



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: Thursday, October 27, 2016
TO: Mr. Johnny Key, Director – ADE
FROM: Michael Poore
Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Little Rock School District Literacy Council 2016-2017

BACKGROUND:

Author Delvene Nelson states that literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows you to communicate effectively. The power of literacy lies not just in the ability to read and write, but rather in a person's capacity to apply these skills to effectively connect, interpret and discern the intricacies of the world in which they live.

The changes that the English language has undergone over the course of history is staggering. The past decade alone has seen students' literacy repertoire extend beyond the traditional pillars of reading, comprehension, grammar and writing, to include digital and interactive applications. With today's learners faced with a myriad of traditional and digital literacies, it will take all of us to ensure that our children develop the skills to effectively navigate and decipher the constant information stream that surrounds them.

In an effort to provide support to the schools and the district in the area of literacy we have created a Little Rock School District Literacy Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

You will find attached an outline for the creation of the Little Rock School District Literacy Council.

FUNDING:

No funding needed

PREPARED BY:

Sadie Mitchell, Associate Superintendent - Elementary Schools
Sabrina Stout, Director - Literacy



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY COUNCIL 2016-2017

PURPOSE

To promote the LRSD Literacy Initiative and to glean strategic input and recommendations from stakeholders.

The Little Rock School District Literacy Council will unite pragmatic, innovative minds to constructively inform the decision making process as Little Rock School District moves forward. LRSD Literacy Council members represent different areas and interests of Little Rock's community and district. This council will meet quarterly to assist with networking ideas for the community and schools. They will provide guidance and suggestions for positive outcomes in the area of literacy. In addition, subgroups will be formed to address specific actions and needs related to literacy, such as strengthening the implementation of disciplinary literacy strategies in secondary schools and increasing technology integration.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- ViPs Reading Day (November 15, 2016)
- Books-for-homes drive
- Parent and student workshops
- Run/walk day for literacy

FIRST MEETING

October 18, 2016

Actions for first meeting:

- Define the purpose and goals of the advisory committee
- Provide an overview of LRSD's efforts in literacy
- Discuss suggestions for promoting a positive message around district efforts
- The Lemonade War, by Jacqueline Davies

Additional meetings will be held January, March, and May of 2017.



LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY COUNCIL 2016-2017

MEMBERS:

Michael Poore, Superintendent
Marvin Burton, Deputy Superintendent
Sadie Mitchell, Associate Superintendent
Daniel Whitehorn, Associate Superintendent
Tina Greenwood, Principal - Gibbs
Jay Pickering, Principal - Pinnacle View
Crystal Braswell, Literacy Facilitator - Cloverdale
Brittany Choate, Media Specialist – Mann
Kristen Mann, Professor – University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Greta Freeman, Parent and LRSD Technology Department
Nathalie Massanelli, Teacher - Jefferson (Elementary)
Debbie Milam, ViPs
Jody Carreiro, Community Leader/Past Board Member
Cassandra Steele, Special Programs Director
Lisa Donovan, Central Arkansas Library System
Dana Dossett, City of Little Rock Programs
Karla Jimenez, LRSD Parent
Carol Soulsby, Psychological Examiner
Sabrina, Stout, Literacy Director
Laura Beth Arnold, Social Studies and Disciplinary Literacy

Two teachers pending schedule alignments
One parent pending (invited but overseas this week)