

MINUTES

JOINT ADEQUACY EVALUATION OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Room 171, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bill Abernathy, the House Co-Chair of the Joint Adequacy Evaluation Oversight Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT ADEQUACY EVALUATION OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Steve Bryles, Senate Co-Chair; Representative Bill Abernathy, House Co-Chair; Senator Jimmy Jeffress, Senate Vice-Chair; Senator Shane Broadway; Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Kim Hendren; Senator Gene Jeffress; Senator Mary Anne Salmon; Representative Monty Betts; Representative Toni Bradford; Representative Les Carnine; and Representative David Rainey.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Michael Lamoureux; Senator Randy Laverty; Senator Jim Luker; Senator David Wyatt; Representative Fred Allen; Representative Tommy Lee Baker; Representative Jonathan Barnett; Representative Nancy Blount; Representative Jerry Brown; Representative Richard Carroll; Representative Eddie Cooper; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Monty Davenport; Representative Jody Dickenson; Representative David Dunn; Representative Curren Everett; Representative Billy Gaskill; Representative Nathan George; Representative Willie Hardy; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Donna Hutchinson; Representative Ray Kidd; Representative Buddy Lovell; Representative Barbara Nix; Representative George Overbey; Representative Mark Perry; Representative Roy Ragland; Representative R. Gregg Reep; Representative Johnnie Roebuck; Representative J.R. Rogers; Representative Garry Smith; Representative Randy Stewart; Representative Linda Tyler; Representative John Wells; and Representative Jon Woods.

Without objection, the minutes of December 14, 2009, were approved as written.

Continued Discussion of Issues Related to Programs Designed to Enhance the Academic Performance of Schools and School Districts

Representative Abernathy furnished a brief history of the issues of Scholastic Audit as discussed in previous meetings. He said that the issue of "intervention after a school's plan has been approved" has been reached for current discussion.

Dr. Alice Barnes Rose, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), was recognized.

Dr. Rose began a comprehensive slide show presentation, "Support for Arkansas Schools in School Improvement," with information that addressed Subcommittee members' concerns about the process that the ADE uses for school improvement and the supports given to schools while moving throughout that process.

Dr. Rose said that the goal of school improvement is to have all students reach proficient levels in math and literacy. The ADE wants to be sure they are achieving; and the key to that is offering support to schools. The ADE provides school support through its Smart Accountability system, a differentiated accountability model, that was approved by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) last year. This is the first year the ADE has used this model that includes the following components: the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP), Scholastic Audit, State Specialty Teams, and Professional Development to help struggling schools improve academic achievement.

Dr. Rose provided an in-depth review of each provision of the model, and summarized the content in related documents that had been provided to the Subcommittee:

- 1) An overview of Smart Accountability state technical assistance given at each of the different levels of corrective action,
- 2) Another way of looking at technical assistance that the ADE offers to schools, and
- 3) A synopsis of the Smart Accountability plan.

Representative Abernathy suggested that questions be held until after all presentations had been completed.

Ms. Denise T. Airola, Director, Training and Development, National Office for Research on Measurement and Evaluation Systems (NORMES), Curriculum and Instruction, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, was recognized. Ms. Airola began by saying that the data she would be presenting had its foundations in the information required to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Ms. Airola said that AYP involves several elements that are related to school performance, but the ultimate goal of AYP is that 100% of students will be proficient in both math and literacy by 2014, based on the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

Ms. Airola continued with a comprehensive, detailed PowerPoint presentation of the AYP process, giving handouts to the Subcommittee. Her presentation covered:

- o Meeting annual targets of performance or improvement
- o Meeting AYP versus failing to meet AYP
- o Steps in AYP calculations
- o Percentage of students proficient/advanced calculations
- o Meeting the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)
- o Descriptive statistics from the big picture to school by school detail
- o Details of schools participating in Scholastic Audit, America's Choice, and Arkansas Leadership Academy Support Schools
- o Inferences drawn from descriptive data
- o Intentional Program Evaluation
- o Design of an Intentional Program Evaluation
- o An example of Implementation Evaluation and Outcomes Evaluation from the Arkansas Reading First program

Representative Abernathy thanked Ms. Airola for her encouraging report.

A question and answer session followed. **Mr. Bill Goff**, Assistant Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services, Arkansas Department of Education, **Dr. Diana Julian**, Deputy Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, and **Ms. Estelle Matthis**, Director, Education Renewal Zones/Scholastic Audit, Arkansas Department of Education, were recognized, and joined Dr. Rose and Ms. Airola to answer questions.

Dr. Julian responded to a question regarding what is going to happen in 2014 if the goals of NCLB have not been reached. She stated that the pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which serves as the basis of the current federal NCLB legislation, is expected to address these issues. Dr. Julian discussed the weakness of the current NCLB statute, which does not recognize schools and students for the improvement they've made. In analyzing data, Dr. Julian said, there are a lot of schools that have made tremendous gains, but since they started so low, they still haven't quite met the performance "goal." Dr. Julian said she has asked Dr. Charity Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Academic Accountability, ADE, to get a group together to identify those schools that are beating the odds and making tremendous gains; and, using a systemic approach, analyze what is happening in those schools and evaluate what strategies and methodologies they are using. Dr. Julian said the research would be submitted to the Subcommittee when it becomes available.

The session included discussions of additional issues related to:

- The determination of program effectiveness, program process, and consequences
- The expenditure of poverty (NSLA) money and its application to special needs students; and the use of data by the ADE to evaluate associated best practices
- The sequencing of the Scholastic Audit Program as part of the state's accountability system
- Supplemental service providers and programs required by NCLB
- The effectiveness and accountability of contracted service providers

Representative Abernathy thanked the ADE staff, and commented that the real issue of this study is to determine if the programs and supplemental services are effective. He said the Subcommittee will need reports from the ADE on the progress being made.

Representative Abernathy thanked the Subcommittee and said that this had been a good discussion about education. He announced that the next scheduled meeting will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2010, in Room 151 of the State Capitol. Mr. Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, will be the presenter on national standards.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.