

MINUTES

**HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
MEETING JOINTLY**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020
9:00 A. M.
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Committee Members in Attendance: Senators Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliot, Vice Chair; Eddie Cheatham, Linda Chesterfield, Lance Eads, Mark Johnson, and James Sturch; Representatives Bruce Cozart, Chair; Fred Allen, Rick Beck, LeAnne Burch, Frances Cavanaugh, Jana Della Rosa, Jim Dotson, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Mark Lowery, Stephen Meeks, Richard McGrew, Nelda Speaks, and DeAnn Vaught.

Other Members in Attendance: Senators Breanne Davis, Jonathan Dismang, Kim Hammer, and Bruce Maloch; Representatives Cameron Cooper, Nicole Clowney, Marsh Davis, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Megan Godfrey, Michelle Gray, Tippi McCullough, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, and Dwight Tosh.

Representative Cozart called the meeting to order.

Finalization Discussion of Matrix [Exhibit C1]

Representative Cozart presented the draft of the Foundation Matrix for approval. A discussion ensued and included the following points:

- staff salaries and whether the amounts listed would be sufficient
- setting aside \$15 million a year in FY22 and FY23 to help boost teacher salaries and help districts meet the teacher salary minimum
- the funding formula used to create the matrix and how it applied to the funds proposed
- increased funding for line items based on the proposed matrix and funding formula
- the possibility of including charter schools in the next Foundation Matrix

Rep. Evans made a motion to approve the Categorical Program Funding of the Foundation Matrix, with a second by Rep. Speaks, and the motion carried.

Rep. Lowery made a motion to approve the proposed funding recommendations with the exception of the \$15 million enhanced salary recommendation in the additional funding category. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Testimony

Johnny Key, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education, discussed the matching grant program to answer questions posed in regards to the Foundation Matrix.

Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), with Dr. Mike Hernandez, Executive Director-Elect, AAEA, spoke on the concerns regarding salary disparities in small schools vs. large schools. They presented their data on the proposed funding for districts and answered questions regarding the impact of funding on school districts by size. The value of a mill on school districts was discussed with Mr. Abernathy noting that the main goal is to help smaller and/or poor schools in the state.

Final Recommendations for Wording and Proposed Items

Sen. Elliot requested a running list be kept of items discussed for the upcoming Session.

Rep. Meeks requested staff put together a current matrix of expenditures per category to compare to the proposed matrix.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.