

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

Monday, December 14, 2015
1:30 P.M.
Committee Room A, MAC Building
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Blake Johnson; Senator Bobby J. Pierce; 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 Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon S. Eubanks; Representative Bill Gossage; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Grant Hodges; Representative Greg Leding; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative John W. Walker.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Stephanie Flowers; Senator Missy Irvin; Representative Charles Blake; Representative Andy Davis; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative Lanny Fite; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Micah S. Neal; Representative Sue Scott; Representative Brent Talley; and Representative Marshall Wright.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of November 2, 2015, November 3, 2015, and December 1, 2015, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 11/02/2015 Minutes
Exhibit C2 – 11/03/2015 Minutes
Exhibit C3 – 12/01/2015 Minutes

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

The Honorable Charlotte Vining Douglas, State Representative, District 75, was recognized. Representative Douglas briefly discussed attending a digital learning workshop in Florida, at which she learned the possibilities for digital learning as it relates to education.

Discussion of Process for the Establishment of a Secondary Career Education Center

The Honorable Kim Hammer, State Representative, District 28, was recognized. Representative Hammer stated the presentation today was on behalf of all legislators who represent students living in Saline County. He said the establishment of a CTE (Career and Technical Education) Center in Saline County was the result of seven (7) school districts and their partners coming together. He noted that he, the boards of the various districts, Senator Alan Clark, Senator Jeremy Hutchinson, Representative Andy Davis, Representative Lanny Fite, and Representative Julie Mayberry, have all seen and embraced the idea of this program, which aligns with Senator English's intention in sponsoring the legislation.

Representative Hammer requested permission of the chair to call presenters to the table.

Representative Hammer requested permission of the chair to recognize superintendents in the audience who have students living in Saline County. **Mr. Jeff Collum**, Superintendent, Benton School District, was recognized, and, at the request of Representative Hammer, introduced the superintendents:

Mr. Daniel Henley, Harmony Grove School District
Mr. Matt Donaghy, Bauxite School District
Mr. Tim Holicer, Glen Rose School District
Mr. Brad Sullivan, Director of Curriculum Instruction, Fountain Lake School District,
representing **Mr. Darin Beckwith**, Superintendent, Fountain Lake School District
Mr. Jerrod Williams, Sheridan School District

Mr. Collum continued with opening remarks, and discussed the origination of the program and its mission.

Presenter:

Mr. Theo Pappas, Registered Architect, Associate/Senior Planner, Stantec, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Pappas discussed the Stantec organization and its role in designing for educational communities. His discussion included CTE trends, return on investment, importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) training, and CTE clusters. He commented that investing in CTE is investing in training for the future. He continued with a discussion of *strands*, specialties within a cluster; certification outcomes; marketing/business management; curriculum development with partners in the community; how CTE works for families and communities; and the benefits of having a CTE Center in the State of Arkansas. He presented a case study about the Frisco Independent School District (FISD) in Texas, and commented on various other projects. He said the Saline County CTE Center Feasibility Study would be completed in the next few months. Mr. Pappas concluded by showing a video of the FISD project.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Lamont Cornwell, Executive Director, Saline County Economic Development Corporation, and former State Representative from Saline County
Ms. Angie Dischinger, Assistant Superintendent of CTE and Academic Support Services, Benton School District

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ≡ student transportation to a CTE Center,
- ≡ central or decentralized location,
- ≡ grade level at which a career pathway would begin,
- ≡ logistics of scheduling a CTE course,
- ≡ working with students whose skills fall short,
- ≡ historical perspective and problems pertinent to vocational high schools in Arkansas,
- ≡ unintended consequences on community colleges following the implementation of a CTE Center,
- ≡ creating seamless career pathways for students,
- ≡ Dr. Charles W. Donaldson Scholars Academy for at-risk students,
- ≡ source of funding for the establishment of a CTE Center,

- ≡ having a coherent plan; engaging students in the academic classroom,
- ≡ meeting the challenge of bringing the seven (7) school districts and its partners together to start the conversation and to successfully move forward, and
- ≡ bringing the Stantec consultants to the table.

Senator English made closing comments pertinent to a CTE Center and its benefits for the community. She said the job of legislators is to encourage lots of conversations and to make it less bureaucratic for communities to reach goals.

With permission of the chair, Representative Hammer recognized:

Mr. Jeff Arey, Saline County Judge

Mr. Gary James, Executive Director, Benton Area Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Rae Ann Fields, Executive Director, Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce

Representative Hammer stated that the terms of the current Stantec retainer may have to be revisited because of modifications made necessary to accommodate input of legislators from various areas around the state.

Video:

Frisco Independent School District (FISD) Facility

PowerPoint Presentation and Handout:

Career Technical Education, Stantec

Senator English referenced an article in members' packets on bringing vocational training back to schools.

Handout:

Why We Desperately Need To Bring Back Vocational Training In Schools, Article, Nicholas Wyman, Contributor, Forbes, <http://www.forbes.com/sites#/sites/nicholaswyman/2015/09/01/why-we-desperately-need-to-bring-back-vocational-training-in-schools/>

Update on Trip to Review Career/Technology Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Presenter:

Ms. Kathi Turner, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education, Arkansas Department of Career Education (ADCE), was recognized. Ms. Turner discussed a trip that she and about thirty (30) others took to the Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City. She said the state-of-the-art center was developed in 1979 to promote economic development, provide long-term stability, and to support growth and commitment to quality. She referenced a financing overview of Oklahoma Technology Centers. Ms. Turner concluded by discussing programs of study in career and technical education in Arkansas. She noted there are twenty-five (25) centers in the state, sixteen (16) on a post-secondary campus, and nine (9) on a high school campus. She said Arkansas has a total of 105,000 students being served in career and technical education.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Brian Rogers, Deputy Director, Office of Skills Development, Arkansas Department of Career Education (ADCE)

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ≈ conversations that prompted career center tours,
- ≈ realigning the focus of education to include CTE as a viable option to college,
- ≈ decline of attendance at centers because of the problem of transportation,
- ≈ changes to programs and adding new programs at CTE Centers,
- ≈ night classes for adults at centers, and
- ≈ moving community college programs to CTE Centers.

Handout:

Oklahoma Technology Center Financing Overview

Discussion of The College Initiative (TCI)

Presenter:

Mr. Jackson Sprayberry, Development and Partnerships Officer, The College Initiative, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Sprayberry discussed the work of The College Initiative in southeast Arkansas. He said the mission of the initiative is to provide college-capable high school students, primarily in Title 1 schools, with the tools and mentorship to successfully apply to and succeed in college. Mr. Sprayberry presented data supporting reasons for the initiative, and described the program model, the benefits provided, and locations where the initiative is active.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Ms. Sarah Heying, Program Associate, The College Initiative

Mr. Kevin Nowlin, Marketing and Communications Officer, The College Initiative

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- gaining school participation in the initiative,
- annual cost of the program,
- meaning of *partnering with the schools* for the student,
- meaning of *college capable*,
- the necessity of both CTE programs and higher education,
- supporting a process of providing information regarding postsecondary educational opportunities to underprivileged children, and
- differences between the work of the initiative and that of high school guidance counselors.

PowerPoint Presentation:

The College Initiative

Handout:

The College Initiative

Discussion of Issues Related to National Board Certified Teachers

Presenters:

Dr. Clara Carroll, Associate Dean, Cannon-Clary College of Education, and Professor of Education, Harding University, and **Dr. Jamie Burris**, Instructional Supervisor, Dardanelle School District, were recognized. Dr. Carroll, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, discussed National Board Certification and its mission, its establishment, the pipeline to accomplished teaching and board certification, the impact of national board-certified teachers (NBCTs) on student achievement, the benefits of having NBCTs in Arkansas, and the necessity of legislative support for board certification. She said there are currently 2,869 NBCTs in Arkansas. Dr. Burris

presented data from a research study of Arkansas NBCTs, which included survey questions pertinent to professional development, teacher quality, and increased leadership opportunities.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- data supporting that great teachers who applied for board certification became better teachers, and
- getting mediocre teachers into the program.

PowerPoint Presentation:

National Board Certification

Handouts:

National Board Certification

The Proven Impact of Board-Certified Teachers on Student Achievement

Today's Board Certification for Teachers, Brochure, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Adoption of Interim Study Proposal 2015-158 by Representative Kim Hendren, AN ACT TO REGULATE THE USE OF A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO ESTABLISH A SECURE, DESIGNATED AREA WITHIN A SCHOOL WHERE A STUDENT WILL DEPOSIT HIS OR HER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Relevant Action:

The Honorable Mark McElroy, State Representative, District 11, was recognized, and made a motion to adopt the ISP. The motion was seconded by Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas.

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

Exhibit:

Exhibit I – Interim Study Proposal 2015-158

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Approved: 01/11/2016