

MEETING SUMMARY

JOINT MEETING  
OF THE  
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, August 21, 2017  
1:30 P.M.  
Room 171, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Alan Clark; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Nelda Speaks; Representative James Sturch; Representative Dan Sullivan; Representative DeAnn Vaught; and Representative John W. Walker.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Trent Garner; Senator Eddie Joe Williams; Representative Fred Allen; Representative Charles Blake; Representative David L. Branscum; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative R. Trevor Drown; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Austin McCollum; Representative Laurie Rushing; Representative James Sorvillo; Representative Jeff Wardlaw; and Representative Carlton Wing.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of June 19, 2017 and June 20, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 06/19/17 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 06/20/17 Minutes

Remarks by the Chairs

**The Honorable Bruce Cozart**, State Representative, District 24, and Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Representative Cozart requested that members complete an Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) blue survey sheet, if they hadn't already done so, and to leave the sheet on the desk.

**The Honorable Alan Clark**, State Senator, District 13, was recognized. Senator Clark thanked all members who attended today's Education Caucus. He commented that it had been an excellent meeting at which **Dr. Michele Ballentine-Linch**, Executive Director, Arkansas State Teachers' Association (ASTA), and others, made a presentation on professional learning communities (PLCs).

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

**The Honorable Joyce Elliott**, State Senator, District 31, was recognized. Senator Elliott said she attended a recent meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) at which officers had been elected; she was elected Vice Chair of the Board. She noted a lot of discussion had taken place at a meeting of the SREB Teacher Preparation Commission, chaired by Governor Jon Bel Edwards of Louisiana, who also serves as the 2016-2017 Chair of the SREB Board. She said the Commission will issue a report in the future making recommendations for improving teacher preparation programs.

**The Honorable Mark Lowery**, State Representative, District 39, was recognized. Representative Lowery reported on attending Educators Day at the Arkansas Governor's School (AGS). He said that on Educators Day, students nominate educators who have made a significant contribution to their lives. Representative Lowery said it had been a great opportunity to attend classes, to listen to discussions, and to interact with students.

**Representative Cozart** briefly reported on the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Senator Elliott** reported on the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) in Biloxi, Mississippi. She noted that in one session, Dr. Eric Saunders, Assistant Commissioner, Research and Technology, Arkansas Department of Education, did a fantastic job of presenting recent state progress in the use of technology in the classroom.

Senator Elliott additionally reported on the NCSL Education Committee.

Update on Education-related Legislation Enacted by the 91<sup>st</sup> Arkansas General Assembly

Presenter:

**Mr. Isaac Linam**, Staff Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Linam summarized K-12 Acts and Higher Education Acts passed during the 2017 Regular Session.

Representative Lowery was recognized, and urged legislators to be vigilant in following up on the implementation of passed legislation to ensure it is carried out according to legislative intent.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Summary of Education Acts, 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, 2017 Regular Session

Handouts:

Summary of Education Acts, 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, 2017 Regular Session

Summary of General Legislation, 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, 2017 Regular Session

Discussion of Equity in Arkansas's Early Childhood System: Supporting Teacher Competencies in Working with African-American Male Children

Presenter:

**Ms. Jacqueline Govan**, Director, Arkansas Head Start Association and Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office, was recognized. Ms. Govan, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, discussed the Equity Leader Action Network (ELAN), a 3-year project promoting racial equity in Arkansas. She said the ELAN project looks at the early childhood system and offers support for teachers as they work with African American students. She set forth five equity-related goals for the State of Arkansas and related the purpose of the ELAN project, which is to look at a comprehensive, high-quality, racially equitable process for children to learn without experiencing discrimination or bias. Ms. Govan's discussion included, but was not limited to,

the ELAN Sociogram, Equity in Arkansas, the Achievement Gap, Meeting the Multicultural Needs of Students, Supporting Teacher Competencies, Cultural Competence, Student Behavior, Self-Assessment, Equity Policies and Procedures, the Equity Café, ELAN Recommendations, and Next Steps. In her presentation, Ms. Govan also showed a short video from CNN.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Promoting Racial Equity in Arkansas' Early Childhood System: Supporting Teacher Competencies in Working with African American Male Children

Handout:

Promoting Racial Equity in Arkansas' Early Childhood System: Supporting Teacher Competencies in Working with African American Male Children

Presentation Concerning the KIPP through College Partnership with Local Districts

Presenters:

**Mr. Scott Shirey**, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools

**Ms. Laurie Brown**, KIPP through College Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools

**Dr. Matt McClure**, Chief Learning and Financial Officer, Cross County School District

**Mr. Matt Swenson**, Assistant Principal and Director of C^3, Cross County School District

The presenters told the story of a collaboration between a traditional school district (**Helena-West Helena**), an open-enrollment charter school (**KIPP Delta**), and a conversion charter school (**Cross County School District**), which led to the development of the Delta College Attainment Network (DCAN). The vision of DCAN is to partner with schools and communities of the Arkansas Delta to provide sustainable post-secondary attainment and completion systems to transform lives and uplift communities.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- journaling roadblocks to help other districts succeed,
- providing guidance and support for a student to prepare a plan for college, a vocation, or the military, and
- encouraging students to bring successful post-secondary achievement back to the community.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Delta College Attainment Network

Handouts:

Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative, Program Summary

Arkansas Future Grant

Delta College Attainment Network

KIPP:DELTA, KIPP Through College

Other Business

**Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith distributed a Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) Bureau Brief on the new accountability system under Act 930 for members' review prior to the Adequacy Study meeting on Tuesday.

Handout:

Arkansas's Educational Accountability System, Bureau Brief

*Next Scheduled Meeting:*

Tuesday, August 20, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

*Approved: 09/18/17*