

MEETING SUMMARY

JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, November 20, 2017

1:30 P.M.

Room 171, 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: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Alan Clark; Senator Bart Hester; Senator Blake Johnson; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Andy Davis; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Grant Hodges; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark D. McElroy; Representative George B. McGill; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Nelda Speaks; and Representative James Sturch.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Trent Garner; Senator Bryan King; Representative Fred Allen; Representative Bob Ballinger; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Trevor Drown; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative David Fielding; Representative Charlene Fite; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Jimmy Gazaway; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative David Hillman; Representative Bob Johnson; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Roger Lynch; Representative Austin McCollum; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative Aaron Pilkington; Representative Laurie Rushing; Representative Johnny Rye; Representative Jeff Wardlaw; and Representative Les Warren.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of September 18, 2017, September 19, 2017, October 23, 2017, and October 31, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 09/18/2017 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 09/19/2017 Minutes

Exhibit C3 – 10/23/2017 Minutes

Exhibit C4 – 10/31/2017 Minutes

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

Representative Cozart briefly commented on a recent meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) which he attended with Senator Alan Clark, Senator Joyce Elliott, and Representative Mark Lowery. **The Honorable Joyce Elliott**, State Senator, District 31, and **The Honorable Mark Lowery**, State Representative, District 39, were recognized, and made favorable comments about the meeting; all agreed it was a very useful and informative meeting.

The Honorable Jane English, State Senator, District 34, was recognized. Senator English discussed a recent trip to Germany to study the country's workforce education system. She mentioned the trip was sponsored by the Siemens Foundation, the Deutsche Bank, and the German government. She said the itinerary included an overview of schools, training opportunities, and apprenticeship programs. She noted the takeaways are that business and industry provide major systemic input, educators function as facilitators, and students are in charge of their future. Senator English said she hopes business and industry can work with legislators to replicate the best of the German system in programs for the State of Arkansas.

Senator Joyce Elliott was recognized, and made comments about her attendance at the Reimagination Education Conference, sponsored by the Center for Transformation of Schools at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) on November 9, 2017. She had been invited to speak at the conference on how to engage policymakers in educating from the perspective of the "whole child, whole community."

Consideration and Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2017-098 by Senator Chesterfield, REQUESTING THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGH ATTRITION RATE OF TEACHERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, TO INCLUDE WHETHER EXCESSIVE PAPERWORK REQUIRED OF TEACHERS IS ONE OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS.

Presenter:

The Honorable Linda Chesterfield, State Senator, District 30, was recognized. Senator Chesterfield briefly discussed the rationale behind ISP 2017-098.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- behavioral issues impacting teachers leaving the classroom,
- unhappiness with administration as a cause for the shortage of teachers,
- lack of support for taking disciplinary action, and
- ISP drafted broadly enough to include additional issues related to the retention of teachers.

Relevant Action:

Senator Chesterfield made a motion to adopt the ISP. The motion was seconded by Senator Alan Clark.

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

Exhibit:

Exhibit E – ISP 2017-098

Update on the Activities of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) International Study Group

Presenter:

The Honorable Joyce Elliott, State Senator, District 31, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Senator Elliott discussed a report, *No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State*. She said the report, which contains findings of a legislative study into international comparisons of high-performing education systems, was commissioned by the NCSL. Senator Elliott's discussion included composition of the NCSL International Education Study Group; findings by the Group and by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) that most state education systems are falling behind in the world in a number of comparisons; and the common elements present in nearly every world-class system. Senator Elliott urged Arkansas policymakers to take action toward building a modern education system to prepare the workforce to compete in a global economy.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- role of flexibility in top-performing countries which allows them to succeed vs. constraints of an older system in the United States,
- part played by culture and family in the success of top-performing countries,
- funding per child in top-performing countries,
- length and availability of study,
- ideas that would make the biggest difference and are politically acceptable in the United States,
- coherence of intertwining ideas crucial to making a difference,
- consideration of socio-economic measures and supports in data used for the report, and
- models for equity gleaned from countries considered in the report.

PowerPoint Presentation:

No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State

Handouts:

No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State, PowerPoint

No Time to Lose, How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State, Report

Discussion of the Indifference Project

The Honorable Charlotte V. Douglas, State Representative, District 75, was recognized. Representative Douglas introduced Mr. Michael Hensley, who has found a way to make a difference in young peoples' lives.

Presenter:

Mr. Michael Hensley, Teacher, Alma High School, Alma School District, was recognized. Mr. Hensley discussed the Indifference Project, a year-long project in 10th grade English class. Mr. Hensley said the project provides students with real-world learning opportunities about issues or topics in which they have an interest. He described the process taken by students as they participated in the project: laying a foundation for a topic, discussion, narrative writing, researching the topic and finding potential solutions, action and action reflection, and making a final presentation. Mr. Hensley said that 150 students participated in the project last year; topics chosen included developing friendships, bullying, raising money for organizations, donations, volunteerism, and starting book clubs. He said, with the freedom given them by the project, students go above and beyond expectations and add another level of credibility when they see that things matter.

Handouts:

The Indifference Project

The Indifference Project, Press Argus-Courier News Article

Representative Cozart announced that, due to the funerary activities scheduled for the late Senator Greg Standridge, the joint meeting of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education, scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock, has been rescheduled for November 29, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Receipt and Discussion of the Annual Report of the School Leadership Coordinating Council

Presenter:

Mr. David Cook, Director, Arkansas Leadership Academy and Chair, Leadership Coordinating Council, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Cook presented *Act 222 Update 2017*. He stated the purpose of the Leadership Coordinating Council is to coordinate leadership efforts in education in the State of Arkansas. He commented its membership list was increased to 17 by legislation passed during the 2017

Regular Session. Mr. Cook said three meetings took place this past year, in January, April, and September. He related that objectives of the Leadership Coordinating Council through June 2019 were discussed at the September meeting; those objectives are:

- 1) PSEL (Professional Standards for Educational Leaders) - help in creation of rubric for Arkansas Leader Excellence and Development System (LEADS);
- 2) Ad Hoc – create strategies for bringing leadership programs to the Delta; and
- 3) IMPACT - legislation which allows flexibility in use of NSLA funds for recruitment and retention of leaders, and expand services of the Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA) in order to serve a broader base of leaders.

Presenters:

Dr. Blaine Alexander, School Support Program Leader, Arkansas Leadership Academy, and **Ms. Jennifer Medeiros**, Research Specialist, Arkansas Leadership Academy, were recognized, and presented an in-depth look at the work and relevant data for the School Support and Organizational Development Programs of the ALA.

Ms. Thelma Forte, Superintendent, Mineral Springs School District, and **Mr. Jerrod Williams**, Superintendent, Sheridan School District, were recognized, and shared experiences they had with the School Support Program and Organizational Development Program and what the work of the ALA has meant for their school districts.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ❖ effect of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) pilot project on work of the ALA,
- ❖ eligibility of ALA for PLC grant funding or other appropriations,
- ❖ staying on course of sustainability, and
- ❖ evidence-based scoring for master principal designations.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Act 222 Legislative Report 2017

Handout:

Act 222 Legislative Report 2017

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock (*House and Senate Interim Committees on Education – Adequacy*)

Monday, December 4, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 207 of the State Capitol, Little Rock (*Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence*)

Monday, December 18, 2017, in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock (*House and Senate Interim Committees on Education*)

Senator English and Representative Cozart announced that Helena-West Helena High School seniors achieved 100% college acceptance for the first time.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Approved: 12/18/2017