

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

Monday, March 14, 2016
1:30 P.M.
Committee Room A, MAC Building
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate 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 Blake Johnson; and Senator Bobby J. Pierce.

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 Eubanks; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Bill Gossage; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative John W. Walker.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Mary Bentley; Representative David L. Branscum; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative David Fielding; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Julie Mayberry; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Micah Neal; Representative Milton Nicks, Jr.; Representative Mathew Pitsch; Representative Sue Scott; and Representative Brent Talley.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of February 8, 2016, February 9, 2016, and February 24, 2016, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 02/08/16 Minutes
Exhibit C2 – 2/09/16 Minutes
Exhibit C3 – 02/24/16 Minutes

Senator English introduced Mr. Brad Montgomery, the new director of the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

Mr. Brad Montgomery, Director, Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, was recognized, and briefly described his twenty-six-year background in public education and facilities management.

Discussion of the Report of the School Health Services Advisory Committee

Presenter:

Ms. Paula Smith, RNP, MNsc, State School Nurse Consultant, Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Department of Health, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated that Act 414, passed in the 2013 Regular Session, created the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee. She said one of the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee was the completion of a School Nurse Survey by school nurses in all public and charter schools. She stated that Act 935, passed in the 2015 Regular Session, allowed the work of the committee to continue and additional data to be collected. She noted the data is reported electronically at the end of each school year. Ms. Smith provided members with a folder of information individual to their districts. She said that student privacy under federal and state laws was respected in the data provided. In a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Smith delivered a snapshot of survey data from SY2013-2014 and SY2014-2015. She discussed graphs for: Most Common Allergy Diagnoses, Rescue Medications, Most Frequent Emergencies Requiring 911 or MD/Dentist, Most Common Procedures, Medications Administered, Other Health Care Issues, Meetings, Faculty/Staff Needs, School Nurse Coverage, School Nurse Office Needs, and School Nurse Salaries.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- increase or decrease in the state budget for nursing services in schools in the last two years,
- source(s) and uniformity of funding for nursing services,
- correlating the amount of funds provided to schools for healthcare services with the amount of services provided,
- average work schedule for school nurses,
- notifying those school districts with non-compliance regarding LPNs and RNs, and learning what is being done to resolve the issue,
- keeping up with the expiration date on stocks of the EpiPen® (epinephrine injection),
- rolling out guidelines for epinephrine,
- persons charged with administering medications in schools,
- emergencies requiring a call to 911,
- educational impact of nurses on campus, and
- breakdown of the number of school nurses in each individual school district within a county.

PowerPoint Presentation and Handout:

School Nurse Survey Results, School Years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015

Presenter:

Mr. Cory Biggs, Attorney, Arkansas Department of Education, and a member of the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee, was recognized. Mr. Biggs followed Ms. Smith's presentation with a discussion of data from the Arkansas Public School Computer Network (APSCN). He discussed SY2014-15 Nurse Salaries and SY2014-15 Total Nursing Expenditures. He stated a total of just under \$39 million for school health service expenditures for SY2014-15 was coded into APSCN in October 2014. He said the total included salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies, and equipment. Mr. Biggs also discussed sources of funding to support nursing.

PowerPoint Presentation and Handout:

2015-2015 Nursing Expenditures

Update on the Reauthorization of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

Presenter:

Mr. Isaac Linam, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Mr. Linam stated he would present his summary of Public Law 114-95, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as enacted by the U.S. Congress. He said that ESSA is the latest reauthorization of ESEA, the nation's national education law enacted in 1965; the previous reauthorized version of ESEA was the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. Mr. Linam

commented that once federal regulations implementing ESSA are written, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) will promulgate the regulatory changes it needs to make. He stated the four-year reauthorization, which covers FY2017-2020, was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015. He noted existing state plans and waivers will terminate August 1, 2016, and new state plans under the new reauthorization will be in effect beginning with SY2017-2018. He said the next school year, SY2016-2017, will be a transition year. Mr. Linam first clarified terminology used in his summary, and then presented general information. He next walked members through the PowerPoint presentation. His discussion included: Academic Standards, Assessments, Statewide Accountability System, School Support and Improvement Activities, Report Cards, Funding Federal Influence, Miscellaneous Provisions, and Charter Schools.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- fundamental statute pertinent to discrimination on the basis of race has not changed because of changes made to ESEA,
- state plan for the transition from NCLB to full implementation of ESSA by August 2017,
- clarification of “may include a review of school district and school-level funding” as required in the state’s plan,
- using percentages instead of raw scores to target support and improvement in schools,
- state waiver under ESEA flexibility as applied to federal accountability,
- equal resources on a per-pupil basis, and schools and students with the greatest needs having their needs prioritized, and
- clarification of school districts in improvement determining the amount of their resources.

PowerPoint Presentation and Handout:

Summary of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Discussion of Certified Teacher Assistant Career Opportunity for Students, a Joint Initiative of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, the Arkansas Department of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Ms. Ivy Pfeffer, Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness, and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. In a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Pfeffer discussed the joint initiative underway with the Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to develop a career pathway to the educator workforce. She said the strategy meets the goal of the Arkansas Department of Education’s (ADE’s) equitable access plan to ensure every child is surrounded by a team of excellent educators, and to support the ongoing work of those educators. She described the five pathway steps: 1) High School Career/Education Training; 2) Industry Certification/ParaPro Assessment; 3) Employed as a Certified Teacher Assistant (CTA); 4) Enroll in an Educator Preparation Program; and 5) Earn a Standard Educator License. In her presentation, Ms. Pfeffer included a discussion of Demographics, two (2) Pathways for High School Career Education, ParaPro Assessment, School Considerations, and Current School Readiness/Interest. She noted this year there are nine (9) Current Teacher Cadet Schools and twenty (20) Schools Planning to offer Teacher Cadet in SY2016-17.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ≈ initiative as an asset to having future teachers in Arkansas,
- ≈ necessity of having respect for the teaching profession,
- ≈ core courses for the career pathway,
- ≈ initiative is a pathway, not a program, and does not require a budget,
- ≈ building interest in the teaching profession,

- ≈ incentivizing the teaching profession, and
- ≈ helping “home-grown” students with an investment in their community.

PowerPoint Presentation and Handout:
Career Pathway to the Educator Workforce

Receipt of Annual Report Regarding Progress in Implementing Nutrition and Physical Education Standards and Review of Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools

Presenter:

Mr. Cory Biggs, Attorney, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Mr. Biggs stated this is a required annual report on the progress of implementing rules governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards. He said the rules had been initially approved for public comment by the State Board of Education (State Board) on December 10, 2015. Following the recent conclusion of a second round of extensive public comment, the rules are set to go before the State Board for final approval on April 14, 2016.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- recess as a component of physical activity requirements, and
- use of funds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for a school backpack program.

Relevant Action:

The Honorable James Ratliff, State Representative, District 60, was recognized, and made a motion to review the approved Rule. The motion was seconded by Representative Gary Deffenbaugh.

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

Exhibits:

Exhibit H1 – A.C.A. 20-7-133 through A.C.A. 20-7-135

Exhibit H2 – Progress in Implementing Nutrition & Physical Education Standards, March 2016

Exhibit H3 – Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Approved: 04/12/16