

MEETING SUMMARY

**JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

ADEQUACY

**Thursday, November 21, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Eddie Cheatham, Linda Chesterfield, Lance Eads, and James Sturch

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Bruce Cozart, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, LeAnne Burch, Gary Deffenbaugh, Jana Della Rosa, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Mark Lowery, Stephen Meeks, Nelda Speaks, Dan Sullivan, and DeAnn Vaught

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Cecile Bledsoe, Jonathan Dismang, Trent Garner, and Kim Hammer. *Representatives:* Craig Christiansen, Marsh Davis, Les Eaves, Denise Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Justin Gonzales, Lee Johnson, Jasen Kelly, Fredrick J. Love, Tippi McCollough, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, Keith Slape, Stu Smith, James Sorvillo, Dwight Tosh, and Jeff Wardlaw

Discussion of Issues Related to Adequacy Consultants

Representative Cozart stated the purpose of this meeting is for discussion of how the Committees can succeed in finding a solution to the problem of hiring, or not hiring, a consultant to conduct an Adequacy Study. He said no motions would be accepted at the meeting. He said the options are to continue on the same pathway projected in the original 2003 study; to hire one, or two, outside consultants; or, to conduct an in-house study.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- Committees not having the time to pull an in-house study together,
- two studies are better than none,
- reviewing what the top ten countries in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) rankings do to stay on track,
- obvious merit of one consultant; nothing on which to base the merit of the second consultant,
- complexity of hiring an outside consultant,
- working within current framework and using available data and resources,
- process to date has been problematic and frustrating and needs to be changed,
- setting a precedent in having a subcommittee tell an experienced standing committee what to do,
- preparing children to compete, not just with surrounding states, but on the world market,
- need for change in the Matrix,
- making funding formula as equitable as possible,
- undermining the process and failing the children,
- need to face up to changes that have taken place since last study,

- need for outside expertise to help make a paradigm shift in education,
- listening to what Arkansas's educators are telling us,
- creating policies aligned and coherent with where we want to go,
- need for staff to check and share references of vendors, and
- estimating the cost for per diems paid out to members, and for tying up staff resources, if the study is conducted in-house.

Following the discussion, Representative Cozart informally polled members present to weigh opinions pertinent to this issue. He said he would later poll members not present. The results of the poll were: No study - 3, One study - 13, Two studies - 2.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, January 6, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (Joint Education/Adequacy)

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (Adequacy)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.