Ms. Smith recognized Ms. Laura Vaughn, Ms. Stephanie Ray, Ms. Carmen Binns, and Dr. Mike Hernandez.

Valley View Junior High School, Valley View School District Principal Mr. Barry Jones said a great community, staff and students made this success possible. He said there is a commitment and high expectations. Mr. Jones recognized Ms. Donna White, Ms. Kelly Hogan, Ms. Sandy Hefner, and Ms. Sara Osment.

Vandergriff Elementary School, Fayetteville Public School District Principal Ms. Andrea Segó said this is the school's second time to receive this award. She said the school is a family. Great teachers, students and parents make the learning fun. Ms. Segó recognized Ms. Leanne Deweese, Ms. Blakely Stokenbury, Ms. Katie Hollowell, Ms. Susan Wizer, Mr. John Colbert, and Mr. Jason Edwards.

Report-4 Arkansas Teacher of the Year (ATOY) Report

2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Ms. Ouida Newton said the 2016 Arkansas Teacher of the Year is Ms. Meghan Ables, English teacher from Stuttgart High School in the Stuttgart School District. She said Ms. Ables would join the State Board in July 2016.

Ms. Newton posted a blog on Response to Intervention (RTI). She said the blog is intended to assist educators in understanding the RTI model. She said the dyslexia screening is helping schools develop quality RTI models. She said many resources are available on Arkansas IDEAS, the ADE website and from the local education service cooperatives.

Report-5 Arkansas Governor's School Report

Arkansas Governor's School Director Dr. Lyle Rupert said Hendrix College is proud to host the Governor's School. He said approximately 400 gifted and talented students are selected to participate each year for the residential experience. He said four arts (drama, choral music, instrumental music, and visual arts) and four academic areas (English/language arts, mathematics, natural science and social science) are offered. All students are involved in the conceptual development, personal and social development, and the speaker series.

Report-6 Career Pathway for the Educator Workforce

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said the data are showing a significant decrease in the number of potential educators enrolled in educator preparation programs. She said the ADE Office of Educator Licensure is working with the Department of Career Education to establish a pathway to the educator workforce. The proposed pathway begins with career-focused education in high school with participating students receiving an industry certification as a Certified Teacher Assistant (CTA) upon completion of high school career coursework and passing all areas of the Praxis Core assessment.

Ms. Pfeffer said a student with a CTA would be eligible for employment in public schools to work as a paraprofessional, gaining valuable experience while also attending a two or four-year college on a flexible schedule allowing the student to take classes and work at least part-time as a CTA. Once the CTA has earned enough credit to be admitted into a teacher preparation program, the CTA progresses to the level of a Teacher Intern with progressively increasing job responsibilities at the public school. She said this on-the-job experience allows for higher education institutions to be flexible with students field experiences and student teaching credit, and combined with the rigorous coursework, promotes a learner-ready educator who is eligible for a standard license upon successful completion of the degree program and corresponding assessments. To be successful, the ADE and ACE are working with school districts and institutions of higher education to promote opportunities for employment and flexible college course scheduling, as well as, sufficient support for the CTA/Teacher Intern throughout the educational path. She said it is critical that each step of the pathway be connected to promote success for this grow-your-own approach.

Report-7 Research and Technology Report

Assistant Commissioner for Research and Technology Dr. Eric Saunders reviewed the resources and tools available from the division. State data are collected through the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN),

consisting of eSchoolPLUS+ and eFinancePLUS. Certified data are available to educators and the public through the ADE Data Center. The ADE Data Center is available at <https://adedata.arkansas.gov>.

Dr. Saunders said the Triand Electronic Transcript System permits schools to access student transcripts as students move between districts or schools.

APSCN Division Manager Ms. Sarah Cox said the Division of Youth Services has access to limited data. She said Arkansas is the only state that uses TRIAND in total.

Dr. Saunders said the Arkansas student GPS Dashboards, a quick view of student data, are designed to assist the classroom teacher and building leader in monitoring the progress of the students. He said the Arkansas Student Intervention System allows educators to create and monitor academic improvement plans for students.

Director of Data Use and Privacy Ms. Holly Glover said each school signed a memorandum of understanding to utilize the Student GPS Dashboards and the Arkansas Student Intervention System. She said approximately 90% of districts use the dashboards and 85% of districts use the student intervention system.

Dr. Saunders also reviewed tools such as Arkansas iTunesU and Quick Links. Arkansas iTunesU is available at <http://arkansasitunesu.com>. Quick Links website is available at <http://adequicklinks.arkansas.gov>.

Dr. Saunders said the state broadband would be upgraded for public schools. By 2017 schools should have access to 200kbs per student.

Dr. Saunders shared a video about the Student GPS Dashboards. The video is available at <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/sgps/>.

Report-8 Learning Services Report

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones shared the monthly Learning Services Report.

English Language Learners

Dr. Jones said Ms. Patricia Kerr was the new director for English Language Learner Services. She said the annual Home Language Survey results indicated 121 languages spoken in Arkansas. Dr. Jones said the ELPA21 assessment has replaced the ELDA assessment. She said the ELPA21 is an online assessment that measures reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Special Education

Dr. Jones said ADE is collaborating with the Easter Seals Arkansas Outreach on the Capacity Project: *Building Capacity through Evidenced-Based Practices in School Districts across America*.

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Jones said Ms. Cassandra Barnett, Library Media Specialist, has been providing professional development at several education service cooperatives. She said Ms. Barnett was knowledgeable regarding the changes needed for future library/media centers.

Math and English Language Arts Standards

Dr. Jones said most of the grade level committees have completed draft standards. She said the curriculum and professional development units are collaborating to provide professional development, technical assistance, and resources to assist teachers in meeting the learning needs of students.

Commissioner Key said the agency is trying to provide more communication regarding the Mathematics and English Language Arts standards review. Dr. Jones said the standards should be ready for approval by summer 2016.

Assessment

Dr. Jones said only three districts would test with paper and pencil in 2016.

Accountability

Assistant Commissioner Ms. Annette Barnes said the assessment corrections engine (ACE) closed on November 30, 2015, in order for the ADE to submit data to Ed Facts. She said the ACE would reopen December 7 and would close December 18 to permit schools additional time to ensure accurate data would be used for state accountability and reporting. This information is referenced in Commissioner's Memo, COM-16-039. Ms. Barnes said the technical advisory committee was working to finalize procedures for accountability that are statistically reliable and legally defensible.

Schools of Innovation

Director of Educational Options Ms. Cindy Hogue introduced the Schools of Innovation video from KIPP Delta Public School available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUBYvooQSZU>.

Report-9 Computer Science Report

Computer Science Director Mr. Anthony Owen shared the recommendations from the Computer Science Task Force. The recommendations are posted on the ADE website at http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Curriculum%20an

Mr. Owen said there were over 900 coding events in Arkansas during the Arkansas Computer Science Education Week. He said the Girl's of Promise Coding Event winner was Western Hills Elementary in the Little Rock School District. He said Ms. Sarah Burns, Art Teacher at Western Hills Elementary, would receive \$10,000 technology grant because her students participated in the Hour of Code and Ms. Burns submitted a grant request to Code.org. He said one entry from each of the 50 states and Washington, DC were selected.

Mr. Owen recently presented as one of the panelist at the White House State Education Leaders Convening and a Microsoft Computer Science and Equity: State Policies That Work.

Mr. Owen said the Every Student Succeeds Act explicitly recognized computer science as a critical academic field, naming computer science among the list of "well-rounded education" subjects.

Mr. Owens said the Computer Science Standards are out for public feedback. He said the standards committee would review the feedback. He said the future recommendation to the State Board would be for implementation of the standards in 2017-2018.

Adjournment

Ms. Zook moved, seconded by Ms. Reith, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.


Foyce-Newton/Chair
mireya Reith - acting chair


Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education