

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

**Monday, January 13, 2014**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room 171, State Capitol**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative Ann Clemmer, the Vice 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 Johnny Key, Chair; and Senator Eddie Cheatham.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Ann Clemmer, Vice Chair; Representative Mark Biviano; Representative Les Carnine; Representative John Catlett; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Mark Lowery; and Representative James Ratliff.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Harold Copenhaver; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Chris Richey; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Senator Michael Lamoureux; Senator Bobby Pierce; Senator Bill Sample; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Duncan Baird; Representative Nate Bell; Representative John Burris; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative John Hutchison; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Walls McCrary; Representative Sue Scott; Representative Mary Slinkard; Representative Nate Steel; Representative Wes Wagner; Representative Butch Wilkins; and Representative Tommy Wren.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of November 20, 2013, December 16, 2013, and December 17, 2013, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 11/20/13 Minutes  
Exhibit C2 – 12/16/13 Minutes  
Exhibit C3 – 12/17/13 Minutes

Update on *High Schools That Work* and Other Programs Offered by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. Gene Bottoms**, Senior Vice President, Southern Regional Education Board, was recognized. Mr. Bottoms explained *Advanced Career*, an initiative of the SREB and a consortium of states that includes Arkansas, which creates career pathway programs of study and prepares high school students for careers and meaningful credentials or postsecondary certificates or degrees. He said that Arkansas has identified *Innovations in Science*

*and Technology* as an emerging career area on which to focus curriculum development because 20% of future jobs will have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) base. He shared facts in a PowerPoint presentation, "College or Career Ready or Both College and Career Ready." Using slides that included graphs, Mr. Bottoms discussed the declining access to opportunities by young men in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, reasons for the declining access, and what should be done about it.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- Common Core State Standards adequately preparing students to problem-solve,
- administrative structure of Career Technical Education (CTE) services in states where effective work is being done in this area,
- age or grade level that is a good evaluation point to determine which track to follow,
- keeping bias out of endorsements,
- the perception of career education working against its equal standing with college preparation,
- career academy model approach,
- employment rates for various credentials and certifications,
- two-thirds of Arkansans *must* earn some kind of credential in the future,
- decline of United States in mathematics rankings since 1950,
- number of days students go to school in the United States compared with other countries,
- using the summer for enrichment learning,
- encouraging a work ethic in students,
- necessity of building a bridge between education and outside opportunities, and
- necessity of having a goal as a motivating factor.

PowerPoint Presentation:

College or Career Ready or Both College and Career Ready

Handouts:

High Schools That Work and Making Middle Grades Work, Folder  
The Next Generation of School Accountability

Representative Clemmer announced that there would be a deviation from the agenda and the Committees would next take up Item F.

Initial Discussion of Interim Study Proposal 2013-160 by Representative Hutchison, REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION THIS PROPOSAL TO PERFORM AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SERVE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K-12)

Presenter & Synopsis:

**The Honorable John Hutchison**, State Representative, District 52, was recognized. Representative Hutchison stated that he was very encouraged by today's discussion and the meetings that have taken place regarding his interim study proposal. He stated his belief that representatives from industry must come to the table and discuss their workforce needs. He said partnerships with industry and agriculture are important for the future of Arkansas.

Exhibit:

Interim Study Proposal 2013-160

## Update on the Activities of KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) Delta Public Schools

### Presenter & Synopsis:

**Mr. Scott Shirey**, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools, was recognized. Mr. Shirey gave a PowerPoint presentation and began with a brief history and background of KIPP. He said there are 141 KIPP schools around the country, including those in the Helena and Blytheville areas, which serve 50,000 students. He said all KIPP schools are bound by five (5) pillars: 1) High Expectations, 2) Choice & Commitment, 3) More Time, 4) Power to Lead, and 5) Focus on Results. Mr. Shirey noted the demographics of KIPP Delta and explained that the mission of KIPP Delta is to create and support schools that empower students from underserved communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits necessary to pursue a college education and a life of value, joy, and integrity. Mr. Shirey discussed achievements and highlights, and described the growth of KIPP Delta from 2002 – 2013. He concluded with a discussion of funding and facility disparities, and stated that help is needed with facility funding.

### Issues Included in the Discussion:

- having funding through the Facilities Partnership Program available to charter schools,
- the effect of paying back long-term debt for facilities on KIPP Delta's finances,
- finding creative and effective ways to spend federal funds,
- average salary of KIPP Delta teachers vs. that of state teachers,
- average funding per student,
- KIPP Delta doing more with less and achieving success,
- student drop-out rate,
- migration of students; tracking of students,
- competition from Helena-West Helena School District,
- collaboration between charter schools and traditional schools,
- "laboratories of innovation" as one of six components of the charter school law since 1999,
- "cherry picking" the students,
- key waivers,
- achieving success by creating a climate of academic excellence and a college-going culture,
- the *Algebra Project*, a foundation devoted to improving minority education in math
- percentage of students who have graduated high school, the percentage starting college,
- unused or underutilized school buildings in Helena-West Helena and Blytheville school districts,
- percentage of students going to college who have to be remediated,
- Arkansas Teacher Corps (ATC),
- teacher contract days,
- the KIPP foundation,
- KIPP Delta potentially becoming the predominant school district in the Helena/West Helena community,
- policy on social promotion,
- aligning the curriculum with the Common Core State Standards, and
- receiving a grant from the Gates Foundation.

### PowerPoint Presentation:

KIPP Delta Public Schools, Twelve Years of Perspective

### Handout:

KIPP Delta Public Schools, Twelve Years of Perspective

Discussion of Issues Related to Student Achievement Statistics

Presenter & Synopsis:

**Ms. Rebeca Whorton**, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Whorton presented a report about the progress made by Arkansas's public schools over the last several years, as measured by student assessment results, graduation rates, and other education statistics. Utilizing graphs, she discussed the Arkansas Benchmark Exams, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Scores, College Entrance Exam Scores, Graduation Rate, College-Going Rate, Remediation Rate, *Quality Counts* Ranking, and ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Flexibility. In her conclusion, Ms. Whorton stated that while student achievement in Arkansas has significantly improved in many areas, there are still certain areas that need improvement.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Dr. Megan Witonski**, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ∴ current grade given to Arkansas, and components of the grade given to the teaching profession,
- ∴ reasons for or causes of low scores in science on Benchmark exams,
- ∴ getting and retaining science teachers,
- ∴ flexibility in certification of teachers to attract those who want to teach science,
- ∴ drawing conclusions about effectiveness of reforms since implementing the provisions of Lakeview, and
- ∴ data with which to better compare percentages of graduates in Arkansas taking the ACT with those nationally.

Exhibit:

Student Achievement Statistics

Handout:

2014 Quality Counts Report - Arkansas

**Dr. Tom Kimbrell**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Kimbrell announced that U.S. District Judge Price Marshall had ruled in favor of the proposed settlement agreement that would end desegregation payments made by the State of Arkansas to three school districts in Pulaski County. He commented that the change in leadership in the Little Rock and North Little Rock school districts and the Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) under Dr. Jerry Guess was instrumental in bringing everyone to the table to reach a compromise. Dr. Kimbrell said he is really pleased with the Judge Marshall's acceptance of the settlement agreement.

Additional Handout:

2013 Annual Report, Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, February 3, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock  
Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Approved: 02/03/14