

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF
THE COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

**MEETING
August 29, 2013**

Place: ADE Auditorium
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
Mr. Richard Weiss, Director, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
Mr. Mac Dodson, President, Arkansas Development Authority

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Tony Wood, Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
Ms. Lori Freno, Assistant General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Education
Dr. Charles C. Stein, PE, CEFP, Director, DPSAFT
Mr. Terry Granderson, Assistant Director, DPSAFT
Mr. Lynn Robertson, Senior Project Administrator – Special Projects, DPSAFT
Mr. Murray Britton, Senior Project Administrator – Planning & Construction, DPSAFT
Mr. Mike Simmons, Senior Transportation Manager, DPSAFT
Ms. Carol Bowman, Administrative Analyst, Director, DPSAFT

Quorum was met.

Meeting called to order.

Agenda item:

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2013

The Commission approved the meeting minutes for the April 24, 2013, Commission meeting.

2. Distribution \$20,000,000 of funds from the 89th Session Project Account – Executive Division of the General Improvement Fund

Dr. Stein reminded the Commission that during the last meeting it was reported that \$20 million in additional funds were anticipated from the Governor's General Improvement Fund after the start of the 2014 Fiscal Year.

Tab 2a Letter with \$20,000,000 of General Improvement Funds

Dr. Stein reported that the \$20 million in additional funds had been confirmed from the Governor's General Improvement Fund by Governor Beebe's letter dated July 17, 2013.

Tab 2b Academic Funding for Year-One of 2013-2015 Academic Facilities Partnership Program Funding Cycle (*Millions*)

Dr. Stein indicated that since last Commission meeting, \$7.4 million in Partnership Program funds were rescinded by school districts from 0607, 0709, and 0911 funding

cycles projects and returned to the Division. The total available funding for Year One projects is \$158.1 million.

Tab 2c 2013-2015 Partnership Program Approved Projects (*Sorted by Project Ranking*)

Dr. Stein reported that the “line” on page 8 has moved down seven projects, and recommended that the Commission fund these seven project. Dr. Kimbrell stated the Commission has \$20 million from the Governor’s GIF and \$7.4 million in turn back. Dr. Stein additionally noted that there was another \$7 million dollars as a result of funded Year One projects coming in lower than expected, resulting in a total of \$34 million in additional funding, totaling \$158.1 million.

Dr. Kimbrell stated that \$34 million in funding was available.

The Commission approved the release of funds for seven additional projects.

Tab 2d 2013-2015 Partnership Program Approved Projects (*Sorted by School District*)

Dr. Stein stated this report had the same funding information as just discussed, but sorted by school districts.

Tab 2e 2013-2015 Partnership Program Disapproved Projects

Dr. Stein indicated the disapproved project list had minor changes since the last Commission meeting.

Tab 2f Written Determination and Project Notification Letter to School Districts

Dr. Stein presented a sample of the letter the Division will mail to the appropriate school districts with the seven projects just funded by the Commission.

3. Statewide State of Condition of Academic Facilities – October 1, 2013

Lynn Robertson presented a summary of the annual report, and indicated the Partnership Program to date consisted of 2,179 approved projects with an estimated total project cost of about \$2.3 million. Attachment #1 included a break out of State Mandated Inspections coordinated with other State agencies, and Attachment #2 provided the information by school district.

Dr. Kimbrell asked how the Division handled the “N/C” or “N/S” items on the school district list. Lynn stated the Division called each school district to confirm if the inspections were done.

Terry Granderson further clarified that the Division staff goes into each individual school district’s information and contacts each school district to confirm if the work orders had been completed, but not closed-out in SchoolDude. Some school district staff members are on 9-10 month contracts, so when they return to work it is too late to close them in SchoolDude for the fiscal year.

The Commission approved the report for dissemination as required by law.

4. Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities

Terry Granderson stated the law had been revised to appoint new members to the Advisory Committee and presented the Division’s recommendations for appointees.

The Commission approved the recommendation for appointees to the Advisory Committee.

5. **Rules Governing the Academic Facilities Partnership Program – Draft Rules – For Public Comment**

Lori Freno presented updates to the Partnership Program rules and provided a detailed matrix of the changes.

Tab 5a Rules Changes Summary

Lori Freno summarized the rule changes.

Tab 5b Rules Governing the Academic Facilities Partnership Program

Ms. Freno stated the rule changes were provided on the copy of the rule presented to the Commission.

Tab 5c Proposed Rule Change List

Ms. Freno presented a detailed list of all proposed rule changes, and recommended the Commission approve and release them for Public Comment.

Dr. Kimbrell reminded the other Commissioners that the Division and Commission work to help children.

Richard Weiss asked the timeline involved with the Public Comment period, which Ms. Freno stated was 30 days, and that the Division would meet again in November or December before the rules go to Bureau of Legislative Review. Dr. Kimbrell stated it would probably be about 60-90 days.

The Commission approved the proposed rule revisions and released them for a thirty day public comment period.

6. **2014 Master Plan/Partnership Program Guidelines for 2015-2017 Biennium**

Murray Britton presented the Guidelines with detailed instructions and advice on the steps to the Commission. He stated the Master Plan would be due February 1, 2014, and the Partnership Applications for 1517 will be due March 1, 2014.

Mr. Britton stated that the Division is required by law to meet with each school district. This year the Division staff met with the school districts at each of the Educational Service Cooperatives, and it was well received since the superintendents appreciated not having to drive all the way to Little Rock. The results were positive and productive. The Division achieved 100% participation by the school districts.

Mr. Britton stated the Guidelines provide step-by-step instructions and screen shots of the web tool, and have been revised to facilitate the new rules regarding warm, safe, and dry projects and space replacements.

Dr. Kimbrell stated the school districts like Dr. Stein more than himself and Tony Wood, because he cannot get them to do anything 100%. He indicated that they tour each cooperative each year, and know how difficult that scheduling can be.

No Commission action required.

7. **Transportation Status**

Tab 7a Timeline for Implementation of Act 1288

Mike Simmons presented the timeline for implementing Act 1288 requiring the Division to collect data for the Bureau of Legislative Research and the House and Senate Education Committee to reduce the time children travel on a bus.

Dr. Kimbrell asked if the school districts will do the calculations and the Division compile the data, and Mr. Simmons responded yes. Mr. Simmons additionally stated that he is reviewing an on-line reporting system for the surveys.

Tab 7b Transportation Report

Mr. Simmons reviewed the annual transportation activities with the Commission.

Tab 7c 2013 Public Awareness Campaign

Mr. Simmons presented a television commercial broadcast locally for the Public Awareness Campaign paid for by Everett Chevrolet. He stated it was a successful campaign.

Mr. Simmons reported the state participates annually in a one-day national survey of illegal passing of school buses, and stated there were 600 incidents reported in Arkansas on that one day.

Dr. Kimbrell thanked Dr. Stein and staff for their hard work.

Dr. Stein also informed the Commission that the Division will move into new offices in the Big Mac Building the middle of September, and that the staff was very excited. He stressed that the Division offices may be without telephones or service for a period of time. Dr. Kimbrell told Dr. Stein to contact Tony Wood if there was an emergency during the switchover.

Meeting adjourned.