

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

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.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; Jim Hendren; 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; LeAnne Burch; Gary Deffenbaugh; Jana Della Rosa; Jim Dotson; Jon S. Eubanks; Brian Evans; Denise Garner; Grant Hodges; Mark Lowery; Stephen Meeks; Nelda Speaks; Dan Sullivan; and DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Missy Irvin; Bill Sample; Gary Stubblefield; and David Wallace. *Representatives:* Stan Berry; Harlan Breaux; Karilyn Brown; Sarah Capp; Joe Cloud; Bruce Coleman; Kenneth B. Ferguson; David Fielding; David Hillman; Lee Johnson; Jack Ladyman; Austin McCollum; Tippi McCullough; Keith Slape; Dwight Tosh; Jeff Wardlaw; and Danny Watson.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

Exhibit:

Exhibit C – 06/11/19 Minutes

Remarks by the Chairs

Representative Cozart and Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, commented on the excellence of the committee meeting hosted the previous day by the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) in Conway, Arkansas.

Introduction of the Adequacy Study Process

Presenter: **Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated the responsibility of the Section is to walk the Committees through the required statutory responsibilities and provide requested information. She described the process to be used for the next 18 months to complete the statutory requirements for the Study. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Adequacy Study Process (*Exhibit D1*), she discussed topics including Basis for Adequacy Decisions; Components of an Adequate Education; Adequacy and the Budget; Types of Recommendations; Adequacy Study Statute;

Adequacy Study Process; Roles; Other Organizations' Roles; Study Components; BLR Reports; Timeline; Proposed Meeting Schedule (*Exhibit D3*); Recommendations Worksheet (*Exhibit D4*) and Final Report; and Fiscal Session Responsibilities.

Contributor to the Discussion: **Mr. Johnny Key**, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- surveying support professionals to provide information for the Study,
- change in percentage spent on K-12 over the years,
- determining “bad evidence,”
- measuring grading of schools and spending patterns of schools, and
- clarification of classified and non-classified contracts.

Senator Linda Chesterfield, was recognized, and introduced **Ms. Carol Fleming**, the new President of the Arkansas Education Association (AEA).

Issues Included in the Discussion (continued):

- changing the set-up of the Matrix,
- availability of data on models used in other states for comparison,
- listing and assessment of school site visits, and
- academic standards and the adequacy process.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Adequacy Study Process, August 20, 2019

Exhibits:

Exhibit D1 – Adequacy Study Process, August 20, 2019

Exhibit D2 – Statutory Responsibilities Adequacy

Exhibit D3 – Adequacy Meeting Schedule

Exhibit D4 – Adequacy Recommendations Worksheet

Senator English made an announcement pertinent to the unveiling of the second generation Be Pro Be Proud Mobile Workshop to be held Thursday, September 5 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock.

Discussion of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Conduct the Adequacy Study

Senator Linda Chesterfield was recognized, and made a motion to authorize the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) to begin the procurement process for adequacy consulting services. The motion was seconded by Representative Stephen Meeks.

A lengthy discussion ensued pertinent to hiring an outside consultant versus conducting an in-house study, funding issues, and the timeline for the process. The discussion included suggestions for changes in the language of the RFP, for methods used to determine what constitutes an adequate education, and for achieving cohesiveness in vision for the RFP.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research

Mr. Johnny Key, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Education

Representative Mark Lowery was recognized, and requested a separate vote on amendment changes and that voting be done by roll call by division. He later rescinded this request.

Representative Jon S. Eubanks was recognized, and requested that a meeting be scheduled for the Committees to review the RFP line by line. Representative Cozart stated the RFP had already been in Committee members' hands for two weeks for review.

Relevant Action:

Senator Linda Chesterfield was recognized, and called for immediate consideration of the motion.

Pursuant to the motion by Senator Chesterfield, the motion passed on a voice vote.

Exhibits:

Exhibit E1 – 082319 RFP No. BLR-190003 NEW

Exhibit E2 – 031919 RFP No. BLR-190001 OLD

The State's Status under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Presenter: **Ms. Deborah Coffman**, Assistant Commissioner, Public School Accountability, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, State and Federal Accountability (*Exhibit F1*), Ms. Coffman's discussion included Stakeholders; Arkansas's ESSA plan; Goals of the comprehensive accountability system; Theory of Action; Academic Standards; Statewide Student Assessment; Equitable Access to Excellent Educators; and Accountability-ESSA School Index. Ms. Coffman walked the Committees through <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov>, explaining navigation and visuals of the site.

Presenter: **Dr. Eric Flowers**, ADE Chief Opportunity Officer, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized, and continued with a discussion that included Accountability is Driving Improvement. He focused on three schools that have raised their overall ESSA Index Score.

PowerPoint Presentation:

State and Federal Accountability

Exhibits:

Exhibit F – Questions for ESSA Presentation

Exhibit F1 – State and Federal Accountability

Representative Cozart announced that Item G, English Language Learner State Categorical Funding, would be taken up at the next meeting.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, September 9, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Joint Education*)

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Joint Education/Adequacy*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.