

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

Monday, December 16, 2013
10:00 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 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 Jim Hendren; Senator Uvalde Lindsey; and Senator Jason Rapert.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative James McLean, Chair; Representative Charles L. 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 Homer Lenderman; 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; and Representative Harold Copenhaver.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Representative John Burris; Representative Stephanie Malone; Representative Walls McCrary; Representative David Meeks; Representative Mary Slinkard; Representative Nate Steel; Representative Tommy Wren; and Representative Marshall Wright.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of November 4, 2013 and November 5, 2013, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 11/04/13 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 11/05/13 Minutes

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

The Honorable Joyce Elliott, State Senator, District 31, was recognized. Senator Elliott commented that the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures) Fall Forum was an extremely good meeting. She said it included a discussion of priority issues with members of Arkansas's congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, informative sessions on choice and on workforce and the arts, and the results of the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) exams.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- testing students nationally vs. internationally,
- addressing special needs populations in testing,
- methods used by countries that are doing extremely well, and
- amount spent per student.

At Senator Johnny Key's request, Senator Elliott announced that legislators were invited to attend a press conference at 1:00 p.m., at which reclaiming the promise of public education would be addressed, followed by a brief work session.

Overview of the Imagination Libraries Program

The Honorable Jason Rapert, State Senator, District 35, introduced Dr. Charlotte Green.

Presenter & Synopsis:

Dr. Charlotte Green, Supervisor, Gifted and Advanced Placement, Conway School District, was recognized. Dr. Green discussed a non-profit collaboration between Conway Public Schools and the local Chamber of Commerce set up to invest in professional development, educational materials, and home support initiatives. She said the Imagination Library is one of the home support initiatives, and presented a YouTube video about the Library. In support of the Library's effectiveness, Dr. Green presented Qualls Early Learning Inventory (QELI) assessments of kindergarten students from Des Arc Elementary showing developmental data from before and after implementation of the Imagination Library.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Jackie Dedman, Collaboration Director, Arkansas Head Start – State Collaboration Office

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- larger studies showing the impact of the Imagination Libraries Program,
- population of children aged 0-5 in Arkansas,
- choosing students to target,
- providing support to communities without funding from businesses,
- funding for the program, and
- goals and activities with regard to the Imagination Libraries Program in Arkansas counties.

PowerPoint Presentations:

Lifelong Learners, Inc.
Des Arc Before Imagination Library
Des Arc After Imagination Library

Link to Imagination Library on YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWUAkel2MD0&feature=player_profilepage

Overview of the Bookcase For Every Child Program

The Honorable Jason Rapert, State Senator, District 35, introduced Mr. Jim Davidson.

Presenter & Synopsis:

Mr. Jim Davidson, Chairman, The Conway Bookcase Project Committee, was recognized. Mr. Davidson presented a YouTube video about the Bookcase Project. He furnished a historical perspective about the program and explained the differences between the Imagination Library and the Bookcase For Every Child Program. He said the project works exclusively with children from low-income families through the Head Start program; children are given a bookcase along with a starter set of donated books. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to buy books on special occasions to supplement the library. He discussed various methods used to involve groups and whole communities with support and funding for the project.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ◆ changing the culture of households,

- ◆ schools reflecting the community, and
- ◆ encouraging legislators to recruit local participation in the project.

Link to Bookcase For Every Child Program on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNAg0L5JS8o#t=161>

Senator Key thanked Senator Rapert for requesting that both speakers be on the agenda. He thanked the participants for giving very informative presentations to the Committees.

Update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver and Associated Accountability Results

Presenter & Synopsis:

Mr. John Hoy, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Academic Accountability, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Hoy began with a brief update on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization. He discussed The Student Success Act (H.R.5) passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 19, 2013, and stated that while progress has been made, he didn't think anything would happen soon that would trickle down to impact states. He discussed the two-year waiver of the ESEA statute received by Arkansas, this being the second year. He said the option of a one-year extension of the waiver that is in place, with the possibility of amendments, has been authorized by U.S. Secretary of Education, Mr. Arne Duncan. As far as accountability in the state, Mr. Hoy stated that, based on 2013 assessment results, the following schools have currently been identified: 9 exemplary schools, 138 achieving schools, 793 needs improvement schools, 89 focus schools, and 42 priority schools. He made one cautionary note about the results of the ESEA accountability. He said plans were implemented during the second semester of last year. He stated this will be the first full year of implementation, and we are looking forward to those results, especially in the priority and focus schools.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Tony Wood, Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- extensions requested by other states,
- requesting tweaks within the extension,
- timeline for implementation of guidelines,
- school labeling system to measure performance,
- philosophical conversations and calculations regarding school labeling systems,
- conflicting statements regarding school labeling systems,
- indicators for success in college,
- appropriate indicators to determine a letter grade for school district performance.

Other Handouts:

Common Core Worksheet 110513
The Achievement Gap is Real

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Approved: 01/13/14