

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

**Monday, August 19, 2013**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Room 171, State Capitol**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Johnny Key, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Johnny Key, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Alan Clark; and Senator Jason Rapert.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative James McLean, Chair; Representative Charles Armstrong; Representative Mark Biviano; Representative Les Carnine; Representative John Catlett; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative Brent Talley.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Harold Copenhaver; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Justin Harris; Representative Chris Richey; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Stephanie Flowers; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Senator Jon Woods; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative David Branscum; Representative Charlene Fite; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Bill Gossage; Representative John Hutchison; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Kelley Linck; Representative Walls McCrary; Representative Micah Neal; Representative Betty Overbey; Representative John Payton; Representative Frederick Smith; Representative Nate Steel; Representative Tommy Thompson; Representative Wes Wagner; Representative Henry "Hank" Wilkins; and Representative Tommy Wren.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of July 22, 2013 and July 23, 2013, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 07/22/13 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 07/23/13 Minutes

Senator Key announced that the Committees would skip Item D and take up Item E on the agenda.

Adoption of Interim Study Proposal 2013 – 160 by Representative Hutchison, REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION THIS PROPOSAL TO PERFORM AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K 12).

Presenter & Synopsis:

**The Honorable John Hutchison**, State Representative, District 52, was recognized, and requested that Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2013-160 be adopted for interim study by the House Interim Committee on Education.

Relevant Action:

**The Honorable Charles L. Armstrong**, State Representative, District 30, was recognized, and made a motion to adopt ISP 2013-160 for study.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Armstrong, and without objection, the motion was carried.

Exhibit:

Exhibit E – ISP 2013-160

Senator Key announced that the Committees would deviate from the agenda and return to Item D, which had been skipped earlier.

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

Presenters & Synopses:

**The Honorable Mark Lowery**, State Representative, District 39, was recognized. Representative Lowery said that he, Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas, and Representative Charles Armstrong attended a conference sponsored by the Council of State Governments (CSG) in Washington DC last June. He said topics included higher education reforms going on in states, and mentioned, specifically, the dramatic shift in the way Tennessee is handling remediation. He noted that Tennessee has also moved to a system of outcomes-based funding. Representative Lowery remarked that moving to such a model not only increases competition, but increases attention to goal attainment.

**The Honorable Charles L. Armstrong**, State Representative, District 30, was recognized. Representative Armstrong commented that the problem of remediation in higher education starts in K-12, and, until there is a fix in K-12, the need for remediation will continue. He mentioned having attended a meeting yesterday at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). He said UAPB is addressing this problem now in admissions. Representative Armstrong also mentioned that emphasis needs to be put back on career education.

**The Honorable Charlotte Vining Douglas**, State Representative, District 75, was recognized. Representative Douglas brought up the subject of massive open online courses (MOOCs), and said this is an issue that should be reviewed.

Update on the Activities of the Quality Digital Learning Study Committee

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Dr. Ed Franklin**, Chair, Quality Digital Learning Study Committee, was recognized. Dr. Franklin said that knowledge about the new technology is of prime importance in a changing world. As part of his presentation, he showed a YouTube video, "Did you know? SHIFT happens!" He cited examples of the use of technology within education and how it's changing education. He commented that with so much information available, technology is allowing the role of teacher to shift from the "sage on the stage" to a supporter of learning. He mentioned courses being developed all over the United States for use by K-12 and colleges and described *flip teaching*, a new method of instruction. He stated the reality is that without connectivity, without Broadband, none of this would be possible. He said the challenge for the Quality Digital Learning Study Committee is to examine Broadband connectivity in K-12 schools, to identify current assets and capabilities, and to develop a plan to use assets and resources in the best way to meet needs of students in preparing them for the workforce of the future. Dr. Franklin discussed various committees and groups, with memberships composed of representatives from

business and industry, who will help in developing a plan. He said the study is in its early stages, with a final plan to move education forward in the K-12 system to be delivered by December 2013.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Dr. Tom Kimbrell**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- the “F” rating in providing digital learning opportunities that Arkansas received from the Foundation for Excellence in Education,
- school districts that don’t/do have infrastructure in place for connectivity,
- availability and deliverability of fiber optics,
- role and involvement of private vendors,
- staff development component of the rollout,
- accommodations for testing and assessments,
- stepping back into a traditional workplace having been educated with the new technology,
- setting up systems that are expandable to accommodate increased capacity,
- delivery of the final report pursuant to Section 2 of Act 1280 of 2013,
- looking at all technologies as part of the review,
- responses from school districts to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) survey,
- agreeing on the data with which to begin the study,
- speed of connectivity and access to technology in other countries,
- target measure for connectivity used by other states, and
- integrating knowledge of grants with educational needs.

Video Presentation:

Did you know? SHIFT happens! – M Hains version:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzKiU0SykQ&feature=youtu.be>

Handouts:

Arkansas’s Broadband Challenge  
Engineering/Infrastructure (EI) Task Force Members  
Fast Access for Students, Teachers and Economic Results (FASTER) Members  
Projecting Internet Demand  
Quality Digital Learning Study Members  
Spirit Southwest Airlines, article

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, August 20, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Approved: 09/10/13