

MEETING SUMMARY

JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, November 19, 2018

1:30 P.M.

Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the 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: *Senators:* Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield; and Jim Hendren.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Bruce Cozart, Chair; Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker; Rick Beck; Frances Cavanaugh; Jana Della Rosa; Jon S. Eubanks; Mark Lowery; Mark D. McElroy; Stephen Meeks; Nelda Speaks; James Sturch; and DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senator:* Jason Rapert.
Representatives: Jim Dotson; Steve Hollowell; Greg Leding; Reginald Murdock; Johnny Rye; and James Sorvillo.

MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senator-Elect:* Mark Johnson.
Representatives-Elect: Nicole Clowney; Denise Garner; and Tippi McCullough.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of August 27, October 8, and October 9, 2018, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C – 08/27/2018 Minutes

Exhibit C1 – 10/08/2018 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 10/09/2018 Minutes

Remarks by the Chairs

Representative Cozart stated the meeting would commence with introductions. **Representative Charlotte V. Douglas** was recognized, and introduced her grandson; and **Representative Mark D. McElroy** was recognized, and introduced his grandson. **Representative-Elect Tippi McCollough**, **Representative-Elect Denise Garner**, and **Representative-Elect Nicole Clowney**, were also recognized.

Representative Cozart announced this would be the last meeting overseen by **Mr. Mark Hudson**, Senior Legislative Analyst, who would be retiring from the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) following a 30-year career in public service. Committee members, including Representative DeAnn Vaught, Senator Linda Chesterfield, Representative Charlotte V. Douglas, Representative Jana Della Rosa, Senator Joyce Elliott, and Representative James Sturch, expressed kind words and gratitude for Mr. Hudson's professionalism and invaluable assistance. Senator Jane English and Representative Cozart read citations honoring Mr. Hudson for his expertise, work ethic, institutional memory, stamina, and thorough grasp of educational policy while serving education in the State of Arkansas. They thanked him and acknowledged he would be missed.

Reports from Members Who Attended Recent Meetings Concerning Public or Higher Education

Senator Joyce Elliott, was recognized, and discussed agenda items from the 2018 Winter Meeting of the Legislative Advisory Council of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). She said the Council discussed the Teacher Preparation Commission Report which will be rolled out shortly to SREB's 16 member states. In addition, she said the superintendent of Marshall County School District, Benton, Kentucky, and the principal and two counselors from Marshall County High School reported on the shooting which occurred at the high school on January 23, 2018, and on what needs to be known following a school shooting. Senator Elliott stated the big takeaway was, while almost all school districts will have set up a crisis plan, it is imperative to also have a plan for the aftereffects of such an occurrence. Senator Elliott said it was a very good meeting. Representative Cozart, who also attended the meeting, concurred with Senator Elliott's assessment of the meeting.

Senator Linda Chesterfield, was recognized, and reported on her attendance at the 2018 Arkansas Education Association (AEA) Professional Development Conference. Senator Chesterfield noted that Ms. Stacey McAdoo, a teacher at Little Rock Central High School and the 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, was the speaker in the Rozzell Lecture Series. She said Ms. McAdoo and her students presented highlights of award-winning activities in the classroom.

Representative Mark Lowery, was recognized, and discussed that day's Education Caucus meeting. He said Superintendent Jon Collins of West Memphis School District gave a presentation on the response made by the district to Act 1105 of 2017, which mandated a spend down of net fund balance or transfer to construction balance. Representative Lowery said the amazing thing about the story is how the district applied the mandate to the upgrade of existing facilities. Representative Lowery suggested it would be a great best practice to spread this story to other school districts throughout the state.

Review of Adequacy Process After Filing of the 2018 Adequacy Report

Presenter:

Mr. Richard Wilson, Assistant Director, Research Services, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Mr. Wilson stated there are two options to handle required teacher retirement contribution rate increases: 1) say that the decision made includes the retirement increase and move on, as the governor will handle this in his budget, or 2) add the required amount of money to make whole the retirement system to the decision already made. He said the contribution rate for teachers will increase for the next four (4) years for schools across the state: it will be \$11.00 for the first year and \$23.00 for the second year, and includes all personnel that would be included in the Matrix.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Dr. Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- feasibility of exercising the first option,
- the slippery slope of redoing adequacy every time something changes,
- inviting the new executive director of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, (ATRS), Mr. Clint Rhoden, to speak before the Committees on the rationale for the teacher retirement increase,
- authority to increase employee and employer contributions given to Arkansas Teacher Retirement Board during 2017 General Session,
- discrepancies between Matrix and implementing the Matrix, and
- school districts' handling of increase in minimum wage.

Representative Cozart noted that the governor will also be addressing the teacher minimum salary increase, moving money out of the Adequacy Fund to pay for these increases over the next four years.

Discussion of Process for Rating Teacher Education Programs by the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB)

Presenters:

Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, Dean, College of Education, University of Central Arkansas, and Chair, Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (ArACTE), was recognized. Dr. Groves-Scott discussed colleges of education, the quality of deans and directors of education, and the high-quality teacher education programs in the state. She stated one of the things that makes Arkansas exceptional is that the state has required its teacher education institutions to be Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accredited. She thanked the Committees for the focus on quality.

Dr. Raymond “Donny” Lee, Dean, Cannon-Clary College of Education, Harding University, was recognized. Dr. Lee stated CAEP is a national accrediting agency and has a fairly rigorous process for approving teacher preparation programs. He discussed five standards (*Handout #1*) that CAEP requires all institutions to meet to be able to be accredited to recommend licensure for teachers: 1) Content and Pedagogical Knowledge; 2) Clinical Partnerships and Practice; 3) Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity; 4) Program Impact; and 5) Provider Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement.

Dr. Groves-Scott continued with a discussion of the Professional Licensure Standards Board (PLSB), which annually rates teacher education programs in the State of Arkansas; and differences between the PLSB and CAEP.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Assistant Commissioner, Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness, and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- Arkansas’s representation on Council that creates standards for CAEP,
- recruiting educators for the state in high-demand areas such as STEM,
- some institutions not sending any candidates to schools that are struggling; waivers in licensure rules for placement in districts that are in distress,
- ensuring candidates are placed in a setting to get a quality teaching experience,
- graduating candidates and proficiency in the science of reading,
- rationale behind new evaluation system for teacher preparation programs in Arkansas, and
- reviewing rules promulgated for educators.

Exhibit:

Exhibit F – Professional Licensure Standards Board

Handout:

Handout #1 – 2013 CAEP Standards

Representative Cozart recognized **Senator-Elect Mark Johnson** in the audience.

Discussion of the Interim Study Proposal 2017-033 by Representative Tucker, REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION A STUDY TO EVALUATE THE NEED FOR SCHOOL-LEVEL NUTRITION DATA, THE IMPACT OF PROVIDING BREAKFAST AFTER THE BELL PROGRAMS, AND THE IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION AND OTHER UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NUTRITION MODELS ON SCHOOL BREAKFAST PARTICIPATION AMONG HIGH-NEED ARKANSAS STUDENTS.

Presenter:

Ms. Patty Barker, Director, Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, was recognized. Ms. Barker stated the Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign (Campaign) is a coalition of state nutrition leaders and community advocates focused on ensuring that all Arkansas children have access to good nutrition every day, all year long. She said the Campaign works with school districts, faith-based organizations, libraries, boys and girls clubs, and a variety of community groups to help kids access U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition programs. She said the Campaign works closely with the Child Nutrition Unit of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and others. Ms. Barker discussed how transformation in breakfast service models has offered students easier access to meals and has increased participation in breakfast programs. She said that as of fall 2018, 443 schools in Arkansas have adopted Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) models in their schools, helping drive a 3.8 million increase in the number of breakfast meals served to low-income students over the last seven years. She commented that additional meals served means more USDA reimbursement dollars coming into school coffers and school nutrition budgets. Ms. Barker discussed research favorable to student health, academic outcomes, and behavior as a result of BAB programs. She said in order to strengthen these relationships, the following is recommended: continue the interim study, make a grant funding pool available for schools to pilot BAB strategies, and develop a school-level nutrition data collection plan.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Vivian Nicholson, Breakfast Program Director, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- connection between having a full stomach and academic success,
- providing breakfast curbs “bullying,” and
- adding objective data to established links between BAB and student health, academic outcomes, and behavior.

Exhibits:

Exhibit G – Interim Study Proposal 2017-033

Exhibit G1 – Interim Study Proposal 2017-033, Summary

Exhibit G2 – Interim Study Proposal 2017-033, Evaluating the Impact of School Breakfast After the Bell on Student Health and Achievement

Representative Cozart recognized **Ms. Kathy Webb**, former State Representative, and Executive Director, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, who was in attendance. He recognized the presence of **Representative Greg Leding**, District 86, and noted he is now Senator-Elect Leding. He announced that **Representative Charlotte V. Douglas**, **Representative Mark McElroy**, and **Representative George B. McGill**, would be leaving the Education Committees, and thanked them for their service.

Discussion of Parental Initiative on Unstructured Learning Time (Recess) for Elementary Age Students and Update on the Arkansas Department of Education’s Extended Recess Pilot Program for Grades K through 6

Presenters:

Ms. Ali Noland, Parents for Active Learning, was recognized. Ms. Noland stated Parents for Active Learning is a newly-formed parent advocacy group that is focused on promoting active learning opportunities for all Arkansas students. She said the evidence is overwhelming that active learning, *i.e.*, unstructured play with vigorous physical activity, promotes academic comprehension and retention, reduces discipline problems, and has benefits for social, emotional, physical, and mental health. It also promotes a more positive learning environment for the student.

Ms. Veronica McClane, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Visiting Professor, School of Social Work, University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR), was recognized. Ms. McClane presented research on the

benefits of active learning.

Izzy Kopsky, Student, spoke on how extended recess impacts day-to-day routine in a student's life; and presented the Committees with letters from students regarding recess (*Handout #3*).

The discussion on unstructured play time continued with a request of the Committees to keep four things in mind going forward into the 2019 General Session

- 1) a guarantee of a minimum amount of safe, supervised, unstructured play time with physical activity for all Arkansas students;
- 2) ask how bills that address other parts of the school day will impact recess;
- 3) look at whether withholding unstructured playtime worsens behavioral problems; and
- 4) keep the benefits of unstructured play for middle school students in mind.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ✓ benefits of unstructured play complement those of academic achievement, and
- ✓ minimum requirements for unstructured play time.

Ms. Jerri Clark, Director, School Health Services, Division of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. In a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Clark discussed Act 1062 of 2017, Arkansas Extended Recess Pilot (K-6th Grade) (*Handout #2*). She updated the Committees on the implementation of Act 1062, which allows the ADE to administer the pilot. The Act provides students in kindergarten through grade four (K-4) with three hundred and forty (340) minutes of physical activity each calendar week of the school year, equating to 40 minutes of physical education per week, and 60 minutes of physical activity per day. She said the Act covers 5th and 6th grades as well, and provides for two hundred sixty-five (265) minutes of physical activity per week, equating to 40 minutes of physical education per week, and 45 minutes of physical activity per day. She offered the current statewide regulations for comparison. Ms. Clark discussed the Commissioner's Memo and other communications regarding the pilot, participating school districts, evaluations, and teacher and building administrator surveys.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ⇒ reason that all co-ops did not have someone participate, and
- ⇒ providing data as quickly as possible.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Act 1062 of 2017, Arkansas Extended Recess Pilot (K-6th Grade)

Handouts:

Handout #2 – Act 1062 of 2017, Arkansas Extended Recess Pilot (K-6th Grade)

Handout #3 – Letters from Students re Recess

Next Scheduled Meeting:

TBD

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:32p.m.

Approved: 06/11/2019