

MINUTES

ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

September 26, 2001

10:00 a.m.

**Room 151, 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; Ms. Charlie Cole Chaffin; Ms. Judy Donovan; Dr. Charles Dunn; Dr. Benny Gooden; Dr. Reed Greenwood; Mr. Gene Gregory; Ms. Pat Harris; Ms. Shelby Hillman; Mr. Randy Hughes; Mr. Phil Jones, Sr.; Dr. Don Love; Mr. Hugh McDonald; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Dr. Martha McNair; Mr. David Matthews; Mr. Kevin Moore; Ms. Alisia Ramirez-Hartz, Mr. Ulicious Reed; and Mr. Keith Stokes.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Representative M. Olin Cook; Representative George French; Senator Jim Hill; Senator David Malone; and Representative Larry Teague.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:

Senator David Bisbee; Representative Herschel Cleveland; Representative LeRoy Dangeau; Representative Russ Hunt; Representative James Magnus; Representative Thomas Moore; Representative Charles Ormond; Representative Bill Pritchard; Senator John Riggs; Representative Tommy Roebuck; Representative Mary Anne Salmon; Representative Harmon Seawel; and Senator Terry Smith.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 22, 2001 Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission [Exhibit C]

Without objection, the Minutes of the August 22, 2001 meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission were approved as written.

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Mr. McGinnis discussed the procedures for the operation of the Commission's subcommittees.

Discussion of Curriculum and Instruction in Arkansas Schools

Ms. Janinne Riggs, Associate Director for School Improvement and Professional Development, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Ms. Riggs provided the Commission with an overview of the operations of the School Improvement and Professional Development section and distributed a packet of written materials to the Commission.

Panel Presentation by Arkansas Department of Education Personnel Concerning Specific Aspects of Curriculum and Instruction

The Commission received information concerning curriculum and instruction from the following members of the Arkansas Department of Education staff:

Dr. Gayle Potter, Associate Director, Academic Standards and Assessment Unit

Ms. Annette Barnes, Coordinator, Standards Assurance Unit

Dr. Dave Westmoreland, Unit Leader, School Improvement and Instructional Support Unit

Ms. Krista Underwood, Coordinator, K-12 Literacy Unit

Dr. Bill Nielsen, Program Manager, School Improvement and Instructional Support (Mathematics)

Dr. Andre Guerrero, Program Advisor, Programs for Language Minority Students

Discussion of Early Childhood Education in Arkansas

Ms. Janie Fletcher, Director, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services was recognized. Ms. Fletcher discussed the operation of the state's system of early childhood education with the Commission. A packet of written materials was distributed to the Commission.

Mr. Tristan Greene, Special Assistant to the Director, Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Greene updated the Commission on the status of the Lake View litigation.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and resumed its deliberations at 12:45 p.m.

Discussion of Issues Related to Teacher Quality, Certification, and Compensation

Mr. Raymond Simon, Director, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Simon provided the Commission with information concerning teacher compensation in Arkansas and the efforts underway to attract and retain qualified personnel in the teaching profession in Arkansas.

An extensive discussion followed the presentations. In addition to the specific questions directed to each of the presenters, the Commission also discussed the issue of “adequacy” and how best to address it as their work continued. The ADE was requested to provide additional information to the Commission at its next meeting concerning teacher licensure and certification, the process for addressing school districts in academic distress, and the benchmark examinations administered to students in grades 4 and 8.

Mr. McGinnis thanked everyone for his or her presentations.

Mr. McGinnis discussed the meeting schedule with the Commission. He reminded the members of the procedures for the operation of the Commission’s subcommittees and announced the membership of the subcommittees:

Communications

Dr. Reed Greenwood
Mr. Randy Hughes
Ms. Kathy McFetridge
Mr. David Matthews
Mr. Larry Ross
Mr. Keith Stokes

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Funding/Facilities

Mr. Larry Ross, **Chair**
Mr. Frank Anthony
Dr. Charles Dunn
Mr. Wayne Hartsfield
Mr. Phil Jones, Sr.
Mr. David Matthews
Ms. Alisia Ramirez-Hartz
Mr. Ulicious Reed

Teacher Salaries/Professional Development

Dr. Reed Greenwood, **Chair**
Ms. Judith G. Donovan
Mr. Randy Hughes
Dr. Martha McNair
Ms. Johnette Walker

Curriculum/Pre-school

Dr. Benny Gooden, **Chair**
Ms. Patricia Harris
Ms. Shelby Hillman
Dr. Dan Love
Ms. Kathy McFetridge

Organizational Structure

Ms. Charlie Cole Chaffin, **Chair**
Mr. Gene Gregory
Mr. Hugh McDonald
Mr. Kevin Moore
Mr. Keith Stokes

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Ex Officio Members of all Subcommittees

Mr. Robert McGinnis, Co-Chair
Ms. Stacy Pittman, Co-Chair
Rep. M. Olin Cook
Rep. George French
Sen. Jim Hill
Sen. Cliff Hoofman
Sen. David Malone
Rep. Larry Teague

Mr. McGinnis stated that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2001, at 10 a.m. in Room 138 of the Capitol. He asked the members to meet with their subcommittee when the meeting adjourned.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 2:40 p.m.