

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
10 Minutes Upon Adjournment of Both Chambers
Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Eddie Cheatham; Linda Chesterfield; Lance Eads; Mark Johnson; and James Sturch.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Bruce Cozart, Chair; Reginald Murdock, Vice Chair; Fred Allen; Rick Beck; Gary Deffenbaugh; Jana Della Rosa; Jon S. Eubanks; Brian S. Evans; Denise Garner; Grant Hodges; Stephen Meeks; Nelda Speaks; and DeAnn Vaught.

Presentation on Procurement of Education Adequacy Consulting Services

Presenter:

Ms. Jillian Thayer, Counsel to the Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Thayer presented a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) and proposed timeline for the hiring of a consultant to help the Education Committees with the Adequacy Study during the next biennium. She indicated a timeline appears on page 3, and the scope of work/specifications appears on page 10 of the RFP. She requested the Committees review the RFP document and submit comments. She discussed the bidding process, and the necessity for the Committees to have two meetings between April 29 and May 8 for selection of vendors and oral presentations by the vendors. Ms. Thayer said the Legislative Council would approve the final contract at their meeting on May 17, 2019. She said the contract would expire on December 31, 2020.

A lengthy discussion ensued pertinent to the draft RFP and timeline.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- scheduling the two meetings of the Committees,
- goals and objectives of services to be determined by the Committees,
- types of things that might be redacted in proposals,
- opportunity to think beyond adequacy; going for “world class,”
- building a system for the next 25 years,
- spending money differently to build communities,
- including a conversation about NSLA funds distribution, use, etc. in the process,
- making a commitment to move forward, and not duplicating what has been done in the past,
- looking at other funding models that work,

- providing an equitable and adequate educational system; maintaining compliance with the state Constitution, and
- looking at recommendations through an Arkansas lens.

Relevant Action:

Senator Jane English was recognized, and made the motion, “I move to authorize the BLR (Bureau of Legislative Research) to begin the procurement process for adequacy consulting services, and to allow the Senate and House chairs of the Education Committees to approve the final form of the RFP prior to its release.” The motion was seconded by **Senator Joyce Elliott**.

Pursuant to the motion by Senator English, the motion was carried without objection on a voice vote.

Representative Rick Beck was recognized, and, at his request, the deadline for members to provide additional comments on the Statement of Work in the RFP was extended from 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2019, to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019.

Handouts:

Handout #1 – Chairs’ Notes, Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Handout #2 – Request for Proposal for Education Adequacy Consulting Services

Handout #3 – RFP/Contract Timeline

Handout #4 – College and/or career readiness definition

Handout #5 – School facilities and other capital

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Dates for two meetings to be held between April 29 and May 8, 2019 to be determined.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Approved: 05/01/2019