

EXHIBIT C

MINUTES

HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, December 14, 2020

9:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Lance Eads and Mark Johnson; Representatives Bruce Cozart, Chair; Fred Allen, Rick Beck, LeAnne Burch, Jim Dotson, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Mark Lowery, Stephen Meeks, Nelda Speaks, Joy Springer, Dan Sullivan and DeAnn Vaught

Other members present: Senator Jonathan Dismang; Representatives Karilyn Brown, Les Eaves, Jamie Scott, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Megan Godfrey, Jack Ladyman, Stu Smith and Danny Watson

Senator English called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for the December 1, 2020, Meeting [Exhibit C]

Representative Garner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Eads, and the motion carried.

Discussion and Adoption of the Final Arkansas School Finance Study Report [Exhibit D]

Mr. Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) Consulting, and Ms. Amanda Brown, Senior Associate, APA Consulting, provided an update on the final recommendations.

Senator Elliott made a motion to adopt a hybrid approach to reviewing adequacy and for conducting adequacy studies, seconded by Representative Springer, and the motion carried.

Representative Vaught made a motion to adopt the Final Arkansas School Finance Study Report, seconded by Representative Burch, and the motion carried.

Representative Vaught presented, for consideration, Representative Jana Della Rosa's request that an additional recommendation be added to the Final Arkansas School Finance Study Report. The committee discussed and amended Representative Della Rosa's recommendation to read:

“Based on research and Arkansas case-study findings that the schools who perform best, especially with a low-income and English learner students, demonstrate many of the characteristics of professional learning communities, such as strong leaders, staff, school culture, and targeted, data-driven interventions, this body highly recommends a professional learning community concept to be considered an integral component of adequacy. It further recommends that our schools of higher education incorporate professional learning community principles into their curriculum for elementary and secondary education degrees and that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education continue to make recommendations to the legislature for reasonable and proper implementation and maintenance of this program.”

Representative Vaught made a motion to adopt the recommendation, seconded by Representative Cozart and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

DRAFT