

ACTION SHEET
JOINT MEETING
OF THE
HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION

Monday, December 12, 2016
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 Eddie Cheatham; Senator Jim Hendren; Senator Bobby J. Pierce; and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE: Representative LeAnne Burch; Representative Charlotte V. Douglas; Representative Jon Eubanks; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Michael John Gray; Representative Mark Lowery; Representative James Ratliff; and Representative John W. Walker.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator Greg Standridge; Senator Larry Teague; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Charles Blake; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative R. Trevor Drown; Representative Vivian Flowers; Representative Mickey Gates; Representative Justin Gonzales; Representative Fredrick J. Love; Representative Stephen Meeks; and Representative Sue Scott.

Action Sheets:

Without objection, the Action Sheets of the October 31, 2016 (Joint), November 1, 2016 (Senate), and November 22, 2016 (House) meetings, were approved as written.

Exhibits:

Exhibit C1 – 10/31/16 Joint Education, Adequacy, Action Sheet
Exhibit C2 – 11/01/16 Senate Education, Adequacy, Action Sheet and Exhibit
Exhibit C3 – 11/22/16 House Education, Adequacy, Action Sheet

Receipt and Discussion of the Annual Report of the School Leadership Coordinating Council

Presenter:

Mr. David Cook, Director, Arkansas Leadership Academy, was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Cook presented *A Report to the Arkansas Joint Education Committee*. He discussed the two focuses of Act 222 of 2009: to strengthen Arkansas educational leadership development and to provide school support. He discussed the purposes and recent work of the Leadership Coordinating Council; and introduced Mr. Blaine Alexander and Ms. Jennifer Medeiros to follow up with an in-depth presentation of the work and relevant data for the Impact Institute Strategic Plan and School Support Program of the Arkansas Leadership Academy (ALA).

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Blaine Alexander, School Support Program Leader, Arkansas Leadership Academy
Ms. Jennifer Medeiros, Research and Data Specialist, Arkansas Leadership Academy

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ◆ principals with schools in some form of distress who have attended the ALA program,
- ◆ determining factors for those attending the ALA program,
- ◆ principals whose schools are in, or are emerging from, distress, who were in the program last year or who are in the program now, and
- ◆ source of funding for the program.

PowerPoint Presentations:

Act 222, 2016 Report
Arkansas Leadership Academy, Impact Institute Strategic Plan

Handouts:

Act 222, 2016 Report
Arkansas Leadership Academy, Impact Institute Strategic Plan

Senator English announced that the meeting would take a recess for members to attend Governor Asa Hutchinson's 1:55 p.m. press conference pertinent to an education initiative with Microsoft.

Senator English called the meeting back to order at 2:30 p.m.

Senator English announced that Item F on the Agenda, *Discussion of Equity in Arkansas' Early Childhood System: Supporting Teacher Competencies in Working with African American Male Children*, would not be presented today. She said it would be rescheduled for presentation during the next Interim Session.

Handout:

Promoting Equity in Arkansas' Early Childhood System: Supporting Teacher Competencies in Working with African American Male Children, Equity Leaders Action Network

Discussion of Issues Related to Digital Learning

Presenters:

Mr. Terry Benham, Government Relations Consultant, Association of American Publishers
Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director for Higher Education, Association of American Publishers.
Mr. Tom Malek, Senior Vice President, Head of Partnerships, Pearson Education
Mr. Justin Masek, Partnership Director, Higher Education and Enterprise Solutions, Cengage Learning, Inc.

Each presenter briefly discussed changing issues in the textbook industry. The discussion included historical use of textbooks; the shift to digital learning; the effect of rapid change on publishers, institutions of higher education, on-campus bookstores, and used bookstores; and digital discount programs which go toward improving student outcomes and reducing costs for students.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- transitioning PDF versions of textbooks to more mobile and interactive platforms,
- clarity in models of a student's ability to "opt out" of a digital learning product,
- license agreement is direct with an institution to provide for its content needs,
- providing the best price to a student via an institutional agreement,
- emerging practices between providers and institutions to set digital learning costs, and
- setting up higher education regulatory board guidelines or policies for digital learning program use.

Handout:

Digital Learning Information Packet

Update to Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Website

Presenter:

Dr. Eric Saunders, Assistant Commissioner, Research and Technology, Arkansas Department of Education, was recognized. Dr. Saunders said that about a month ago, the ADE released a new website, *My School Info*, <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov>. He stated the idea behind the website is to consolidate a lot of school information into one place so that parents, public, policymakers, department personnel, and schools would be able to access school information and to use it in an easy way. He noted the website allows a search and comparison of public schools and districts from across the State of Arkansas, and includes general information, student demographic information (individual student level information is not available), course enrollment, staffing, finance, and student achievement. Dr. Saunders walked members through some of the information that is available and how to use the website.

Contributor to the Discussion:

Mr. Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- link to *My School Info* from the ADE home page, and
- starting up the assignment of letter grades, a practice which was suspended for a year.

Handout:

ADE *My School Info* Demo Presentation

Discussion of FreeTeacher U, a Model Teacher Preparation Program (freeteacheru.com)

Presenter:

Dr. Leah Wasburn-Moses, Professor, Educational Psychology, Miami University (Ohio), was recognized. Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Wasburn-Moses discussed FreeTeacherU, an innovative licensure model for special education. She stated that special education is the single greatest teacher shortage area in the state and around the nation, and that she has developed the first free teacher education model in the United States as a solution. She said the model is specifically designed for special education, is grounded in research, meets professional standards and is ready to be implemented. Dr. Leah Wasburn described the details and commented on the advantages of FreeTeacherU.

PowerPoint Presentation:

FreeTeacherU Presentation

Handouts:

FreeTeacherU Competency-Based Checklist, FreeTeacherU Flyer, FreeTeacherU Presentation

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting date is TBD.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.