

MINUTES

**WHOLE CHILD – WHOLE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION  
WORKING GROUP**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2013**

The Whole Child – Whole Community Recognition Working Group met Friday, September 6, 2013, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Whole Child – Whole Community Recognition Working Group members present: Senator Joyce Elliott, Sarah Argue, Nancy Eddy, Don L. Ernst, Andrew Ford, Lavina Grandon, Harold Jackson, Melinda Kinnison, Lorrie McClure, Matt McClure, Andrew Parker, Amanda Roberts, Rhonda Sanders, Brandi Wallace, Beth White, and Tony Wood.

Senator Elliott called the meeting to order. Senator Elliott asked members of the working group to introduce themselves and state by whom they were appointed and/or the entity they represent.

**Election of Chairs**

Mr. Wood made a motion to elect Senator Joyce Elliott and Mr. Matt McClure as co-chairs of the Whole Child – Whole Community Recognition Working Group. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Overview of Whole Child – Whole Community Recognition Program Legislation – Act 1326 of 2013**

Senator Elliott stated that the language in a resolution passed by the General Assembly in 2007 developed into the Whole Child – Whole Community legislation, SB1051, passed by the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Senator Elliott explained the purpose of the Whole Child – Whole Community Program is to develop a working group consisting of educators, parents, community members, and policymakers who will track the challenges and well-being of Arkansas students with a whole child approach extending beyond test scores, school, and school district rating labels. Communities with high economic development and opportunities for their children outside of schools tend to have excellent schools. The program will recognize towns and communities for their efforts in achieving the whole child initiative.

Senator Elliot suggested inviting individuals to serve on the working group who are qualified to represent minorities. Members were encouraged to invite individuals around the state with diverse geographic and cultural backgrounds, and organizations relating to the whole child initiative to speak at meetings of the Working Group. She suggested the group discuss its recommendations at the next meeting. Upon completion of the recommendations, the working group must decide if its recommendations should be presented to the Department of Education or another entity before presentation to the General Assembly.

Mr. Matt McClure, Arkansas Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), was recognized and explained the background of the ASCD Whole Child – Whole Community initiative. ASCD is the world's largest educational organization with approximately 175,000 members. He addressed the five tenets outlined in Act 1326:

1. Healthy Options: Are schools meeting the physical and emotional needs of a student inside and outside of the classroom?

2. Safety: Are students provided an environment and resources needed during and after school that promotes safety?
3. Active Engagement: Are students actively engaged in learning?
4. Adult Support: Are schools reaching outside the classroom for support groups who are qualified caring adults?
5. An Intellectually Stimulating Environment: Are students challenged academically and prepared for success in college and employment and participation in a global environment?

Mr. McClure addressed the need for sustainability -- a shared responsibility of everyone in the community working together to meet the whole child model for success.

Mr. Don Ernst, Coordinator, Children's Initiative, Hillary Rodham Clinton Library and Learning Center, explained how ASCD began the whole child concept and the struggles they encountered. He addressed a goal of pushing beyond ASCD's initiative by reengaging citizens in the community to use effective dialog that teach students in areas of civic responsibility, energy issues, and economic development.

### **Creation of Sub-groups**

The working group agreed to form the following sub-groups:

- Educators
- Parents and Community Members
- Policy Makers

Each sub-group will be charged with the five tenets and their indicators. The working group suggested creating another sub-group to develop ideas on ways to inspire community participation. Another suggestion is dividing the sub-groups by each of the five tenets.

The co-chairs will appoint each member to temporarily serve on a sub-group outside his/her expertise.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.