

## MINUTES

### ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

**February 6, 2002  
10:00 a.m.  
Room 149, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Mr. Bob McGinnis, the Co-Chair of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Commission on Public Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Robert McGinnis, Co-Chair; Ms. Stacy Pittman, Co-Chair; Mr. Frank Anthony; Dr. Charles Dunn; Dr. Benny Gooden; Mr. Gene Gregory; Mr. Wayne Hartsfield; Mr. Randy Hughes; Mr. Hugh McDonald; and Mr. Larry Ross.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senator Jim Hill; Representative George French; and Representative Larry Teague.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESENT:** Senator Jimmy Jeffress; Representative David Hausam; Representative Boyd Hickenbotham; Representative Marvin Parks; Representative Lindbergh Thomas; and Representative Paul Weaver.

**Approval of the Minutes of the January 23, 2002 Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission [Exhibit C].**

**After reviewing the minutes of the January 23, 2002, meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission, the minutes were approved as written.**

**Mr. Ray Simon**, Director, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Simon discussed the following issues with the Commission:

- Curriculum frameworks
- Core curriculum for high school students
- Standards for accreditation of the public schools,
- Allocation and utilization of time during the school day
- Remediation rates for high school graduates
- Grade inflation report recently presented to the State Board of Education
- Mechanisms to ensure both student and institutional accountability

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Following Mr. Simon's presentation, the Commission held a full and frank discussion of the best strategies available to address these issues.

Mr. McGinnis thanked Mr. Simon for his presentation.

Mr. McGinnis announced the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.