

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, March 13, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Friday, March 13, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Department of Education Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

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

Absent: none

Reports

Chair's Report

Dr. Barth said he attended the Next Generation Science Standards Network Leadership Conference with members of the ADE staff to learn about communication, professional development, and transition to the science standards. He said the timeline approved by the Board was appropriate for moving instruction and student learning forward toward students thinking like scientists. He said the state is on the right path.

Ms. Mahony said that Ms. Newton and she would be sponsoring the Girls Learning about Math (GLAM) conference again this year. She said the ESEA renewal is still moving forward even though the momentum has slowed recently.

Ms. Zook said the Life Skills for Youth Program is working with the whole child. She said this is a very promising program for students. The program runs six days a week. She recommended other Board members learn more about the program.

Mr. Davis said representatives from the Northwest Arkansas Council, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative and Northwest Technical Institute honored students at a reception at the Northwest Arkansas Council offices. He said the top three students received \$1,000 scholarships to NWACC or NTI to continue to advance their career and technical education skills. He said the ForwARd Arkansas Project has received a good response to the surveys, conducted over 100 one-to-one interviews, and facilitated many focus groups across the state.

Mr. Crossley said he would be a panel member for the CCSSO State Consortium for Educator Effectiveness (SCEE) Summit in Atlanta. The topic will be teacher

leadership in action. He also shared one video from a series titled, *Profiles in Teacher Leadership*.

Ms. Newton said that she spoke with Little Rock School District Superintendent Dr. Dexter Suggs about inviting girls from the Henderson Middle School to attend an April conference featuring animals provided by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. She said this would be a great learning opportunity for the students.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Wood said six Arkansas students were recognized for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. He said Heather Jackson of Caddo Gap and Colbe Cortez of Benton were selected as Arkansas' top youth volunteers for this year. He said Rebecca Aguilera (Maumelle), Mary Bryant (Valley View), Hannah Colford (Arkansas Baptist High School), and Katherine Sanders (Batesville High School) were recognized as distinguished finalists.

Recognition of Master Principal Designation - Arkansas Leadership Academy

Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal Leader Dr. Diana Peer said the Arkansas Leadership Academy recognized Ms. Cindy Dewey, an Arkansas school principal who has successfully completed the rigorous designation process demonstrating effective principal and school practices leading to an upward trajectory in student achievement. She said Ms. Dewey is the principal of Willowbrook Elementary School in the Bentonville School District. Dr. Peer also acknowledged Mr. Mike Poore, Superintendent of Bentonville School District. Commissioner Wood presented the Master School Principal award to Ms. Dewey.

Ms. Dewey said the opportunity to complete the Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal program was relevant to her job. She utilized the leadership rubric to design the systems at Willowbrook Elementary School. She said she has an excellent staff and students. She said the teachers utilize teaming to review data and make decisions about the differentiated needs of students. She said her school is a project-based school and grade levels are organized in vertical teams. She invited the Board to visit her school. She encouraged all principals to participate in the Arkansas Leadership Academy Master Principal program.

Update on Content Standards and Assessment

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said the the Professional Development Unit has revised ELLA, a professional development opportunity for K-2 literacy. The unit has more than 25 math professional development opportunities available to educators. She said the Professional Development Unit would have new science professional development available this summer.

Dr. Jones said that implementation of PARCC assessment is going well in Arkansas. She said she is receiving positive feedback from the schools. She said teachers are reporting that the test is very thorough and students are enjoying the test. She said she expects to have data back to schools by November 2015.

Dr. Jones said the ELL assessment has been updated for next year. The ELPA21 will be utilized during the 2015-2016 school year and will assess students' proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. She said a grant would provide for an English as a Second Language (ESL) academy this summer designed to provide classroom teachers and school administrators with skills needed to successfully teach language minority/English Language Learners.

Dr. Jones said a committee of Arkansas teachers has been working to examine K-2 assessments and will submit a report to the Department by May 2015.

ESEA Flexibility Waiver IMO Reports for Priority Schools 2nd Quarter of 2014-15 school year

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said 36 schools continue to be identified as Priority Schools under the ESEA Flexibility Waiver requirements. He said of the 36 schools in Priority status, 21 schools are also identified as in Academic Distress through the State Accountability System. He said the ESEA Flexibility Waiver identified that schools in Priority status, in collaboration with district leadership, would develop Improvement Plans targeting the four turnaround principles of, 1) Teacher and Leadership Practices, 2) Student Progress and Achievement, 3) Student Safety and Discipline, and 4) Parent and Community Engagement. He said within the improvement plans, school leadership identified interim measurable objectives in order to monitor quarterly progress. Mr. Harvey presented a chart identifying the schools and the level of progress for the second quarter (October – December) of school year 2014-2015 and IMO reports for 2nd quarter. He said in several schools, attaining depth of understanding of the school improvement process continues to be a challenge. He said many of the IMOs continue to be at a compliance level rather than at a quality level where progress on the IMO would truly reflect progress in systems development and/or student outcomes. Despite Mr. Harvey's noted concern, he said the IMO process has improved over the

previous year with several schools approaching the tipping point in their capacity to self-sustain the improvement process.

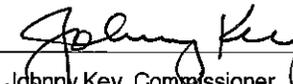
Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Sam Ledbetter, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner