

MEETING SUMMARY

JOINT MEETING  
OF THE  
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, June 19, 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; 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 Frances Cavanaugh; Representative Andy Davis; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jana Della Rosa; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative George McGill; Representative Stephen Meeks; Representative Nelda Speaks; Representative James Sturch; and Representative DeAnn Vaught.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Trent Garner; Senator Missy Irvin; Representative Fred Allen; Representative Charles Blake; Representative David L. Branscum; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Matthew J. Shepherd; Representative James Sorvillo; and Representative Clarke Tucker.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of December 12, 2016 and February 1, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 12/12/16 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 02/01/17 Minutes

Remarks by the Chairs

At Senator English's request, all legislators, members of agencies and associations, and staff present at the meeting introduced themselves.

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

**The Honorable Linda Chesterfield**, State Senator, District 30, was recognized. Senator Chesterfield commented on attending a meeting of the Arkansas Education Association (AEA) concerning ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). She said a number of teachers and support staff members expressed concern over its implementation, and participation by the community, in the conversation. She noted many members, not only from the public at large, but from the education community, were not taking advantage of going online and making comments. She said it was most important that as much public comment and commentary be provided by those who will be most affected by the plan.

Senator English stated that **Mr. Johnny Key**, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, would review the plan at a meeting of the Committees in August. She encouraged each Committee member to take time to read over the plan, a copy of which each member would receive at tomorrow's meeting.

**The Honorable Mark Lowery**, State Representative, District 39, was recognized. Representative Lowery said he had attended a training meeting for Board Members of the Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC). He said during the meeting a legislative overview was presented of everything that had passed during the legislative session in which the APSRC had been engaged. He said an overview was also given of the 311 bills that had passed through the Education Committees. He said it was a well-attended meeting, and was good to see all that had been accomplished in the last General Session.

**The Honorable Joyce Elliott**, State Senator, District 31, was recognized. Senator Elliott stated she attended a meeting by Webinar. She said the meeting focused on a study by Ms. Linda Darling-Hammond and a group of education researchers from around the country and the world on *Empowered Educators*, about how to get, maintain, and keep high-quality teachers in the classroom.

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committees

Relevant Action:

**The Honorable DeAnn Vaught**, State Representative, District 4, was recognized, and made a motion to authorize the Chairs to approve special expenses incurred by the Committees.

The motion was seconded by Representative Mark McElroy.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Vaught, the motion was carried on a voice vote.

Exhibit:

Exhibit E – Motion to Authorize Special Expenses

Review of Interim Meeting Dates for the Committees

Senator English noted a list of dates and times for meetings of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education through October, 2018 was in each member's packet. She said non-adequacy issues would be discussed at Monday meetings; with meetings on Tuesday reserved for issues related to adequacy.

**The Honorable Bruce Cozart**, State Representative, District 24, and Chair, House Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Representative Cozart stated that following the next Fiscal Session, the Committees' work to put together adequacy recommendations would intensify. He said the approach would be different from that taken in the past; going forward, the Committees would be discussing and making a preliminary recommendation for one item in the Matrix at a time, with a review at the end.

Exhibit:

Exhibit F – Meeting Schedule for 2017-2018 Biennium

Consideration and Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISPs)

Legislators present who sponsored an ISP briefly discussed its rationale. The ISPs presented were:

1. Interim Study Proposal 2017-029 by Rep. Lemons, CONCERNING HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

2. Interim Study Proposal 2017-038 by Rep. Sorvillo, TO REQUIRE CAMERAS IN CERTAIN CLASSROOMS UPON REQUEST.
3. Interim Study Proposal 2017-052 by Rep. Dotson, TO CREATE RECALL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF DIRECTORS.
4. Interim Study Proposal 2017-066 by Sen. Elliott, TO REQUIRE THAT AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS BE NET PROCEEDS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.
5. Interim Study Proposal 2017-067 by Sen. Elliott, TO PROVIDE FOR CONSISTENT TREATMENT IN REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF ARKANSAS STUDENTS DURING PLACEMENT IN A FACILITY IN A BORDER STATE.
6. Interim Study Proposal 2017-033 by Rep. 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.

Contributors to the Discussion of ISP 2017-033 by Rep. Tucker:

**Ms. Patty Barker**, Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign Director, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

**Ms. Kathy Webb**, Executive Director, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

**The Honorable Charlotte V. Douglas**, State Representative, District 75, and Vice Chair, House Interim Committee on Education

Relevant Action:

**The Honorable Linda Chesterfield**, State Senator, District 30, was recognized, and made a motion to adopt the six (6) Interim Study Proposals.

The motion was seconded by Representative Charlotte V. Douglas.

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

Exhibits:

Exhibit G.1 – ISP 2017-029

Exhibit G.2 – ISP 2017-038

Exhibit G.3 – ISP 2017-052

Exhibit G.4 – ISP 2017-066

Exhibit G.5 – ISP 2017-067

Exhibit G.6 – ISP 2017-033

Other Business:

**Ms. Nell Smith**, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith stated that documents related to adequacy will be distributed to members at the end of each Monday meeting for review prior to Tuesday's meeting on adequacy.

Handouts:

Highlights Foundation Funding

Highlights Legal Overview

Representative Cozart was recognized, and commented on having attended a meeting of a group seeking to get bilingual interpreters credentialed in education in Arkansas. He said there are 121 nationalities in Arkansas schools, and interpreters are needed to facilitate communications between non-English-speaking students, parents of students, and school system personnel.

**The Honorable Jana Della Rosa**, State Representative, District 90, was recognized. She said a team of three (3) 10<sup>th</sup> Grade girls from Rogers New Technology High School won first place at the 2017 National History Day Contest held at the University of Maryland for a documentary on Archbishop Oscar Romero. Representative Della Rosa said she presented them with a citation last week.

**The Honorable Missy Irvin**, State Senator, District 18, was recognized. Senator Irvin said the Mountain View High School Senior Beta Club won the Group Talent Competition at the Arkansas Senior Beta Convention at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs in January 2017. She said they will be travelling to the National Beta Club Convention at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida to represent Arkansas in the national competition.

*Next Scheduled Meeting:*

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

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

*Approved: 08/21/17*