

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, October 9, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Friday, October 9, 2015, in the Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium. Chair Toyce Newton called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Present: Toyce Newton, Chair; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Dr. Jay Barth; Brett Williamson; Charisse Dean; Susan Chambers; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: Mireya Reith, Vice-Chair; Vicki Saviers; and Ouida Newton, Teacher of the Year.

Reports

Report-3 Learning Services Report

Assessment

Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones reported the state data from SAT, PSAT/NMSQT Junior, Advanced Placement, and PSAT/NMSQT Sophomore assessments. She recommended districts prioritize the Advanced Placement Program and develop a plan to get more students involved and supported for success. She said Arkansas pays for the Advanced Placement exams for students. In addition, the ADE pays a school \$50 per student who scores a 3, 4, or 5 on an AP exam. She said these funds could be used to build a support system within a school.

Commissioner Key said former Commissioner Dr. Ken James recently reported that several delta schools were participating in *Laying the Foundation* training. This work would help to build expertise in the STEM areas.

State Standards

Dr. Jones said teams for Standards Review have been selected. The team members would begin work next week. She said AETN would live stream all sessions. Information is posted on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/state-standards-review-for-mathematics-and-english-language-arts> and the ArkansasIDEAS website at: <http://ideas.aetn.org/standards>.

Report-4 Learning Services Professional Development Annual Report

Professional Development Director Mr. Kevin Beaumont said the annual professional development report summarized the work of the Professional Development Unit, the regional education cooperative specialists and STEM Center specialists.

Mr. Beaumont said the unit has provided professional development for the new science standards. He said this work included disciplinary literacy that connects science and literacy. He said a science safety video would be coming soon to Arkansas IDEAS. He said the unit was collaborating with state agencies to align work around the new science standards.

Mr. Beaumont said the literacy specialists created small modules that focused on research-based strategies for ELLA and Effective Literacy. He said the data have shown a great increase in participation.

Mr. Beaumont said the co-op specialists and STEM Center specialists were working hard to serve schools. He said the recorded data on monthly logs reflected the amount of time the specialists had spent in schools. He said the ADE professional development work goes to co-op and STEM Centers and then to schools and teachers. He said this train-the-trainer model has been successful in delivery of professional development across the state.

Mr. Beaumont said the Literacy Design Collaborative was expanding into elementary. He said this year was the pilot year.

Mr. Beaumont said the math specialist created small modules that focus on research based strategies for Cognitively Guided Instruction, Extending Children's Mathematics, and Mathematics Design Collaborative.

Mr. Beaumont said Arkansas IDEAS has a new learning management system. He said they are in the process of migrating courses to the new system. He said Arkansas IDEAS offers a course of study for specific licensure areas.

Mr. Beaumont said the Professional Development Unit planned to study the impact of professional development. He said the Standard Assessment Inventory from Learning Forward was providing self-assessment data to schools.

Mr. Beaumont said each professional development event has a pre and post assessment. He said the specialists are providing more follow-up with classroom visits and collaboration with administration. He said the educators are integrating this work with *Bloomboard*.

Report-5 Update on Assessment

Assessment Director Ms. Hope Allen said the Department was in the final stages

of contract approval for the ACT and ACT Aspire Assessments and the proposed contracts would be reviewed by the Legislative Review Committee on October 13, 2015.

Ms. Allen said the Assessment Unit was providing training on writing accommodations to assist educators in reviewing IEP's in preparation for spring assessments.

Ms. Allen said during November, the Assessment Unit and representatives from the Arkansas Department of Information Systems would be providing support for schools moving to online assessment. She said some schools received a waiver from online testing last year, but the schools would be moving to online assessments this spring. She said training would be available to all schools regarding the ACT and ACT Aspire. She said the Assessment Unit and representatives from the ACT, ACT Aspire, and Pearson would be traveling around the state to meet with district testing coordinators to ensure proper assessment policies and practices are followed.

Ms. Allen said the Assessment Unit would be posting professional development for educators on how to interpret the PARCC scores. She said information was available at <http://understandthescore.org>. She said schools would receive high school scores on November 16 and Grades 3-8 scores on November 25, 2015.

Report-6 Computer Science Report

Computer Science Director Mr. Anthony Owen said educators and industry leaders from across the state participated in the K-8 Computer Science Standards development.

Mr. Owen said the task force was considering a rules change recommending the current 7th or 8th grade keyboarding requirement be replaced with a coding block requirement within the Standards of Accreditation.

Mr. Owen said during his recent visit to the Bryant High School, Bryant School District, the educators, and students demonstrated a deep level of commitment for computer science.

Mr. Owen said the Computer Science Task Force provided break out sessions at the Computer Science Summit in Hot Springs. He said issues were identified and solutions were offered.

Report-8 Special Committee on Academic Distress

Ms. Zook said on September 11, 2015, the Special Committee on Academic

Distress met with representatives from the Blytheville High School - A New Tech School and Blytheville Middle School, Blytheville School District. The Blytheville School District requested the meeting with the special committee. She said the teachers, leaders, and community embraced the label of academic distress as momentum for change. She said the educators were pro-active in examining their practices to identify ways to better serve the students.

Report-9 ESEA Flexibility: Focus and Priority Schools

Public School Accountability Coordinator Mr. Elbert Harvey said that Arkansas submitted a required ESEA Flexibility update this week. He said the Department would have a monthly call with the State Support team at USDOE.

Mr. Harvey said priority and focus schools were identified based on requirements from USDOE. Commissioner Key met with leaders from the newly identified schools. He said the school improvement specialists would be working regionally with the locally hired school improvement specialists and principals from the focus schools. Priority schools will receive on-site support.

Report-10 Educator Effectiveness

Assistant Commissioner of Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said as part of the Educator Equity Plan, the unit has been hosting focus groups across the state to discuss teacher shortages and the challenges that teachers face in the classroom. The Atkins Elementary School, Atkins School District, is a focus of a video for the SREB Spotlight. The following members of the Atkins team are highlighted in the video:

- Ms. Rocci Malone, Principal, Atkins Elementary School
- Ms. Lindsay Lunningham, Teacher
- Ms. Cindy Kuonen, Teacher
- Ms. Lois Duvall, Reading Interventionist
- Ms. Stacey Webb, Teacher

Ms. Malone said the work starts with the building leadership. Leaders need to communicate with the community and build community support for the teachers and the school. She said the principal's role was to support the teachers. She said teachers love students, and they are working very hard.

Ms. Malone said parents needed to be invited to the school and feel welcomed to participate in school activities. The Atkins Elementary School has offered parent nights with activities designed to engage parents with their children in the learning. She holds parent information meetings with parents to help parents ensure their children are successful.

Commissioner Key expressed gratitude for the great work by the Atkins School District. Chair Newton recommended taking this video to Chamber, Kiwanis, Rotary and church meetings to share this remarkable collaboration and support.

Adjournment

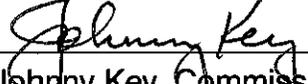
Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Chambers, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Ms. Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education