

**Minutes
State Board of Education
Friday, November 13, 2020**

The Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) met Friday, November 13, 2020, in the ADE Auditorium with limited capacity in keeping with the Governor's directive and the guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health. Chair Ms. Charisse Dean called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Dean led a moment of silence.

Present: Ms. Charisse Dean, Chair; Dr. Sarah Moore; Dr. Fitz Hill; Ms. Kathy McFetridge; Ms. Ouida Newton; Mr. Steve Sutton; Ms. Susan Chambers (via Zoom); Ms. Adrienne Woods; Mr. Joel Lookadoo, 2020 Arkansas Teacher of the Year; and Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Brett Williamson, Vice-Chair

Changes to Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

New Business

There were no new business items.

Reports

Dollarway District Review

Dollarway Exit Criteria

Presenter: Stacy Smith, Director, Office of Coordinated Support and Service, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Guests: Barbara Warren, Superintendent of Dollarway and Pine Bluff school districts
Dee Davis, Dollarway District School Improvement Specialist
Jason Willis, Area Director, WestEd
Felicia Reed, Systems Transformation Specialist, WestEd
Lauren Outlaw, Senior Policy Specialist, WestEd

Ms. Smith began by acknowledging the hard work that has been done over the past several years in Dollarway. She emphasized that the purpose of the day is to make certain State Board Members are as informed as possible as they prepare to make a decision on Dollarway at the December 2020 meeting. She gave background on the partnership with WestEd to assist DESE with research and strategy concerning Dollarway.

Ms. Smith and representatives from WestEd presented the context and history of Dollarway as it relates to the Board's decision. They discussed the legal timeline and exit criteria, and gave the Board a "decision tree" illustrating the Board's responsibilities and options: Return to local control, reconstitution, annexation, or consolidation. Because Dollarway has been under State authority for both fiscal and academic reasons for five years, the State Board must decide which option is appropriate at the December 2020 meeting.

WestEd discussed their research methods and elements of analysis, which included finance, operations, and stakeholder engagement. They presented data from stakeholder meetings and surveys.

Throughout the presentation Board Members asked clarifying questions.

A work session will be held December 1, 2020, to further discuss the information and data presented. WestEd will have Phase 2 stakeholder information at that time. Dr. Moore asked that Pre-K options and any best practices from districts or communities that have consolidated or annexed be available at the work session.

Adjournment

Ms. Dean adjourned the meeting at 12.28 p.m.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brittany Kincaid

X _____
Ms. Charisse Dean
Chair

X _____
Mr. Johnny Key
Secretary