

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

**Monday, April 14, 2014**  
**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 Jim Hendren; Senator Uvalde Lindsey; 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 L. Armstrong; Representative Mark Biviano; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Mark Lowery; and Representative Brent Talley.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Stephen Meeks; and Representative Chris Richey.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Senator Jon Woods; Representative Eddie Armstrong; Representative Nate Bell; Representative David Branscum; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Stephanie Malone; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Micah Neal; Representative James Ratliff; Representative Mary Slinkard; Representative Tommy Thompson; Representative Tommy Wren; and Representative Marshall Wright.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of February 3, 2014, February 25, 2014, March 10, 2014, and March 11, 2014, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 02/03/14 Minutes  
Exhibit C2 – 02/25/14 Minutes  
Exhibit C3 – 03/10/14 Minutes  
Exhibit C4 – 03/11/14 Minutes

Reports from Members Who Attended Recent Meetings Concerning Public or Higher Education  
*There were no reports.*

## Discussion of the Robotics Programs at LISA Academy North Little Rock

### Presenter:

**Mr. Fatih Bogrek**, Director, LISA Academy North Little Rock, was recognized. Mr. Bogrek introduced members of the faculty and stated that the presentation would be about the Academy's accomplishments, especially those in robotics.

### Contributors to the Discussion:

**Mr. Cuneyt Akdemir**, LISA Academy West  
**Ms. Heather Paddock**, LISA Academy North  
**Ms. Angela Ward**, LISA Academy North  
**Mr. Ryan Mars**, Student  
**Mr. Ebon Paddock**, Student  
**Mr. Jon Penn**, Student  
**Mr. Zeferin Turtorro**, Student  
**Mr. Rhett Ward**, Student

The students were recognized and provided brief, personal backgrounds. They individually discussed the benefits of the robotics program, including team experiences, skills learned, technical and academic achievements, participation in competitions, and awards received. Their team PowerPoint presentation centered on FIRST Robotics, FIRST Lego League, FIRST Tech Challenge, and the FIRST Robotics Competition. They discussed additional venues including the Arkansas Governor's Quiz Bowl, National History Day, and the International Sustainable World (Energy, Engineering, Environment) Project Olympiad (I-SWEEEP).

Mr. Akdemir noted that LISA Academy is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

**The Honorable Jane English**, State Senator, District 34, and member, Board of Directors, LISA Academy, was recognized, and expressed her delight at the success the students have achieved in robotics competitions.

### Issues Included in the Discussion:

- size, complexity, and control system of robots,
- writing code and programming robots,
- using robots in a manufacturing or an industrial setting: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Robotics Challenge (DRC), TakkTile sensors,
- addressing diversity on robotics teams,
- making scholarships available for students to attend institutions of higher learning within Arkansas,
- providing a broad-based education through programs in robotics,
- establishing partnerships with professionals to host regional competitions.

### Handout:

LISA Academy Robotics PowerPoint, Handout

## Discussion of the Statewide Expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program

### Presenters and Synopses:

**Ms. Jackie Dedman**, Collaboration Director, Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office, and **Ms. Debbie Webb**, Program Director, Child Care Aware of Northcentral Arkansas, White River Planning and Development District, Batesville, Arkansas, were recognized. Ms. Webb introduced Ms. Mary Anne Williams and Mr. Charlie Conklin, members of the Arkansas steering committee. She said today's presentation would be an overview of the Imagination Library Program as it will be implemented. Ms. Dedman, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation,

described early childhood programs in Arkansas, provided statistics on positive early learning experiences, and discussed human brain development and learning skills. Ms. Webb, continuing the PowerPoint presentation, discussed Professor James Heckman's Equation, Invest + Develop + Sustain = Gain, as a call for Arkansas to invest in the value of its people. Her presentation included returns on dollars invested, resources saved and resources produced, cost projections, and benefits gained by having a statewide Imagination Library Program.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Ms. Mary Anne Williams**, State Facilitator, Arkansas Imagination Library

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ✓ importance of the style of interaction between adults and children to learning,
- ✓ absence of a mechanism for a private individual to enroll a child,
- ✓ 501(c)(3) groups and the process for making the program available in a geographic area, and
- ✓ local success of the program in Conway.

Handouts:

Heckman Equation Web Address  
Imagination Library Arkansas Regions  
Imagination Library Brochure  
Imagination Library Presentation Handout  
Imagination Library Statewide Vision

Senator Key announced that there would be a deviation from the agenda, and the Committees would next take up Item H, if there is no objection from the Committees.

Discussion of ACT Preparation Programs

**The Honorable Ann Clemmer**, State Representative, District 23, and Vice Chair of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education, was recognized, and introduced the Edsortium, Incorporated presentation.

Presenters:

**Mr. Victor Haislop**, Co-Founder, Edsortium, Incorporated, **Dr. Charity Smith**, and **Mr. Steve Leake**, were recognized. They discussed the Edsortium preparation program for core high school courses and college entrance exams. Five major components of the program were described: conducting live, in-person seminars at high schools around the state, and starting to prepare for the ACT at the sophomore level; using a DVD program in tandem with classroom learning to teach methods and techniques to raise test scores; using an emailed book on the ACT and the SAT; valuing peer teaching for students, overseen by mentors; and making online, live, interactive instruction available. The presenters believe this program can make a tremendous difference in the college and career readiness of students in Arkansas.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- program drawing out the knowledge that students already have,
- program methods keeping up with changes in tests and teaching methods, and
- training teachers to teach these skills in the classroom.

Handouts:

ACT 2012 Outdoor ACT Prep Camp Score Evaluation  
ACT AR1ACT Proposal  
ACT Fast Facts

ACT Improving College and Career Readiness in Arkansas PowerPoint, Handout  
ACT Manual

Senator Key announced that Item G, Discussion of the Arkansas Department of Education's Report on Grade Inflation, would be passed over and taken up at a future meeting.

Senator Key congratulated **Mr. John Hoy** and **Dr. Megan Witonski** on their acceptance of new positions.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, April 14, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, *ACSIP*

Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, *Joint Education/Adequacy*

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel in Little Rock, *State & Public School Life & Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force*

Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at Mary Mae Jones Elementary School, Bentonville, *Joint Education*

Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room A, MAC Building, *State & Public School Life & Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force*

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Arkadelphia High School in Arkadelphia, *Joint Education*

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.