

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

ADEQUACY

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Room 151, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative Bruce Cozart, the Chair of the House Interim 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; Linda Chesterfield; Alan Clark; Jim Hendren; Bart Hester; and Blake Johnson.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: *Representatives:* Bruce Cozart, Chair; Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Rick Beck; Jana Della Rosa; Jon S. Eubanks; Grant Hodges; Mark Lowery; Mark D. McElroy; Stephen Meeks; Nelda Speaks; and DeAnn Vaught.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: *Senators:* Jonathan Dismang; and Larry Teague. *Representatives:* Fred Allen; Scott Baltz; Dan M. Douglas; Kenneth B. Ferguson; David Hillman; Fredrick J. Love; David Meeks; Reginald Murdock; Mathew W. Pitsch; and Les Warren.

Remarks by the Chairs

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, requested that school superintendents visiting the meeting introduce themselves.

Continued Discussion of Adequacy Issues and Potential Recommendations for the 2018 Adequacy Report

Presenter:

Ms. Nell Smith, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Ms. Smith reviewed the materials provided to Committee members to inform their decision-making process. She drew their attention to the Bureau Brief, *Adequacy Report Public Comment*, and explained its contents. She noted any additional comments received on the general comment link will be passed along in the October meeting. She reminded members of their request for a survey of digital learning providers; she said results will be provided in the October meeting. She stated a draft of the Adequacy Report must be published October 18, with the final report due on November 1, 2018. Ms. Smith revisited statutory requirements; and noted documents included as handouts.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- formalizing a way to discuss any of the public comments included in the Bureau Brief,

- number of school districts represented in the public comments received,
- mental health policy in school districts,
- changes to Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral services in school districts,
- comments on funding for gifted and talented education,
- recommendation for increase in catastrophic special education funding, and
- enforcement of dyslexia laws around the state.

Representative Cozart, in preparation for the meetings on October 8 and October 9, walked Committee members through the line items in the Matrix for clarification and understanding, stopping periodically for discussion.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Dr. Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Stephanie Nehus, Superintendent, Hot Springs School District

Representative Cozart discussed the challenges faced by small rural school districts. He recognized **Dr. Nancy Anderson**, Superintendent, Cutter Morning Star School District, **Dr. Andrea Martin**, Superintendent, Greenland School District, and **Ms. Mary Ann Spears**, Superintendent, Lincoln Consolidated School District, who discussed various issues and challenges unique to rural school districts in Arkansas.

Handouts:

Handout #1 – 2018 Adequacy Worksheet

Handout #2 – Adequacy Report Public Comment

Handout #3 – DRAFT Final Report on the Legislative Hearings for the 2018 Educational Adequacy Study

Handout #4 – Matrix History 2017 - 2021

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday, October 8, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 151 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 138 of the State Capitol, Little Rock (*Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence*)

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.