

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**Monday, November 26, 2012  
9:00 A.M.  
Room 171, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Jimmy Jeffress, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jimmy Jeffress, Chair; Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Vice Chair; Senator Gilbert Baker; Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Kim Hendren; Senator Bruce Holland; Senator Gene Jeffress; and Senator Johnny Key.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Eddie Cheatham, Chair; Representative Johnnie Roebuck, Vice Chair; Representative Toni Bradford; Representative Jerry Brown; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Ann Clemmer; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative James McLean; Representative Bobby Pierce; Representative Tim Summers; and Representative Tommy Wren.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative John Catlett; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Tiffany Rogers; and Representative Garry Smith.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jeremy Hutchinson; Senator Missy Irvin; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Mark Biviano; Representative David Branscum; Representative John Burris; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Clark Hall; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Uvalde Lindsey; Representative Buddy Lovell; Representative Mike Patterson; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

**MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative-Elect Charlotte Douglas; and Representative-Elect Mark Lowery.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of September 17, 2012, and September 25, 2012, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 09/17/12 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 09/25/12 Minutes

Introduction of Incoming Members

Senator Jeffress recognized incoming members of the House and Senate Education Committees and requested that they stand and be given a hand.

Senator Jeffress called for a moment of silence in respect for the recent passing of both the mother of Representative-Elect Patti Julian and the father of Ms. Lori Bowen of the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR).

#### Reports from Members Who Attended Recent Meetings Concerning Public or Higher Education

**The Honorable Joyce Elliott**, State Senator, District 33, was recognized. Senator Elliott apprised the Committees that she would serve as co-chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Education Committee along with Senator Luther S. Olsen of Wisconsin.

**Mr. Dave Spence**, President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), Atlanta, Georgia, was recognized. Mr. Spence commented on Arkansas's leadership in the statewide college readiness initiative, and urged those involved to stay the course.

Senator Jeffress announced that there would be a deviation from the agenda, and the Committees would next take up Item H.

#### Report by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) Concerning Student Remediation Pursuant to Act 696 of 2011

##### Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. Shane Broadway**, Interim Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Mr. Broadway discussed the 2012 Annual Remediation Report, including direct and indirect costs of providing remediation to students, and initiatives taken up to address issues of remediation and student success.

##### Contributors to the Discussion:

**Ms. Tara Smith**, Senior Associate Director for Institutional Finance, Arkansas Department of Higher Education

**Dr. Tracy Tucker**, Special Advisor, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education

**Mr. Dave Spence**, President, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), Atlanta, Georgia

##### Issues Included in the Discussion:

- o integrating remedial courses into the curriculum,
- o institutions having the greatest success with student remediation,
- o high schools graduating students who are *not ready to learn*,
- o effect of the student dropout rate on lottery revenue,
- o steering a student into adult education and the related costs,
- o implementation of transitional courses,
- o input of administrators into discussion of course modules,
- o Southwest Arkansas Preparatory Academy,
- o expansion of summer programs and the Career College Readiness Program (CCRP),
- o transitional courses as key to solving the problem with remediation,
- o data indicates a student's completion of remediation before exiting high school is a "game-changer,"
- o discussions going forward regarding reducing remediation rates over the long term,

- o costs of remediation,
- o underestimation of the remediation problem nationwide,
- o effect of the implementation of readiness standards,
- o involvement of other states in the transitional course assessment, and
- o communications problem following implementation of assessments.

Handouts:

2011 Annual Remediation Report, Revised  
2012 Annual Remediation Report  
SREB Transitional Course Project Overview

Senator Jeffress announced that the Committees would now return to Item F on the agenda. He explained that the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee had sought the Committees' input on the following rules before final approval. He said the Committees had three options when looking at the rules: 1) favorably review the rules, 2) choose not to review them, or 3) do nothing.

Review of the Arkansas Department of Education's Proposed Rules Concerning Educator Licensure and Proposed Repeals Referred by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. Mark White**, Staff Attorney, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. White said nine (9) separate rules for licensure had been collapsed into this single rule, and noted that the number of pages had been cut from 78 to 40 in the process. Mr. White said there had been 264 oral and written comments incorporated into these rules. He highlighted some key changes in this third revision:

- initial licensure eliminated,
- P4 license converted to a K6 license,
- birth - K level license added,
- administrator license converted to a P12 license,
- additional opportunities to test out to other license areas, and
- additional options offered for licensure of school counselors.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Dr. Karen Cushman**, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- effect of rules on critical shortage of counselors,
- taking into account the comments on rules,
- meeting the needs of school districts when filling the roles of school counselors,
- meeting student needs with the four specializations of school counselors,
- downside of not implementing the rules,
- number of non-certified counselors,
- Act 733 of the 2009 Regular Session, TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO BECOME SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS,
- eligibility of clinical counselors to become school administrators if proposed rules are approved,
- rules detrimental to the counseling profession,

- counselors' responsibilities,
- meeting the needs of individual districts in the proposed rules,
- reviewing historical data for the premise,
- taking an international standpoint into account,
- classroom teachers and counseling,
- school counselors' requirement for professional development,
- other demands on counselors' time, and
- effect of proposed rules on contract counselors.

Relevant Actions:

**The Honorable Johnnie Roebuck**, State Representative, District 20, was recognized, and made a motion to send the rules back to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee, noting that the Committees had reviewed all of the rules with the exception of 4.0. The motion was seconded by Senator Joyce Elliott.

**The Honorable Kim Hendren**, State Senator, District 9, was recognized, and made a substitute motion to send the rules back to the Subcommittee, noting that the Committees had favorably reviewed all of the changes in the rules. The substitute motion was seconded.

**The Honorable Joyce Elliott**, State Senator, District 33, was recognized, and spoke against the substitute motion.

**The Honorable Debra Hobbs**, State Representative, District 96, was recognized, and spoke in favor of the substitute motion.

Following a voice vote and subsequent failure of the substitute motion, Representative Roebuck restated the original motion. Pursuant to the motion of Representative Roebuck, the motion was carried.

Senator Jeffress announced that the rules would be sent back to the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee to take up at their meeting on December 12.

Exhibit:

Exhibit F – Proposed Rules Concerning Educator Licensure and Proposed Repeals

Senator Jeffress announced that there would be an additional deviation from the agenda. He said Item G, *Review of the Arkansas Department of Education's Proposed Repeal of Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Waivers for Substitute Teachers Referred by the Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council*, would be taken up in the meeting on December 10, and Item J, *Discussion of the Opportunity to Learn Campaign*, would be heard at another time.

Representative Roebuck requested that information from the Opportunity to Learn campaign and the SREB Transitional Course Project Overview be distributed to members via email.

Senator Jeffress stated the Committees would next take up Item I.

**The Honorable Tim Summers**, State Representative, District 99, was recognized, and introduced the presentation.

Discussion of Policy Issues from a School District Perspective

## 1. Impact of the Leader in Me Program

### Presenter & Synopsis:

**Ms. Ashley Williams**, Principal, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR, was recognized. Ms. Williams gave a PowerPoint presentation on how The Leader in Me is impacting Bentonville, AR through the Mary Mae Jones Elementary School. She gave a brief background of the program which takes the principles of Dr. Stephen R. Covey's book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, and integrates them into the school curriculum, everyday language, and culture. She said it's a three-year process that builds upon the knowledge and understanding of each previous year. She commented that there are 18 schools in Arkansas that are currently in The Leader in Me process. She noted that positive results from the process include increased student academic achievement, increased accountability, increased engagement with teachers, students, and parents, increased student confidence, and decreased discipline referrals. She stated The Leader in Me process empowers not only students individually but classrooms and schools as a whole.

### Contributors to the Discussion:

**Ms. Trista Cowart**, Music Teacher, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR  
**Ms. Michelle Rudder**, Fourth Grade Teacher, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR  
**Ms. Nicole Pawlaczyk**, Parent, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR  
**Ms. Madison Phillips**, Fourth Grade Student, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR  
**Mr. Owen Tesoro**, Fourth Grade Student, Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, AR

### Presentation:

Mary Mae Jones Elementary, A Leader in Me School - Power Point presentation

### Video:

Mary Mae Jones Elementary, A Leader in Me School

### Handouts:

Mary Mae Jones Elementary, A Leader in Me School (*hard copy of PowerPoint presentation*)  
Mary Mae Jones Elementary, The Leader in Me Vision Statement - brochure  
The Leader in Me Promising Results

## 2. Discussion of Issues Related to Online and Concurrent Credit Courses

### Presenter & Synopsis:

**Ms. Kim Garrett**, Principal, Bentonville High School, Bentonville, AR

### Handouts:

Bentonville High School - K12 Online Courses and Concurrent College Courses in High Schools

### 3. Discussion of Issues Related to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Ms. Sarah Pugh**, International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Coordinator and Advanced Placement (AP) European History Teacher, Bentonville High School, Bentonville, AR

Handout:

Bentonville High School – International Baccalaureate Funding for Exams

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ∴ requirements for concurrent courses,
- ∴ breakdown of student demographics in the Bentonville School District,
- ∴ dropout rate in the school district,
- ∴ cultures and languages of students, and
- ∴ International Baccalaureate (IB) vs. Advanced Placement (AP).

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, December 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

*Approved: 06/10/13*