

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

Monday, March 9, 2020
1:30 P.M.
Room A, MAC
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; 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, LeAnne Burch, Frances Cavanaugh, Gary Deffenbaugh, Jim Dotson, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Mark Lowery, Nelda Speaks, and DeAnn Vaught

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Jonathan Dismang, and Larry Teague. *Representatives:* Sonia Eubanks Barker, Roger Lynch, Tippi McCollough, Austin McCollum, James Sorvillo, Les Warren, and David Whitaker

MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Representative-Elect:* Joy Springer

Minutes:

Without objection, the motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 and February 11, 2020, meetings was carried.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 02/10/2020 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 02/11/2020 Minutes

Discussion of Activities for APA Consulting | Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates' Study of Arkansas's Current Educational Adequacy Study Processes

Presenters:

Mr. Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA Consulting | Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates

Mr. Jason Willis, Director of Strategy & Performance, Comprehensive School Assistance Program, WestEd

Mr. Raifu Durodoye, Research Associate, WestEd

Mr. Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA Consulting, was recognized and gave the committee a study update. He noted APA and WestEd have been working with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to both identify and obtain available data and have received much of the data over the past two weeks. The plan is to present initial findings to the committees next month, which include the resources needed for student mental health services, what is needed to attract and retain administrative and educational staff,

as well as attracting and retaining nurses. He noted that within those areas, they will be talking to both the case study schools and the educator panels later in the study. Next month, the national view and the literature review will be about how these three topic areas are addressed. The study team is proposing five sites around the state for educator panels and stakeholder listening sessions. These educator panels are focused panels of school leaders, teachers, superintendents, and CFO's from a particular region and will be held during the day. The goal is to have a variation in school and district size, demographic differences, and perhaps in their expenditure level. Mr. Silverstein said the stakeholder listening sessions will be held in the evenings and are open to the broader education community. Currently, the plan is to hold these meetings in early August and in five regions, including Central (Little Rock), Northwest (Fayetteville), Northeast (Jonesboro), Southwest (Hope), Southeast (Dumas and Stuttgart). He then walked through what will happen when a study team shows up to that community. The general topic areas of interest in the educator panels and listening sessions include: college and career readiness, resources in the matrix, attractions and retention of staff, professional development and extra duty time, school size policies and proxies for economically disadvantaged, and best use of poverty funds.

Mr. Jason Willis, Director of Strategies and Performance, Comprehensive School Assistance Program, WestEd, was recognized. Mr. Willis reviewed the case study process, informing members that the team will conduct case studies in 12 to 16 successful schools from across the state. They are looking for successful systems and will use a quantitative approach as a basis to identify the case study schools. The purpose of using the quantitative model to identify those schools primarily is to achieve replicability and to have data representative of all schools. The schools will be selected based upon a performance analysis, with an emphasis on schools with high concentrations of EL or economically disadvantaged students. The visits are scheduled to begin in May, with four teams working across the state. The framework questions are "Which schools outperform predicted student outcomes?" and "What Characteristics, practices, or supports make these schools successful with disadvantage student populations?" He noted successful schools may not be found in all regions in Arkansas.

Mr. Raifu Durodoye, Research Associate, WestEd walked the committee through the successful school identification process. ADE Administrative Data, the ADE Data Center, and Office for Education Policy served as data sources. He said ACT Aspire will be used as outcome data and student demographics, while teacher workforce characteristics and finances will be the school and district controls. Mr. Durodoye provided a detailed outline of how the study team will collect data, rank schools, apply criteria, and then apply a stratification process to get to the 12 to 16 schools for the case study.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ❖ locations for regional stakeholder listening sessions
- ❖ transportation issues for those with limited or no transportation to attend regional stakeholder listening sessions
- ❖ Co-chair Representative Bruce Cozart stated he would contact Education Associations and Cooperatives to send notice for meetings to all communities
- ❖ meaning of "College and Career Ready" in Arkansas
- ❖ consideration of rural schools when choosing case study schools
- ❖ consideration of schools that might not be successful school when choosing case study schools

PowerPoint Presentation:

Study Update, Preparation for Case Studies and Stakeholder Engagement

Handout:

Handout D - Study Update, Preparation for Case Studies and Stakeholder Engagement

Discussion of Issues Related to Resource Allocation-School-Level Staffing

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized and reviewed School-Level Staffing, the first in a series of three Resource Allocation Reports. She noted the District-Level Resources and the School-Level Resources Reports will be presented in the coming weeks. This report describes the amount of foundation funding provided to districts and open enrollment charter schools for each school-level staffing component of the matrix and the extent to which the funding met the districts' and charter schools' needs as measured by their expenditures. Ms. Smith referred members to the School-Level Staffing section in top third of the Matrix which comprises classroom teachers, counselors and principals who work in the individual schools. The Matrix is the formula on which the per-student foundation funding is based. It provides a list of resources needed to operate a prototypical school of 500 students; and the Matrix also provides a per-student funding amount for each of those resources. Ms. Smith highlighted information regarding the resources on which districts are spending more than they receive through the Matrix, as well as on the resources for which districts are spending less than they receive. She further reviewed each section of the 70 page report findings, emphasizing classroom teachers and highlighting each of the other components.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- Funding level of principals
- High poverty student expenditures

PowerPoint Presentation:

Resource Allocation, Part 1: School Staffing

Handouts:

Handout E1 – Resource Allocation, Part 1: School Staffing

Handout E2 – Matrix

Handout E3 – Foundation Funding and the Matrix, Bureau Brief

Handout E4 – The Resource Allocation of Foundation Funding for Arkansas School Districts and Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, School-Level Staffing

Statutory Responsibilities Adequacy Study Tracking Sheet

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, April 6, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Adequacy*)

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in MAC, Room A, Little Rock (*Adequacy*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.