

**Minutes**  
**State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 8, 2015**

The State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress met Thursday, January 8, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Vicki Saviers called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

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

Absent: None

Additional State Board Members present in the audience: Joe Black; Dr. Jay Barth; Alice Mahony, Kim Davis, and Mireya Reith

**Work Session**

**Discuss Report to the State Board**

Chair Vicki Saviers said the purpose of the meeting was to finalize a report that will be presented at the State Board Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015.

Representative John Walker said he was unaware that the committee meeting held January 7, 2015, was open for public comment. He read a prepared statement in opposition to state oversight of the Little Rock schools and/or district.

Senator Joyce Elliott said it is a myopic view to think that schools can be turned around without changing the community and culture. She said everyone is responsible for the improvement of the district and the restoration of the neighborhoods in the city. She said the Board should take time to consider what other high performing countries are doing and collaborate with the city and businesses to implement a plan that will turn around the city and the schools.

Chair Saviers said the minutes of the meeting from January 7, 2015 could be used as the report to the State Board. She recommended the State Board of Education hold a special meeting on Wednesday, January 28, to determine whether to, at that time, invoke any of the actions listed in Arkansas Code Annotated 6-15-430. She said the Department and the Little Rock School District should provide any written materials for consideration by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, to Deborah Coffman, State Board Liaison.

Mr. Ledbetter moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adopt the minutes from the

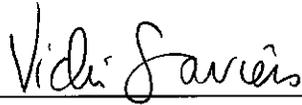
Wednesday, January 7, 2015, State Board of Education Special Committee on Academic Distress Meeting and to use these minutes as the report to the State Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 2015.

Ms. Saviers thanked the Arkansas Department of Education staff, the Little Rock School District administration, the Little Rock School Board, and concerned citizens for their participation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.*



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Vicki Saviers, Chair - Special Committee