

MINUTES
Jemez Pueblo - State Capitol
Jemez, New Mexico - Santa Fe, New
Mexico April 27-29, 2022

Wednesday, April 27

The following voting and advisory committee members were present: Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Senators Mimi Stewart and Harold Pope Jr., and Representatives Derrick J. Lente and Christine Trujillo.

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joy Garratt, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, and Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators David M. Gallegos, Linda M. Lopez, and Shannon D. Pinto.

Opening Remarks. Chair William P. Soules Called the meeting to order with brief introductions of legislators and LESC Staff. The Jemez Pueblo Governor Raymond Loretto, DVM, provided opening remarks. He concluded by introducing Jemez leaders, staff and educational programs.

Tour Jemez Pueblo Education Programs. LESC members and staff, as well as all meeting attendees, were split into four groups to take tours of the Jemez Pueblo language immersion and charter school language and culture sites. Tours included visiting the Walatowa Head Start Language Immersion Program, the Walatowa Child Care Program, and the Jemez Pueblo's kindergarten-through-sixth Immersion Program. Following the tours, leaders from Jemez Pueblo and LESC members participated in a debriefing session.

Jemez Education Debriefing. Chair Soules thanked the Jemez Pueblo education staff for the tour. Members commented on their positive impressions. Several members noted the pueblo's language immersion approach could be used as a national model, and presenters from Jemez Pueblo noted students benefit from an education that supports their identity.

Jemez Ownership of Education-Innovating Partnerships. Keiki Chang Kawai'ae'a, Ph.D., director and associate professor, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani at the University of Hawaii, presented on strategies to revitalize language in public schools by investing in language acquisition which has resulting in the rise of native language speakers in Hawai'i. William "Pila" Wilson, professor of Hawaiian language, University of Hawai'I at Hilo presented on the importance of knowing multiple languages and being able to operate fully in Hawaiian, Spanish, and English. Professor Wilson noted that reading can be taught more effectively by teaching in a native language prior to English. Sam Strother, director of professional development, Developing Mathematical Thinking Institute presented to the committee on strategies to incorporate language and culture into mathematical instruction.

Tribal Determined Language and Culture Initiatives: Opportunities, Innovations and Challenges. Jeremy Oyenque, director, youth and learning, Santa Clara Pueblo; Charlene Lucero, executive director, Isleta Department of Education; Hayes Lewis, executive director, Ashiwi College & Career Readiness Center; Reynelle Lowsayatee, PhD., instructor, Ashiwi College and Career Readiness Center; Tracey Cordero, director, Indigenous Montessori Institute Keres Children's Learning Center presented to the committee.

Panelists shared innovative projects and programs they have created and lead within their respective tribes, pueblos, and nations. Panelists also cited the need for tribally controlled schools as well as the challenges of navigating multiple state and federal funding streams and requirements.

Members asked panelists for input on potential changes to funding and policy.

Growing Our Own-Teacher Certification and Licensure Efforts in Response to Tribal Priorities. Patricia Sandoval, superintendent, Laguna Department of Education; Keiki Change Kawai'ae'a, Ph.D.; Jerney Oyunque, director, youth and learning, Santa Clara Pueblo; Hayes Lewis, Executive Director, Ashiwi College and Career Readiness Center; Reynell Lowsayatee, Ph.D., Instructor, Ashiwi College and Career Readiness Center; and Tracey Cordero, Director, Indigenous Montessori Institute Keres Children's Learning Center participated in a panel discussion, led by representatives from the Jemez Department of Education, focused on efforts in teacher certification processes. Panelists discussed the need for including Native American education leaders in state level discussions about education, research that demonstrates people of color experience teacher licensure examinations as a barrier at a higher level than their peers, the importance of setting up positive culturally responsive student support systems at teacher preparation programs, and the reexamination of teacher standards and competencies to support indigenous language programs.

Charter School Authorization Authority - Continuing Investments in Tribal Schools. Kevin Shendo, Director of Education, Jemez Pueblo, provided context for the various challenges Jemez Pueblo has experienced in establishing and overseeing charter schools in their community. He proposed that tribes, pueblos, and nations be allowed to charter their own schools and define educational sovereignty for their own communities.

Thursday, April 28

The following voting and advisory committee members were present: Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Vice Chair G. Andres Romero, Senators Mimi Stewart and Harold Pope Jr., and Representatives Derrick J. Lente and Christine Trujillo.

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Rebecca Dow, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero and Senators David M. Gallegos and Linda M. Lopez.

Representative Rod Montoya attended as a guest.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of April Agenda and January 6-7 and January 17 Minutes. Chair Soules called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of LESC members.

LESC Work Plan. Acting Director Vanessa Hawker, Ph.D., presented the staff work plan and gave a brief overview of the primary policy issues within the plan such as effective principal preparation and support, Indian education programming and assessments, and student outcome data. Chair Soules noted the breadth of the plan and asked that staff presentations go beyond describing the problems into offering solutions. The committee adopted the

work plan and LESC 2022 interim schedule and locations on a motion from Senator Stewart and a second by Representative Trujillo.

The April agenda and January 6-7 and January 17 minutes were approved on a motion from Representative Trujillo and a second by Senator Pope.

Social Studies Standards, Changes from Proposed to Adoption. Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD., deputy secretary of teaching, learning and assessment, Public Education Department (PED), and Marit Andrews, humanities specialist, PED, gave a presentation to inform members about the social studies standards revision process, implementation plan, and New Mexico Instructional Scope. Information discussed included rationale for updating the social studies standards, PED's timeline of revisions to the standards, changes between the proposed and adopted rule, and next steps in implementation such as professional development support for educators. The newly adopted social studies standards are expected to be fully implemented beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

Acting Director's Report. Ms. Hawker announced the release of the LESC April newsletter.

High School Experience. Daniel Estupinan, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC; High School Seniors - Eddie Cassidy, Desert Sage Academy; Antonia McGinn, Española High School; and Aseneth Ultreras, Capital High School - answered guided questions followed by member questions. In their responses, the students highlighted the challenges they faced during high school, including disruptions from online learning and a lack of relevancy between coursework and the skills students believe they need to be successful after high school.

Members asked for the student's thoughts on requiring financial literacy in high school, the activities and courses that motivated them, and whether they had ideas for improving public education in New Mexico.

Impacts of Covid-19 in Early Childhood Classrooms Holly Duffy, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC; Elizabeth Martinez, infant early childhood mental health consultant, Youth Development, Inc.; Terrie Adams, teacher, Capitan Municipal Schools; Kathy Zimmermann, teacher, Deming Public Schools; Sacha Thompson, teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools. Panelists addressed the short-term and long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, including need for greater social and emotional support as well as targeted academic support for literacy and mathematics, and the potential misalignment with Common Core standards with developmentally appropriate early childhood education.

Members asked panelists about hours spent meeting state mandates and how much time in the school they are able to provide direct instruction to students.

Public Comment. Sunny Liu, senior fiscal analyst, Legislative Finance Committee, reiterated his intentions to continue working with LESC in areas where the committees have alignment, Stan Rounds, executive director, New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders, expressed his focus on tier costs, instructional materials, and transportation costs, Daniel Ortiz, Hispanic Anti-Defamation League, spoke on the teaching of historical events in schools, JD, spoke on the concept of white privilege, Virgil Vigil, president, Union Protectiva, spoke on his opposition to the social studies

standards, and Susana Pauline Anaya, spoke in opposition to the social studies standards.

Post Session Review. Joseph J. Garcia, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC provided a short overview of the Post Session Review highlighting the appropriations for education support during the 30-day session. Representative Joanne J. Ferrary, asked about the national board certification grants and their estimated costs, in regards to counselors and principals. Ms. Hawker described sufficient funding exists in the pipeline. Representative Ferrary stated that focus of national board certifications should be led by the LESC instead of the LFC.

Friday, April 29

The following voting and advisory committee members were present: Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Senators Mimi Stewart and Harold Pope Jr., and Representatives Brian G. Baca, Christine Trujillo and Susan K. Herrera.

Advisory: Representatives Joanne Ferrary, Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, and Senators David M. Gallegos and Linda M. Lopez.

Graduation Requirements. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, presented a staff brief to members that included information about current graduation requirements, the committee's work during the 2021 interim on graduation requirements, and a regional analysis of how New Mexico compares with neighboring states in its coursework expectations for high school students.

Teacher Licensure. Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I, LESC, presented to the committee about the teacher licensure system in New Mexico. Committee members engaged in discussions with each other about the costs of teacher licensure examinations, the barriers and insights teacher licensure examinations can provide, and the dossier system in New Mexico. Ms. Warniment, Ph.D., and John Sena, Director of Policy, PED announced to committee members the department intends on eliminating the teacher licensure examinations testing requirement for all core academic skills teacher licensure examinations.

School Bus Safety. Mr. Garcia introduced Royce Binns, Executive Director of Transportation, Albuquerque Public Schools; Antonio Ortiz, Director of Capital Outlay, PED. Antonio Ortiz explained that the PED is neutral on the topic of seatbelts and provided information for the legislature to determine the need for seatbelts. Royce Binns explained that the recent bus accident was one of the most dangerous accidents to occur in Albuquerque reinforcing this being a big proponent for all safety measures for buses. Representative Herrera asked about the cost of seatbelts and air conditioning on buses. Antonio Ortiz explained the cost of seatbelts and the various scenarios including the age of buses and other factors needed for consideration of costs.