

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**ADEQUACY**

**Monday, December 16, 2019  
10:00 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 10:00 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, Mark Johnson, and James Sturch

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

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** *Senators:* Breanne Davis, Jonathan Dismang, Trent Garner, Kim Hammer, and Mathew Pitsch. *Representatives:* Stan Berry, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Ron McNair, Keith Slape, Stu Smith, and Dwight Tosh

Issues Related to Adequacy Consultants

*Presenter:*

**Representative Rick Beck**, was recognized. Representative Beck presented data to the Committees for the purpose of assessing if progress had been made in four states (DC, MD, NJ, and PA) resulting from implementation of adequacy recommendations made by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA).

*Issues Included in the Discussion:*

- clarification of data presented in charts,
- states implementing other programs for student advancement in addition to adopting recommendations,
- drawing conclusions from data is the responsibility of Committee members,
- presentation of data points only on APA,
- meaning of “implementation” with regard to recommendations,
- concern about variables that could impact data,
- potential margin of error in data,
- whether APA conducted the “exact same study” in the four states as that requested in the Arkansas RFP,
- effect of data sampling on results,
- data on states not doing well predicated on recommendations rather than implementations,
- having similar data from SHULS for comparison, and
- establishing a baseline by looking at trends across the country and factoring in elements that might be part of educational gain or educational loss.

*Handouts:*

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math % Proficient or Above Average

Percentage Point Change Before and After Completion of Educational Adequacy Recommendations (Less the National Average % Point Change)  
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading % Proficient or Above Average Percentage Point Change Before and After Completion of Educational Adequacy Recommendations (Less the National Average % Point Change)

Presenter:

**Senator Kim Hammer**, was recognized. Senator Hammer proposed, should one consultant be chosen, the Committees consider hiring a second company to review its recommendations. He said it would provide a good checks and balances system.

Issue Included in the Discussion:

- criticisms about the APA report noted in references from states in which APA worked.

Representative Cozart stated the Committees had three options with regard to hiring a consultant:

- 1) to contract with APA - make a motion to recommend ALC reconsider the APA contract;
- 2) to contract with SHULS - make a motion to expunge the vote by which the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) was authorized to contract with APA; then, move to authorize BLR to contract with SHULS; the motion to expunge would take a yea vote of 14 in the House and 5 in the Senate; or
- 3) to contract with both - make a motion to authorize BLR to contract with APA and SHULS.

Relevant Actions:

**Representative Jim Dotson**, was recognized, and made a motion to authorize the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) to contract with APA and SHULS. It was seconded by Representative Mark Lowery.

Representative Cozart stated the motion on the floor is to enter contracts with both APA and SHULS. He said the vote would be by roll call and start with the House.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Dotson, the motion failed in a roll call vote (4-11-3).

**Representative Jana Della Rosa**, was recognized, and made a motion to recommend that ALC reconsider the APA contract. The motion was seconded by Senator Joyce Elliott.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Della Rosa, the motion passed by roll call in the Senate (6-1-1); and passed by roll call in the House (12-3-3).

Representative Cozart said the recommendation would be sent to ALC - Policy Making, meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.

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 11:54 a.m.