

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

ADEQUACY

Monday, October 10, 2016
1:30 P.M.
Room 171, State Capitol
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; and Senator Alan Clark.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Nate Bell; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Justin Harris; Representative Grant Hodges; Representative Greg Leding; 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: Senator Joyce Elliott; Representative Karilyn Brown; Representative Andy Davis; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative David Fielding; Representative Julie Mayberry; and Representative Stephen Meeks.

Action Sheet:

Without objection, the Action Sheet of October 3, 2016, was approved as written.

Exhibit:

Exhibit C – 10/03/16 Action Sheet

Discussion of Learning Blade, a Supplemental Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education Curriculum

Former U.S. Congressman Zach Wamp, Chair, Advisory Board, Learning Blade, was recognized. Mr. Wamp stated he has been promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in order for the country to become more competitive, and for wages and the potential for young people to be lifted. He noted that, following a presentation on Learning Blade to the Committees on August 10, 2015, Learning Blade was deployed on a pilot basis in Arkansas for the second half of the 2015-2016 School Year. He said the results have been overwhelmingly positive, and that the program continues for the 2016-2017 School Year for all of the middle schools in the state. Mr. Wamp introduced the curriculum developers who put Learning Blade in motion across the country and in Arkansas.

Presenter:

Ms. Sheila Boyington, President and Chief Executive Officer, Thinking Media, was recognized. Ms. Boyington stated the demand for STEM jobs is growing, and STEM career awareness matters. She said Learning Blade was created as a supplemental tool to bring about career awareness. She described it as an online, supplemental, game-based curriculum for STEM education targeting middle school, and specifically focused on women and minorities. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, she continued with a discussion of specifics pertinent to the Learning Blade curriculum.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Dr. Dane Boyington, Chief Technical Officer, Thinking Media
Mr. Ray Henson, Representative, Arkansas Learning Blade

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ∴ building student data from Learning Blade,
- ∴ increase in proficiency rates at schools participating in Learning Blade,
- ∴ data reflecting outcomes of minority students in the program,
- ∴ process for a school to get engaged in Learning Blade, and
- ∴ starting point of training.

PowerPoint Presentation:

LearningBlade®, Impacting the Next Generation in STEM

Handouts:

LearningBlade®, Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APRSC)
LearningBlade®, Arkansas Statewide Updates
LearningBlade®, Business Cards
LearningBlade®, Help Students See Their Future
LearningBlade®, Mission Outline Diagrams
LearningBlade®, STEM Game Changer
LearningBlade®, What is Learning Blade?

Discussion of Draft Adequacy Report and Related Issues

Representative Cozart announced that he had been advised that the definition of Adequacy (10/03/2016 – DRAFT 1), voted on and passed in the meeting of Monday, October 3, 2016, was problematic. He presented a revised version of the Adequacy definition (10/10/2016 – DRAFT 2) [See Attachment A], detailing the changes with stricken and underlined language. He stated that in order to change the definition, however, the vote taken last Monday would have to be expunged, and a motion made to adopt the new definition. He said this would be the only motion taken up today.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the new definition.

The Honorable Michael John Gray, State Representative, District 47, was recognized. Representative Gray inquired whether, with language about career-ready in the definition, the Committees would be adding workforce education as part of adequacy, or creating a new category that falls under the umbrella of adequacy.

Mr. Isaac Linam, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Mr. Linam stated the Adequacy definition is the Committees' gauge to determine what adequacy is; and so, as Committees, you look at this definition, and then, based on that, you fund the Matrix in order to accomplish those goals. He said, in that sense, it is persuasive authority as to what the Committees believe adequacy is.

Representative Cozart supplemented Mr. Linam's response by reading an excerpt from the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation.

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized, and provided clarification to the discussion. He said what the Committees are doing here is simply reaffirming a component that is already in the Standards. He said the 38 Carnegie units include components of career and technical education which are offerings that are to be provided at every high school. He said he interprets "career readiness skills" to mean multiple pathways. He said, whereas the previous Adequacy definition language could be interpreted as requiring a certain level of educational attainment, this simply provides opportunities, and that is what *Lake View* said: you have to provide equal opportunities, not outcomes. That shift today is more representative of that opportunity-based direction.

Relevant Actions:

The Honorable Michael John Gray, State Representative, District 47, was recognized, and made a motion to expunge the vote taken on the topic, Definition of Adequacy, at the meeting of Monday, October 3, 2016. The motion was seconded by Representative Mark Lowery.

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

The Honorable Greg Leding, State Representative, District 86, was recognized, and made a motion to adopt the new definition of adequacy. The motion was seconded by Representative Mark Lowery.

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

Representative Gray was recognized, and requested that the "expunge" process be explained.

Mr. Finos "Buddy" Johnson, Parliamentarian, Arkansas House of Representatives, was recognized. Mr. Johnson stated that his understanding of the rules of the House of Representatives would be that to expunge the vote on that particular component in this process would require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the House Education Committee. The membership of the House Education Committee is twenty (20), even though there are two (2) vacant seats, the membership is still twenty (20). And, if the Speaker is a member of the Committee, the rules specifically state that the membership is twenty (20) if the Speaker is present. If the Speaker is absent, the Committee membership is determined to be nineteen (19). Therefore, there would be a one (1) vote difference on what constitutes two-thirds (2/3) of the Committee's membership, fourteen (14) if the Speaker is present or thirteen (13) if the Speaker is absent. Mr. Johnson stated that he couldn't speak to the process required under the rules of the Senate.

Handouts:

10/10/16 Adequacy Definition, DRAFT 2

10/10/16 Adequacy Worksheet

DRAFT Report on the Legislative Hearings for the 2016 Educational Adequacy Study

Mr. Cozart stated the Committees would move on to a discussion of Adequacy issues.

Presenter:

Mr. Brad Montgomery, Director, Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, (DPSAFT) was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Montgomery discussed the Partnership Program, which is partially based in the academic facilities Master Planning process. He stated the Master Planning process is required by statute and gives the Division a way to anticipate, to manage, and to supervise activities of school districts throughout the state to renovate and build new facilities and to bring the existing facilities up to standard. He said the Master Plan is a six-year planning process required of each school district, and is due February 1 of the even year with updates due February 1 of the odd year. He said the Division must

approve Master Plans by September 1 of the even year. Mr. Montgomery set forth the purpose and content of Master Plans. Mr. Montgomery next discussed the Partnership Program. He said the Partnership Program is also based in statute and allows the Division to manage the financial participation of the state for various construction projects necessary to renovate, update, and improve the facilities of local districts. His discussion included 2017-2019 Partnership Program Timelines, Academic Facilities Wealth Index, Partnership Program Funding Prioritization Process, 2017-2019 Partnership Program Preliminary Project Information, Partnership Program Project Applications, Percentage of Project Disapprovals, Summary of Project Disapprovals, various aspects of Partnership Program Funding, and High Growth School Districts.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- “high-growth” school districts,
- qualifications of Jacksonville for funds required by law for new construction,
- clarification of amount of new funding needed, approximately \$116 million,
- high-growth attribution to school choice,
- effect of losing students and gaining students on a school district’s wealth,
- inequity of millages among school districts and inequity in Partnership funding, and
- development of the academic facilities wealth index formula.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, Presentation

Handout:

Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, Presentation

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, October 24, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock

Monday, October 31, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Approved: 10/24/2016

Attachment A:

10/10/2016 – DRAFT 2

Definition of "adequacy"

1. The standards included in the state's curriculum frameworks, which define what all Arkansas students are to be taught, including specific grade level curriculum, a mandatory thirty-eight (38) Carnegie units defined by the Arkansas Standards of Accreditation to be taught at the high school level, and opportunities for students develop career readiness skills;
2. The standards included in the state's testing system. The goal is to have all, or all but the most severely disabled, students perform at or above proficiency on these tests; and
3. Sufficient funding to provide adequate resources as identified by the General Assembly.