

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

Monday, August 11, 2014
10:00 A.M.
Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Representative James McLean, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Bruce Holland; and Senator Uvalde Lindsey.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative James McLean, Chair; Representative Les Carnine; Representative John Catlett; Representative Bruce Cozart; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative Brent Talley.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Randy Alexander; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Stephen Meeks; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Jonathan Dismang; Senator Jane English; Senator Jimmy Hickey; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative John Burris; Representative Kim Hammer; Representative Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson; Representative Joe Jett; Representative Greg Leding; Representative Kelley Linck; Representative Walls McCrary; Representative Mark McElroy; Representative Betty Overbey; Representative John Payton; Representative Sue Scott; Representative Tommy Wren; and Representative Marshall Wright.

Remarks by the Chairs

Representative McLean recognized former State Senator Johnny Key and stated that he will be sorely missed as he assumes his new position with the University of Arkansas System. He said that former Senator Key has been a friend to education in the State of Arkansas and has shown dedication to the amount of work it takes to sit and to participate as Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education.

The Honorable Joyce Elliott, State Senator, District 31, and Vice Chair, Senate Interim Committee on Education, was recognized. Senator Elliott acknowledged the dedication and effort that former Senator Key gave to the position of Chair.

Former State Senator Key received a standing ovation from the Committees and from those present at the meeting.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of July 1, 2014, July 14, 2014, and July 15, 2014, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 07/01/14 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 07/14/14 Minutes

Exhibit C3 – 07/15/14 Minutes

Action Item:

The Honorable Joyce Elliott, State Senator, District 31, and Vice Chair, Senate Interim Committee on Education, was recognized, and made a motion regarding making the Alternative Pathway to Graduation Program, discussed at the Monday, July 14, 2014 meeting, a pilot program for SY2014-15. She stated

“...they made this great presentation to us about the alternative diploma...and we were really impressed with that, and we did everything except make the motion to recommend the Program to the State Board for a pilot...and so, what I wanted us to do today is to go ahead and make the motion, rather than just let it be assumed because we didn't take an official action...we just kind of left the impression that we all loved it and that was that.”

“So, Mr. Chair, I move that we recommend the pilot for the alternative diploma to the Board of Education for implementation at a time that the Board is prepared to do it.”

Pursuant to the motion by Senator Elliott, and without objection, the motion was carried.

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

Senator Elliott discussed recent education meetings held at the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC). She said one of the best presentations was from Toyota on innovations in the classroom. Senator Elliott also commented on the Imagination Institute and bringing people together to think about imagination in education.

Presentation by the 2014 Arkansas Teacher of the Year

Presenter & Synopsis:

Mr. Jonathan Crossley, English Language Arts Teacher, Palestine-Wheatley High School, Palestine-Wheatley School District, was recognized. Mr. Crossley gave a PowerPoint presentation on distributed leadership, letting teachers take on leadership roles to contribute more effectively to key initiatives within schools, districts, and the state. He discussed teacher turnover, the high cost of teacher attrition, the effect of leadership opportunities, and the goals and guiding principles of teacher leadership. He described the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, a program funded by the South Carolina General Assembly, as a model to help remedy the shortage of excellent teachers and funding. He said the Teaching Fellows Program encourages teachers to have a voice, to give what they have, to be knowledgeable, and to change things that they don't like. Mr. Crossley asked the Committees for their thoughts about the leadership model and their views about systematic leadership in education.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- defining leadership opportunities and roles to be taken,
- participating universities and colleges in the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program,
- looking at any profession as a matter of the commitment of the individual, and not as a matter of age,
- exploring laws in place that might be a roadblock to change,
- expectations of teachers, including that of time,

- criteria for acceptance into the Teaching Fellows Program,
- the “plucking the wings” syndrome,
- similarity of the Teaching Fellows Program to the process for National Board Certification,
- backing off of test scores, and
- ranking benefits in teachers’ compensation packages.

PowerPoint Presentation:

Distributed Leadership

Handout:

Distributed Leadership, Handout

Representative McLean noted that **Senator Linda Chesterfield** and her husband were celebrating their 13th wedding anniversary today. He asked the Committees to join him in congratulating them.

Preliminary Discussion of the Draft Report Mandated by Act 107 of 2013

Presenter:

The Honorable Linda Chesterfield, State Senator, District 30, was recognized. Senator Chesterfield introduced the preliminary report, *A Study of the Readiness of Public Schools in Response to Acts of Violence (Anti-Bullying)*. She noted that research was currently being done on positive behavioral models for managing a classroom and would be added to the report.

Presenter & Synopsis:

Dr. Mandy Gillip, Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, was recognized. Dr. Gillip stated this report is being created to highlight the statutes and the available practices and policies of public schools in the State of Arkansas as they pertain to school violence and to incidences of bullying on school grounds. She walked the Committees through the report, discussing current statutes; status of the Safe Schools Committee; cyberbullying laws and dealing with them in schools as part of the wider disciplinary problem; partners working with schools and school districts to create Continuity of Operations Programs (COOPs); and services provided by the Arkansas Department of Information Services (DIS). Dr. Gillip provided statistics on violence and bullying in Arkansas schools and included a comparison with surrounding states. She stated this is a report that gives a general idea of what it looks like to be prepared both in the State of Arkansas and in other states for an unforeseen violent act on campus including, but not limited to, acts of bullying.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ◆ collecting statistics on all types of interactions where bullying can occur,
- ◆ balancing safety and liberty when dealing with this issue,
- ◆ correlation between bullying and an extreme outcome,
- ◆ ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) Training Institute,
- ◆ clarification of numbers in chart on page 9 of the draft report,
- ◆ expanding the report to identify the number of complaints of attacks by students reported by teachers that turned out to be legitimate,
- ◆ expanding the report to include the effects of the presence of school resource officers, and
- ◆ parental and community involvement.

Handout:

A Study of the Readiness of Public Schools in Response to Acts of Violence (Anti-Bullying), Preliminary Report

Discussion of Proposed Arkansas Department of Education Rule, *Arkansas Department of Education Policies Governing Programs for Educator Licensure Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas*

Presenter & Synopsis:

Ms. Cheryl Reinhart, Attorney, Ethics and Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Ms. Reinhart briefly explained changes and adjustments to the rules made in response to questions that had been raised during its original presentation to the Committees in a meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. She said the rule would become effective September 1.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Karli Saracini, Special Advisor, Educator Licensure, Arkansas Department of Education

Relevant Action:

Following a brief discussion among legislators, Senator Elliott made a motion to approve the rule. Pursuant to the motion, and without objection, the motion was carried.

Handout:

Exhibit G - Department of Education Policies Governing Programs for Educator Licensure at Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas

Discussion of Proposed National Science Standards

Presenter & Synopsis:

Dr. Debbie Jones, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Jones stated that the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are necessary at this time because 60% of U.S. jobs are predicted to require some form of post-secondary education by the end of the decade; the National Science Foundation (NSF) reports that there are currently up to three (3) million unfilled positions in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) areas; and the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) shows that in the past ten years STEM jobs grew at three times the rate of non-STEM jobs and that's a trend that's likely to continue. Dr. Jones related personal stories about her children and their experiences in this area. Dr. Jones provided highlights of conceptual shifts in NGSS, and discussed the standards with regard to collaborative partners, writing, content, practice, and arrangement, and noted that the standards are internationally benchmarked. Dr. Jones included commentary on the alignment of the NGSS with the Common Core State Standards.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Michele Snyder, Public School Program Advisor, Learning Services, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ≈ lack of engineers, and defense contractors not getting the employees they need domestically,
- ≈ Arkansas's rankings in science and engineering readiness,
- ≈ adoption of standards that are inferior to the current standards,
- ≈ science facts vs. political agendas,
- ≈ timing and tests for NGSS,
- ≈ implementation of NGSS,
- ≈ funding for NGSS,
- ≈ materials development and procurement,
- ≈ writing and review of content by experts, and
- ≈ formal adoption of NGSS.

Handouts:

Proposed National Science Standards
Science Standards Timeline

Discussion of Zuni4Ed Program

Presenter & Synopsis:

Ms. Tina McCord, ZUNI Tree, LLC, was recognized. Ms. McCord described the Zuni4Education resource program as part of Zuni Learning Tree, and that it was developed out of a passion to support teachers. She said Zuni4Education brings the best from the Web at a quick glance. She said it is a way to organize the plethora of information available online in one location and to access it efficiently; and is a collaboration tool that can be used with students. Ms. McCord described Zuni as a local company from Conway, Arkansas. She said Zuni4Education was piloted with North Little Rock teachers.

Issue Included in the Discussion:

- * funding for development of the program.

Handout:

Zuni Brochure

Senator Elliot made closing comments on the NGSS presentation and on Arkansas's ratings. She said, while Arkansas gets good grades for accumulation of knowledge, two things that would be enhanced by NGSS in Arkansas are scientific inquiry and methodology. She commented on ways for Arkansas to get better than a B rating. Senator Elliott stated her major concern is to be able to compete in the world.

Other Handouts:

ADE Commissioner's Memo 2014-2015 Testing Calendar
Simple Guide to Assessment in Arkansas Schools

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Approved: 09/08/14