

MEETING SUMMARY

JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, September 18, 2017

1:30 P.M.

Room 171, State Capitol
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: Senator Jane English, Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott, Vice Chair; Senator Linda Chesterfield; and Senator Alan Clark.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charlotte V. Douglas, Vice Chair; Representative Rick Beck; 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; Representative Dan Sullivan; Representative DeAnn Vaught; and Representative John Walker.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Trent Garner; Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr.; Representative Scott Baltz; Representative Charles Blake; Representative LeAnne Burch; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Jimmy Gazaway; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Ken Henderson; Representative Steve Hollowell; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Aaron Pilkington; Representative Laurie Rushing; Representative Matthew J. Shepherd; Representative James Sorvillo; Representative Jeff Wardlaw; Representative Les A. Warren; and Representative Carlton Wing.

The Honorable Gary Deffenbaugh, State Representative, District 79, was recognized. Representative Deffenbaugh introduced **Ms. Courtney Cochran**, a Spanish teacher at Van Buren High School, Van Buren, AR, who was chosen the 2017 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. Ms. Cochran thanked legislators for the welcome and reminded them that this is "Take Your Legislator to School Month." She offered her assistance in setting up visits to local schools.

Representative Cozart commented that he, along with Senator Clark, Senator Sample, Representative Gates, and Representative Warren, had made a visit to a school that morning.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of August 21, 2017 and August 22, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 08/21/17 Minutes

Exhibit C2 – 08/22/17 Minutes

Reports from Members Who Attended Recent Meetings Concerning Public or Higher Education
There were no reports.

Consideration and Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISPs)

1. Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2017-095 by Representative S. Meeks, REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY AT WHAT GRADE LEVEL AND TO WHAT EXTENT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
2. Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2017-096 by Representative S. Meeks, REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION STUDY THE GRADING OF KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE (K-12) STUDENTS USING A PERFORMANCE-BASED METHOD RATHER THAN ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF HOURS OF INSTRUCTION.

Presenter:

The Honorable Stephen Meeks, State Representative, District 67, was recognized. Representative Meeks stated ISP 2017-095 requests a study of the appropriate grade level at which to introduce technology to elementary students. He raised the concern of whether looking at computer screens all day long, both at home and in the classroom, affects students' eyesight or attention span or causes some other problem. He noted that he has had mixed responses when querying teachers about this issue. He thought it might be prudent for the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to issue guidance to local schools regarding the amount of technology and allowable screen time that would benefit and not harm students. Representative Meeks said ISP 2017-096 requests a study to find an alternative to the Carnegie Unit, potentially going to a performance-based model, which would allow more personalized learning so students can gauge accomplishments and be rewarded for tasks completed.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- o extending personalized learning offered to upper grade levels to K-12 students, and
- o developing opportunities for competency-based education for K-12 throughout the state.

Relevant Action:

Representative Meeks made a motion to adopt both Interim Study Proposals. The motion was seconded by Representative Mark McElroy.

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

Exhibits:

Exhibit E1 – ISP 2017-095

Exhibit E2 – ISP 2017-096

Review of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE)'s Proposed Productivity Funding Distribution Policy

Representative Cozart announced that, following Dr. Markham's presentation, he would first open the floor to questions from members of the Committees before opening it to non-members. He wanted to make sure questioning on this topic was done in an efficient manner.

Presenters:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized. Dr. Markham discussed the shift from a needs-based model to a productivity-based funding model for Arkansas public higher education. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, she walked members through the report, *Productivity-based Funding Model*, covering topics that included: Attainment Gap, Median Income, Productivity vs. Need-Based, Outcomes-Based Funding in FY2016, Outcomes-Based Funding, Transparency of Process, Workgroup, Guiding Principles, Productivity Measures, Credentials, Progression, Gateway, Transfer, Time to Degree, Credits at Completion, Research Adjustment, Diseconomies of Scale Adjustment, Core Expense Ratio, Faculty to Admin Salary Ratio, Calculating Productivity Change, Total New Funding Recommendation, and New Funding Recommendations. **Ms. Tara Smith**, Deputy Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, was recognized, and discussed examples of funding recommendations. Dr. Markham concluded by providing answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- whether the productivity-based funding model is a recipe for uplifting a deficiently educated population, or one that will maintain or depress the status quo,
- how the productivity-based funding model will benefit the state,
- calculating efficiency into the model,
- effect on a student for going the route of a credited apprenticeship program rather than a seat-based program,
- effect on institutions that have smaller recruitment numbers because of lack of student housing,
- rolling out a new student information system at ADHE,
- forward-facing dashboard enabling more transparency,
- switching funds between institutions of higher education or giving it back to taxpayers,
- retaining integrity through the reporting of numbers,
- pushing back remediation to K-12,
- funding formula percentages,
- starting out a new program with a funding formula that has never been totally funded,
- compounding the struggle of colleges; colleges remaining vibrant institutions in this structure,
- honoring the mission of institutions,
- clarifying core expense ratios,
- clarification of why workforce certification and a job productivity model were not included in the funding formula,
- productivity measures and the term, “affordability,”
- cross-institutional collaboration,
- determining the effectiveness of the productivity-based funding model,
- utilizing existing definitions in workforce education; incorporating new definitions,
- maintaining ratios in the productivity model,
- out-of-state students in the productivity model,
- distinction between community colleges and universities in the model,
- the proposed model locking in place the 3:1 funding ratio of universities vs. community colleges,
- remediation courses and progression,
- directing dollars from unproductive institutions to successful programs,
- building an appeals process for struggling institutions that lose funding into the productivity model,
- addressing equity in funding for institutions in the transition to a new model,
- determining the statewide “high-demand” profession list, and
- growth in base funding.

PowerPoint Presentation:

ADHE Productivity-based Funding Model

Exhibits:

Exhibit F1 – Productivity-based Funding Model Policies, Summary
Exhibit F2 – Productivity Funding Distribution Policy
Exhibit F3 – Productivity Funding Model Policy, Universities
Exhibit F4 – Productivity Funding Model Policy, Two-Year Colleges

Handout:

ADHE Productivity-based Funding Model

Report by the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee

Presenters:

Ms. Sandra Prater, Chair, Public School Health Services Advisory Committee, was recognized. Ms. Prater delivered the annual report on health issues of Arkansas public school students, including the mandatory school nurse survey, guidelines for school nursing, key findings, and recommendations for the General Assembly about how to improve health services for Arkansas students.

Ms. Cheria Lindsey, BSN, RN, School Health Services, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Ms. Lindsey presented highlights and walked members through graphs in the report.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Ms. Tracy Starks, Student Health Resource Officer, School Health Services, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- obesity numbers and what is being done about physical education in schools,
- clarification of data on injuries,
- funding to increase number of school nurses,
- visiting the emergency room vs. the school nurse,
- reporting data of school nurse encounters in schools,
- nurses' knowledge of Medicaid reimbursement, and
- monitoring agreements between school districts and vendors.

Handout:

2017 PSHSAC Report, Act 935 of 2015

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Approved: 11/20/2017