

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, August 20, 2013
9:00 A.M.
Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative James McLean, 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: Senator Johnny Key, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Jim Hendren; and Senator Jason Rapert.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative James McLean, Chair; Representative Ann Clemmer, Vice Chair; Representative Charles Armstrong; 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 Stephen Meeks; Representative Chris Richey; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Cecile Bledsoe; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jane English; Senator Stephanie Flowers; Senator Michael Lamoureux; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Bob Ballinger; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative Joe Farrer; Representative Charlene Fite; Representative Bill Gossage; Representative Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson; Representative Monte Hodges; Representative Douglas House; Representative John Hutchison; Representative David Meeks; Representative Josh Miller; Representative Micah Neal; Representative Frederick Smith; Representative Tommy Thompson; Representative Wes Wagner; Representative John Walker; and Representative Tommy Wren.

Representative McLean recognized **Ms. Diane Zook**, Governor Mike Beebe's latest appointment to the nine-member State Board of Education. Her term will expire in 2020.

Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), was recognized, and introduced **Ms. Kimberly Friedman**, the new Communications Director for the Arkansas Department of Education.

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith referenced handouts pertinent to Item C on the agenda, including the Statute for the Adequacy Study, the Bureau Brief on ACSIP, questions submitted to ADE, and the ACSIP School Plan.

Review of the Development and Utilization of Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (ACSIP)

Presenter & Synopsis:

Mr. John Hoy, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academic Accountability, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Hoy addressed a list of questions developed by the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) for response by the ADE. He discussed whether or not the ACSIP process in its current format is a valuable tool for school improvement. He addressed concerns, including the value of plans, the quality of plans, the impact of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) Flexibility Plan, and the use of student data. Mr. Hoy also covered monitoring and incorporating scholastic audit findings into plans.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Willie Morris, Director of Federal and State Monitoring, Division of Academic Accountability, Arkansas Department of Education

Mr. Elbert Harvey, School Improvement Coordinator, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- deadline for ACSIP,
- adjusting the school improvement plan to the process,
- responsibility and providers for supplemental educational services,
- cost of a scholastic audit for a school,
- scholastic audit of an Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) school,
- grants available for a school to pay for an audit,
- parental involvement plans included in the ACSIP,
- monitoring of parental involvement plans,
- history of incorporating scholastic audits into school district policies,
- seeing evidence of parental involvement and/or engagement,
- impact of cultural and economic differences on parental involvement plans,
- limitations in the ACSIP software,
- comparison of average teacher salaries in Arkansas and surrounding states,
- focus and priority schools broken out with average salaries for comparison,
- looking at totality of school system for salary comparisons,
- checking on non-proficient students in the classroom,
- best practices around the use of National School Lunch Act (NSLA) money,
- availability of professional evaluation data for ACSIP,
- current compliance document/process not in the vein of W. Edwards Deming's philosophy of total quality management,
- assessment of ACSIP working better today than prior to 2007,
- addressing the unintended consequences of legislation enacted by the General Assembly,
- monitoring the overlap of functions within the department regarding compliance measures,
- developing "difference-making" metrics,
- evolution of ACSIP model,
- ACSIP and student success,
- communicating with the school board, and
- relevancy of compliance document.

Relevant Action:

Representative McLean suggested that an ad hoc committee or subcommittee be identified to form an efficiency plan to make the ACSIP policy more practical, to report back to the Committees, and to have recommendations available for legislators in the 90th General Assembly.

Handouts:

Adequacy Study Statutory Responsibilities

ACSIP 2012-2013 Archive, School Plan
ACSIP, Bureau Brief
ACSIP Presentation Questions

Discussion of Methodologies for Conducting Adequacy Studies

Presenter & Synopsis:

Dr. Brent Benda, Senior Research Specialist, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Dr. Benda stated the threefold purpose of this report is to provide a very succinct historical overview of the evolution of the concepts of *equity* and *adequacy*, a brief description of these concepts, and a critique of methodologies currently used to evaluate educational adequacy in states. His report covered court decisions regarding education finances, and methods of measuring and determining adequacy, including 1) evidence-based model, 2) professional judgment model, 3) successful schools model, and 4) cost function (or statistical) model. Dr. Benda commented on the advantages and weaknesses each of these methodologies offers in comparison with the other methods.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research
Mr. Richard Wilson, Assistant Director, Research Services, Bureau of Legislative Research

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- reasons for selecting the methodology that is used,
- validity and reliability of data,
- relationship of methodology to cultural differences in school districts,
- effect of student achievement in a traditional family *vs.* that in a single family household,
- using educational consultants,
- maintaining constitutional compliance with the law and the rulings that came out of the Lake View Case,
- a more effective model to overcome the poverty challenge,
- working with research provided by the Delta Regional Authority, and
- early warnings about putting policies and laws in place that lead to the breakdown of families.

PowerPoint Presentation:

An Overview of Methodologies for Conducting Adequacy Studies

Handouts:

An Overview of Methodologies of Assessing Educational Adequacy, Notes
An Overview of Methodologies of Assessing Educational Adequacy, Research Report
Matrix FY2015

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, September 9, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved: 09/10/13