



**COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

MEETING AGENDA

**Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium
September 25, 2014
1:00 p.m.**

Agenda Summary

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2014

Recommendation – The Division recommends that the Commission approve the meeting minutes for the July 2, 2014, Commission meeting.

2. Academic Facilities Master Plan Program – State Plan – October 1, 2014

Presenter – Murray Britton, Senior Project Administrator

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-112(f)(16) requires the Division to report by October 1 of each even-numbered year to the Governor, the House and Senate Committees on Education, and the Academic Facilities Oversight Committee on the state academic facilities Master Plan.

The state facilities Master Plan includes:

- a.** A list of committed projects for public school academic facilities for the upcoming fiscal year categorized by program and method of state financial participation.
- b.** The total estimated cost of each committed project and the estimated amount of state financial participation.
- c.** A four-year rolling forecast of planned new construction projects related to public school academic facilities.

Recommendation - That the Commission approve the report for dissemination as required by law.

3. Statewide State of Condition of Academic Facilities – October 1, 2014

Presenter – Terry Granderson, Assistant Director

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-112(f)(15) requires the Division to report by October 1 of each year to the Governor, the House and Senate Committees on Education, and the Academic Facilities Oversight Committee on the state of condition of academic facilities statewide. The report also includes summary results of lawfully required inspections of public school academic facilities by state agencies and commissions.

Recommendation – That the Commission approve the report for dissemination as required by law.

4. Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities

Presenter – Terry Granderson, Assistant Director

Act 1422 of the 2013 Regular Session of the 89th General Assembly revised Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-113 pertaining to the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities (*Advisory Committee*). On August 29, 2013, the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation appointed new members to the Advisory Committee.

Arkansas Education Association (*AEA*) President Brenda Robinson has selected Boyce Pearson to replace Deborah West on the Advisory Committee.

Recommendation – That the Commission appoint AEA's nominee to the Advisory Committee.

5. Transportation Status

Presenter – Mike Simmons, Senior Transportation Manager

Act 1288 required school districts to report school bus transportation data to the Division by July 1, 2014, to assist the General Assembly in determining whether to establish a maximum student transportation time.

- a. The Division conducted an electronic survey to gather transportation data for the Bureau of Legislative Research.
- b. 100% of the school districts completed the transportation survey.
- c. Data was compiled and submitted to the Bureau of Legislative Research where it was used to complete a study on route times that was presented to the Joint House and Senate Education Committee on August 12, 2014.

The Division's transportation safety activities for the 2013-2014 school year include school bus inspections and training of school bus drivers. On May 13, 2014, the Division conducted the 4th annual School Bus Illegal Passing Survey in conjunction with the National Illegal Passing Survey. The Division and the Arkansas Department of Education conducted the 2nd annual 3-week Public Awareness Campaign before the beginning of the

school year, starting on August 11, 2014, regarding the issue of illegal passing of school buses. The campaign occurred through television, radio, and print media.

Status report. No Commission action required.

6. Status of 2015-2017 Academic Facilities Partnership Program

Presenter – Dr. Charles C. Stein, Director

School districts submitted applications for the 2015-2017 Academic Facilities Partnership Program by March 2014, and the Division sent each school district that submitted a project application a certified letter dated July 10, 2014, to notify districts of the status of each project application.

Very preliminary estimates of total state financial participation needs indicate a shortfall in projected available funding for the 2015-2017 project funding cycle.

Status report. No Commission action required.

7. 2014 Master Plan Status and 2015 Preliminary Master Plan

Presenter – Murray Britton, Senior Project Administrator

School districts submitted 2014 Master Plans on February 1, 2014. Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-806 requires the Division to review, and if all requirements are met, to approve Master Plans by September 1. The Division reviewed and approved all school district 2014 Master Plans.

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-806(a)(6) requires school districts submit a report to the Division by February 1 of each odd-numbered year that includes:

- a. A description of all projects completed in the school district since the submission of the school district's most recent facilities Master Plan.
- b. The school district's current enrollment projections.
- c. New or continuing needs of the school district with regard to academic facilities and equipment.
- d. An accounting of any changes in the school district's insurance coverage from the most recent submission.

Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-806(c) requires the Division establish procedures for a school district to submit a preliminary facilities Master Plan or a Master Plan outline to the Division before the submission of the district's final Master Plan. The Preliminary Master Plan forms the basis of a consultation meeting between the Division and the district.

The Division will issue a Commissioner's memo to notify school districts of the 2014 Master Plan approval and the requirements for submission of the 2015 Preliminary Master Plan by February 1, 2015.

Status report. No Commission action required.

8. Facilities Distress Coordination

Presenter – Terry Granderson, Assistant Director, DPSAFT

a. Indicators of Facilities Distress

The Division issued Commissioner's Memo COM 14-037 on January 2, 2014, that contained the Division's process to monitor indicators of academic facilities distress. The process is similar to the Arkansas Department of Education's fiscal distress process, and is intended to support school districts so they can maintain compliance with planning, construction, and maintenance requirements in statute and rule.

b. Millage Elections - September 2014

School districts held millage elections on September 16, 2014. Per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-21-811(f)(1)(A) the Division provided written notices to the school districts with failed millage elections for a conference to discuss facility needs in the district.

Status Report – No Commission action required.

9. Draft Rules – For Public Comment

The Division is presenting two rules for the Commission's review. The first rule is the promulgation of a new rule in response to Acts initiated during the 2013 General Assembly. The second rule is a change to the Arkansas Public School Academic Facility Manual. Upon the Commission's approval, the draft rules will be released for public comment including a public hearing. After the public review and comment period, the final rules will be presented to the Commission for their review.

a. Rules Governing the Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools Facilities Loan Program and the Charter School Capital Grant Program

Presenter – Kendra Clay, Arkansas Department of Education, Staff Attorney

b. Rules Governing the Academic Facilities Partnership Program, Appendix B, Arkansas Public School Academic Facility Manual

Presenter – Lynn Robertson, Senior Project Administrator

The Academic Facilities Advisory Committee met on January 23, April 11, and July 11, 2014, to review the Arkansas Public School Academic Facility Manual.

The Arkansas Public School Academic Facility Manual has been reformatted for ease of use, and some changes have been made to the construction standards portion of the manual. The Public School Facilities Custodial, Maintenance, Repair, and Renovation Manual and the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Procurement section have been placed separately on the Division's web site.

Recommendation - That the Commission approve the draft rules for public review and comment.