

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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

**ADEQUACY**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**

**9:00 A.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 9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Vice Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Alan Clark; and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Grant Hodges; Representative Greg Leding; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative John W. Walker.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Scott Flippo; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Dan M. Douglas; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson; Representative David Hillman; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Julie Mayberry; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Micah S. Neal; Representative Betty Overbey; Representative Mathew Pitsch; Representative Sue Scott; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

**The Honorable Eddie Joe Williams**, State Senator, District 29, was recognized. Senator Williams complimented Ms. Deborah J. Frazier, Chancellor, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, and Mr. Roger Rich, Superintendent, Southside School District, as well as students and a former student who related personal histories pertinent to *Project Future Story*, in a presentation at the September 12 meeting. Senator Williams stated it is important to recognize the efforts and the hard work of these young people who have demonstrated that, with a little encouragement, they can go a long way on their educational journey. He said he appreciated Senator English's efforts in getting them here to tell their stories to the Committees.

**The Honorable Jane English**, State Senator, District 34, and Chair, Senate Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Senator English stated the partnership with the whole community was on view at the meeting yesterday.

Report by the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee

**Presenter:**

**Ms. Sandra Prater**, Chair, Public School Health Services Advisory Committee, was recognized. Ms. Prater discussed the statutorily required Annual Report of the Arkansas Public School Health Services Advisory

Committee (PSHSAC). She said the Report informs the General Assembly about health issues of Arkansas public school students and how school nursing services can be improved. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Prater presented an Executive Summary to the Committees. She then walked the Committees through the Report, presenting data exhibited in charts and graphs. She discussed a Brief Summary of PSHSAC Recommendations, Best Practice Recommendations Supported by PSHSAC, PSHSAC Next Steps, Needs of Arkansas Children, Current Status of School Health Services and School Nursing Workforce. She explained Appendices A through J of the Report, which detailed the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee, School Nursing Services based on Student Acuity Level, Delegation and Supervision, Nursing Education and Licensure, Medical Records, Management and Storage of Medications, Facilities for School Health Care, Current Arkansas School Nursing Laws, Attorney General's Opinion No. 2016-028, and a section of the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) Report, *The Resource Allocation of Foundation Funding*, dated May 31, 2016, pertinent to Counselors, Nurses, and Other Pupil Support. Ms. Prater stressed the importance of adequate facilities and adequate funding for school nurses for the safety and health of students.

Contributors to the Discussion:

**Ms. Jerri Clark**, Director, School Health Services, Arkansas Department of Education

**The Honorable Julie Mayberry**, State Representative, District 27, and Parent Representative, Public School Health Services Advisory Committee

**Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research

**Ms. Tracy Starks, RN, BS**, Student Health Resource Officer: Medicaid in the Schools, Coordinated School Health, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- \* Medicaid billing for nursing services,
- \* number of children who receive extraordinary services, and who are on Medicaid,
- \* school districts contracting agreements with agencies to provide nursing services,
- \* school districts having a nurse on staff vs. using outside nursing services,
- \* importance of having a full-time school nurse on campus to provide immediate services to students, including special needs students,
- \* school-based health centers set up on campus to provide medical services,
- \* most common medical issues treated in school-based health centers,
- \* visiting the Pickle Elementary School, a combination of a school, a community health center, and a library, in Austin, Texas in the early to mid-2000s,
- \* foundation funding for nursing in the Matrix and funding from other sources,
- \* relationship of mental health issues to toxic stress,
- \* carving out funding for nurses from tobacco settlement money,
- \* barrier(s) to placing nurses in schools with funds from outside the Matrix,
- \* PSHSAC and partners working on integrating nursing care services, healthcare services, and health promotional opportunities on campuses towards the support of overall academic achievement,
- \* availability of getting full-time school nurses from the community,
- \* breakdown of funding that school districts spend on school nurses,
- \* health departments opening satellite offices,
- \* private duty nursing and reimbursement,
- \* small districts having a school nurse on campus, and
- \* using NSLA (National School Lunch Act) money for nurses.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Act 935 of 2015, Arkansas Public Schools Health Services Advisory Committee Report

Handout:

Act 935 of 2015, Arkansas Public Schools Health Services Advisory Committee Report

Discussion of Draft Adequacy Report and Related Issues

Presenter:

**Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated the draft of the Adequacy Report distributed at today's meeting is a cleaned-up version of the one distributed at the last meeting. She reminded members of the importance of providing their input on the Report, especially as it relates to the Adequacy Recommendations. She said the finalized version of the Report is due by November 1, 2016, and a draft must be published 14 days before the due date.

Representative Cozart noted that a short meeting, attended by several legislators and representatives from Governor Asa Hutchinson's office, had taken place on the evening of Monday, September 12. He had announced the meeting at the joint meeting of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education earlier in the day. He said a number of issues related to Adequacy had been discussed, but no action was taken.

**The Honorable John W. Walker**, State Representative, District 34, was recognized. Representative Walker expressed his concerns about what he perceived as the large and growing inequalities in the state's public education system and the lack of substantive efforts to address these inequalities. Representative Walker stated, as a member of the Committees, his unwillingness to consider the Report in its current format.

Representative Cozart reminded members that the Adequacy Report is a work in progress. He stressed the importance of attending meetings and making contributions to the discussions. He stated that while we will never achieve perfection on adequacy, we can get as close as possible to its attainment.

Contributor to the Discussion:

**Mr. Isaac Linam**, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ∴ structure of the report coming together,
- ∴ discussing theories but not budget numbers,
- ∴ teacher salaries and proficiency,
- ∴ spending on non-Matrix items vs. spending from foundation funding on school nurses,
- ∴ attendance at work groups,
- ∴ court ruling is for funding to be based on need, and
- ∴ opening up the conversation for input from all legislators.

**Mr. Isaac Linam** was recognized. He stated that official recommendations are statutorily required to be made by the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education.

Handout:

2016 Adequacy Report Draft, 09/13/16 Revision

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, October 3, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 138, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Work Session*)

Monday, October 3, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock

Monday, October 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 138, State Capitol, Little Rock (*Work Session*)

Monday, October 10, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171, State Capitol, Little Rock

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

DRAFT