

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

**Monday, October 5, 2015**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**Cabot Freshman Academy, 18 Spirit Drive**  
**Cabot, Arkansas**

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Blake Johnson; and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Sheilla Lampkin, Vice Chair; Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative Nate Bell; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Mark McElroy; and Representative James Ratliff.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Douglas House; and Representative Stephen Meeks.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of September 14, 2015 and September 15, 2015, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 09/14/2015 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 09/15/2015 Minutes

Remarks by the Chairs

Senator English welcomed members to the Cabot Freshman Academy (Academy), and thanked **Mr. Bill Cypert**, Mayor of Cabot, for his attendance. She said the Committees were pleased to hold this meeting at the Academy in order to understand its vision and to learn about its educational programs.

**The Honorable Bruce Cozart**, State Representative, District 24, and Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Representative Cozart made remarks about taking a preview tour of the facility.

Welcome and Overview of the Cabot School District

Presenters:

**Dr. Tony Thurman**, Superintendent, Cabot School District, was recognized. He welcomed legislators and stated objectives for the day. He made remarks on his pride in the facilities, and on the potential and possibilities the Academy provides for students. He related the importance of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, and taking an approach to make it a specific experience for high school freshmen. He said an overview of the Academy and its uniqueness would be discussed in the next presentation.

**Ms. Tanya Spillane**, Principal, Cabot Freshman Academy, Cabot School District, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Spillane discussed the unique model on which the Academy is based, and provided data on its success after just one year in operation. She commented on what the Academy has to offer, including Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), teacher leadership and results with students, incentives, a Targeted Keystone Program, and other programs.

Dr. Thurman additionally provided information on what happens to students when they leave the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. He explained the options of Cabot High School or the Academic Center of Excellence (ACE) and ACE North, conversion charter schools of the Cabot School District. He detailed the evolution, mission, and program components of ACE, especially for students who struggle.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- \* clarification of data in charts,
- \* total student population of Cabot School District,
- \* level for placement of direct interventions,
- \* approved grade levels for the charter schools,
- \* provisions for students with medical challenges, and
- \* providing flexibility in the curriculum to accommodate a student's career choice.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Welcome Joint Education Committee

Handouts:

Agenda  
Career and Technical Lunch Program Presenters  
Map

Brochures

Cabot High School Internship Program  
"Graduation Starts Here"  
Keystone Program, "What Defines You?"

PowerPoint

Welcome Joint Education Committee

At the request of Representative Cozart, legislators present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Tour of the Cabot Freshman Academy - The legislators split into two groups to tour classrooms and receive briefings on curricula.

The meeting recessed and legislators were transported to Cabot High School where they reconvened for lunch at the Cabot High School Food Court. During lunch, career and technical teachers introduced themselves and provided brief overviews of career and technical offerings at Cabot High School.

Tour of Career and Technical Education Programs at Cabot High School – The legislators visited the following career and technical classes:

- ≈ Agriculture
- ≈ Broadcasting
- ≈ Athletic Training

≈ Sports Medicine Training

The meeting recessed and legislators were transported back to Cabot Freshman Academy.

The meeting reconvened and Dr. Thurman made closing remarks about issues impacting the operations of Cabot School District. His discussion included the following topics: budget, finances, funding, teacher salaries, other salaried positions, cost per student, expansion of elementary schools, and the possibility of starting consortiums to share resources. Dr. Thurman thanked the Committees and guest legislators for holding their meeting at Cabot Freshman Academy.

*Next Scheduled Meeting:*

Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room A, MAC Building, Little Rock

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

*Approved: 11/02/15*