

ACTION SHEET

SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

2:00 P.M.

Room 171, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Jim Hendren (*by phone*); Senator Blake Johnson (*by phone*); and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Scott Flippo; Senator Bruce Maloch; Senator Jason Rapert; Senator Larry Teague; Representative Bob Ballinger; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative R. Trevor Drown; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Justin Gonzales; and Representative Michael John Gray.

Remarks by the Chairs

Senator English stated the purpose of this meeting is to resolve the recommendations for the 2016 Adequacy Report.

The Honorable Eddie Joe Williams, State Senator, District 29, was recognized. Senator Williams made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Senator Jim Hendren and Senator Blake Johnson to not only participate, but to vote, in these proceedings. The motion was seconded by Senator Eddie Cheatham.

Pursuant to the motion by Senator Williams, and without objection, the motion was carried.

Senator English welcomed Senator Hendren and Senator Johnson, present via conference call.

Discussion of Draft Adequacy Report and Related Issues

The Honorable Uvalde Lindsey, State Senator, District 4, and Vice Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Senator Lindsey discussed proposed recommendations of the Senate Interim Committee on Education that could be embodied in the 2016 Adequacy Report, and with adoption by the Committee, sent forward to the President Pro Tem, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor. Senator Lindsey said a handout, Exhibit A (*see attached*), referenced recommended changes. He reserved the right to correct and amend any errors, typos, and deficiencies going forward. Senator Lindsey began his discussion with existing Matrix items for FY15, FY16, and FY17, as a point of reference. He stated that a different document, handed out at the meeting on Friday, October 24, 2016, and which showed a .07% increase in the Matrix, had been incorporated into Exhibit A with additional changes for FY18 and FY19. Senator Lindsey then discussed the changes to line items in detail.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Dr. Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA)
Dr. Tony Prothro, Executive Director, Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA)

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- setting aside \$4.3 million of National School Lunch Act (NSLA) funding each year of the biennium for a matching grant program to fund tutors, before- or afterschool programs, and pre-K programs,
- provision for increases in salaries for teachers,
- concurrence and action of superintendents and School Boards to ensure recommended funding passes through to the teacher salary schedule; providing regular feedback on how funding is spent,
- each school district maintaining local control of its teacher salary schedule,
- creating a supplemental Transportation funding program to address needs of school districts with high per/student transportation costs, and
- Committee's endorsement of the requested amount (\$116M) for educational facilities for FY17-FY19.

Relevant Actions:

The Honorable Alan Clark, State Senator, District 13, was recognized. Senator Clark made a motion to adopt the Adequacy Study and the recommendations set forth in Exhibit A and to review declining enrollment funding, to amend the minimum teacher salary schedule to correspond with the increases in the Teacher Salary + Benefits line item in the Matrix, and other items the Senate Committee may deem necessary in a supplemental report. The motion was seconded by Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

Pursuant to the motion by Senator Clark, and without objection, the motion was carried.

Handouts:

10/10/16 Adequacy Worksheet
2016 Adequacy Report Draft, 10/31/16
Continuing Adequacy Evaluation Act of 2004
Exhibit A - Senate Recommendations

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Approved: 12/12/2016

