

MEETING ACTIONS

JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

ADEQUACY

Monday, October 27, 2014

10:00 A.M.

Room 171, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Joyce Elliott, the Vice Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Jim Hendren; Senator Bruce Holland; Senator Uvalde Lindsey; and Senator Jason Rapert.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Mark Lowery; and Representative James Ratliff.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Randy Alexander; and Representative Stephen Meeks.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jane English; Senator Stephanie Flowers; Senator Jeremy Hutchinson; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Denny Altes; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative David Hillman; Representative John Hutchison; Representative Micah Neal; and Representative Sue Scott.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of October 1, 2014, and October 14, 2014, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 10/01/14 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 10/14/14 Minutes

Remarks by the Co-Chairs

Senator Elliott requested that Committee members review all commentary provided by stakeholders to inform any decisions made today. She said the Committees are charged today with looking at all remaining issues related to Adequacy so that the Committees can finalize the 2014 Adequacy Report.

Continued Discussion of Fiscal Issues Related to the 2014 Adequacy Report

Discussion:

Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education engaged in a discussion of procedures and analyzed recommendations prior to voting on each topic addressed in the Adequacy Study.

Contributors to Today's Discussion:

- Mr. Mark Hudson**, Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research
Mr. Scott Richardson, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research
Mr. Richard Wilson, Assistant Director, Research Services, Bureau of Legislative Research
Mr. Tony Wood, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Relevant Actions

SCHOOL-LEVEL PERSONNEL:

Topic	Recommendation	Funding Level
Classroom Teachers	No change to the staffing number. Salary amount to increase to \$63,663 in FY16 and \$64,196 in FY17.	FY16: \$3,175.51 FY17: \$3,202.10
Special Education Teachers	No change to the staffing number. Salary amount to increase to \$63,663 in FY16 and \$64,196 in FY17.	FY16: \$369.25 FY17: \$372.34
Instructional Facilitators	No change to the staffing number. Salary amount to increase to \$63,663 in FY16 and \$64,196 in FY17.	FY16: \$318.32 FY17: \$320.98
Librarian/Media Specialist	Increase the staffing number to .85 per 500 students. Salary amount to increase to \$63,663 in FY16 and \$64,196 in FY17.	FY16: \$108.23 FY17: \$109.13
Guidance Counselor/Nurse	No change to the staffing number. Salary amount to increase to \$63,663 in FY16 and \$64,196 in FY17.	FY16: \$318.32 FY17: \$320.98
Principal	No change to the staffing number or the salary amount.	FY16: \$198.10 FY17: \$198.10
Secretary	No change to the staffing number or the salary amount.	FY16: \$80.10 FY17: \$80.10

Minimum Teacher Salary Schedule

Teacher Salaries	<p>Amend Arkansas Code § 6-17-2403 to adopt a new minimum teacher salary schedule. The new salary schedule will increase in equal increments over the biennium to end with a minimum salary of \$31,000. In the first year, the minimum salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree will be set at \$30,122, and the minimum salary for a teacher with a master's degree will be set at \$34,640. With each year of experience, a teacher with a bachelor's degree will receive \$450 in additional salary, and a teacher with a master's degree will receive \$500.</p> <p>In the second year, the minimum salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree will be set at \$31,000, and the minimum salary for a teacher with a master's degree will be set at \$35,650. With each year of experience, a teacher with a bachelor's degree will receive \$450 in additional salary and a teacher with a master's degree will receive \$500. The table below provides the minimum salary required for each step of the schedule for each year of the biennium.</p>
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Years of Experience	2015-16		2016-2017	
	BA	MA	BA	MA
0	\$30,122	\$34,640	\$31,000	\$35,650
1	\$30,572	\$35,140	\$31,450	\$36,150
2	\$31,022	\$35,640	\$31,900	\$36,650
3	\$31,472	\$36,140	\$32,350	\$37,150
4	\$31,922	\$36,640	\$32,800	\$37,650
5	\$32,372	\$37,140	\$33,250	\$38,150
6	\$32,822	\$37,640	\$33,700	\$38,650
7	\$33,272	\$38,140	\$34,150	\$39,150
8	\$33,722	\$38,640	\$34,600	\$39,650
9	\$34,172	\$39,140	\$35,050	\$40,150
10	\$34,622	\$39,640	\$35,500	\$40,650
11	\$35,072	\$40,140	\$35,950	\$41,150
12	\$35,522	\$40,640	\$36,400	\$41,650
13	\$35,972	\$41,140	\$36,850	\$42,150
14	\$36,422	\$41,640	\$37,300	\$42,650
15	\$36,872	\$42,140	\$37,750	\$43,150

MOTION to recommend the revision of the current minimum teacher salary schedule statute to establish a minimum salary of \$31,000 for a BA with 0 years experience and \$35,650 for a MA with 0 years experience, with step increases of \$450 per step for a bachelor’s degree and \$500 per step for a master’s degree, the same amount as in the current statute. The increase will be phased-in over the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years.

Pursuant to a motion by Senator Uvalde Lindsey, and without objection, the motion was carried.

CATEGORICALS:

National School Lunch (NSLA) Funding	Increase the funding rates by .84% for each year of the next two years and study the NSL funding program during the next biennium.	FY16: <70% NSL: \$522 70% to <90%: \$1,042 >90%: \$1,562 FY17: <70% NSL: \$526 70% to <90%: \$1,051 >90%: \$1,576
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MOTION to increase NSLA Categorical Funding by 0.84% for each year of the biennium

Pursuant to a motion by Representative Les Carnine, and without objection, the motion was carried.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (Facilities):

Partnership Program (Facilities)	<p>The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation has identified \$65 million in unfunded facilities needs for the 2015-17 biennium. The Education Committees recommend providing funding to meet those facilities obligations. The Committees also recognize that districts' facilities needs could exceed \$65 million. In that case, the General Assembly will need to determine the appropriate amount to add.</p> <p>The Education Committees also recommend replacing \$16.3 million that previously supported the Partnership Program. Act 1 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2013 redirected \$16.3 million in facilities funding to the Public School Employee Health Insurance Plan. The Education Committees voted to ensure the Partnership Program's level of funding would be restored, but a funding source was not identified.</p>
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MOTION to provide \$65 million in funding for Facilities from resources to be determined by the General Assembly to ensure that needs are met
Pursuant to a motion by Representative Jon Eubanks, and no action was taken.

MOTION to provide \$65 million for currently identified facilities funding obligations to ensure that these facilities needs are met from a source or sources to be determined, with the understanding that the 90th General Assembly will make the appropriate determination should the facilities funding obligations be in excess of the recommended \$65 million
Pursuant to a motion by Representative Jon Eubanks, and without objection, the motion was carried.

MOTION to restore the \$16.3 million in facilities funding previously transferred to the Employee Benefits Division (EBD) to stabilize public school employee health benefits, leaving the source of the replacement funding for EBD to the discretion of the 90th General Assembly
Pursuant to a motion by Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas, the motion was carried.

Senator Elliott said actions taken today would be added to those taken at the last meeting; and the final version of the Adequacy Report will be given to the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem, and the Governor for budgetary considerations. She stated the final Adequacy Report would be filed by close of business on Monday, November 3, 2014.

Handouts:

Matrix FY13-FY15
Matrix Salaries Additional Written Testimony
Matrix Salaries Written Testimony
REVISED Draft Adequacy Report 102714
Salary Worksheet 102814
Teacher Salary Proposal

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, November 17, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.