

Minutes
Santa Fe, NM
December 5-7, 2022

Monday, December 5

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

Advisory: Representatives Joy Garratt, D. Wonda Johnson, Tara Lujan, Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Craig Brandt, Linda M. Lopez, Shannon Pinto and Joshua Sanchez.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of Agenda. Senator William P. Soules, Chair of the LESC, called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of the members and staff of LESC. The December meeting agenda and November meeting minutes were also approved.

Early Childhood Education and Care Department Update. Elizabeth Groginsky, Secretary, Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) provided an update about the ECECD five-year strategic plan, highlights and new initiatives, four-year finance plan, and the agency's FY24 budget proposal. Secretary Groginsky noted in FY22, the department provided several programmatic services including child care (serving 18.4 thousand children), its Families First program (serving nearly 4,000 children), its Family Infant Toddler Program (serving 13.8 thousand children), its Family Nutrition program (serving 31.6 thousand meal recipients) through Home Visiting (serving nearly 7,000 children) and through pre-kindergarten (serving just over 14.1 thousand children). Secretary Groginsky also noted the department was requesting a 7 percent budget increase for FY24 over its FY23 appropriation, totaling a request of \$453.7 million in FY24. Following the presentation, Secretary Groginsky, Sandy Trujillo-Medina, Division Director, Early Care, Education, and Nutrition, ECECD, and Mayra Gutierrez, Division Director, Family Support and Early Intervention, ECECD, answered member questions.

Cook Center for Human Connection. Stan Rounds, Executive Director, New Mexico Coalition for Educational Leaders and New Mexico Superintendents Association, Anne Brown, President and CEO, Cook Center for Human Connection, Adele Winter, Director of Advancement, Cook Center for Human Connection, and Dawn Apodaca, Superintendent, Mountainair Public Schools, presented about supporting children, families, and schools in eradicating suicide, as well as offering resources and support for those with mental health issues and their caregivers. Apodaca highlighted Mountainair Public Schools' partnership with the Cook Center for Human Connection through use of ESSR funding, and representatives from the Cook Center described their programs and resources that can be utilized by schools and parents or caregivers of students.

New Mexico School for the Arts. Cindy Montoya, President, New Mexico School for the Arts-Art Institute (NMSA), presented an overview of NMSA, a state-chartered charter school in Santa Fe. NMSA is the only charter school in New Mexico that has an authorizing statute, placing the school at a middle ground between true charter school and the constitutional special schools. NMSA completed construction of a dormitory and will request during the 2023 legislative session operational funding to support a student resident program, allowing additional students from all over New Mexico to attend NMSA in-person. Ms. Montoya was joined by Eric Crites, Head of School, NMSA, and Paula Tackett, Governing Council Secretary, NMSA.

New Mexico Educational Retirement Board. David Archuleta, Executive Director, New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (ERB), presented on agency updates and proposed legislation for the 2023 Legislative Session. Mr. Archuleta included the number of active members, retirees and beneficiaries, and the costs associated with administering programs. For the upcoming session, ERB's board members are hoping to update aspects of the Procurement Code and the Educational Retirement Act.

Office of Broadband and Statewide Education Network Update. Dianne Lindstrom, Deputy Director, Department of Information Technology Office of Broadband, presented an update on the newly-created Office of Broadband, an office with the primary mission of achieving bold, affordable, and collaborative broadband internet solutions for New Mexicans. The Office of Broadband is working to leverage federal funding opportunities and internet service provider participation to connect disconnected households to a broadband internet connection. However, the Federal Communications Commission has greatly underestimated the true need in rural New Mexico communities, and the Office of Broadband is working to collect unidentified need and dispute the federal agency's findings. Ovidiu Viorica, Broadband and Technology Director, Public School Facilities Authority, provided an update on the creation of a statewide education network (SEN). The SEN, authorized by legislation passed during the 2021 legislative session, is exiting its planning phase, and draft service contracts are being entered by approximately 30 schools. The SEN is designed to provide connectivity to individual school sites, but is not a solution for students who may not have connectivity at home.

Director's Report. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director of the LESC, provided an update to members including information about the committee's newsletter, the LESC agency budget, and current staff projects. Dr. Perea Warniment noted the newsletter focused on two critical issues: early childhood and chronic absenteeism. She also informed LESC members that the LESC staff budget continues to have about \$100 thousand in vacancy savings, some of which would be used to fund contracts and supports for the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Perea Warniment also highlighted a recent presentation to the New Mexico School Boards Association and shared that Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I, and Tim Bedeaux, Senior

Policy Analyst II, were currently working on an evaluation of alternative educator licensure programs as part of their completion of the Masters in Public Policy program at the University of New Mexico.

Tuesday, December 6

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

Advisory: Representatives Joy Garratt, D. Wonda Johnson, Tara Lujan, Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Craig Brandt, Linda M. Lopez, Shannon Pinto and Joshua Sanchez.

Public Education Department. Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D., Secretary, Public Education Department (PED) and Simon Miller, Principal Analyst, New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, provided an overview of PED's FY24 request for public school support.

Members asked about school safety, instructional materials, professional collaboration and development, compaction in compensation, attendance, school and department staffing, school leadership, early literacy, housing for educators, and tutoring programs.

2023 Legislative Session Budget and Policy Priorities. The Education partners and stakeholders presented their policy and budget priorities to members. Joe Guillen, Executive Director of the New Mexico School Boards Association (NMSBA); Mary Parr-Sanchez, President of the National Education Association-New Mexico (NEA-NM); and Stan Rounds, Executive Director of the NMSA, presented the joint priorities of the education partners. The first priority was to sustain statewide investments in education including a focus on local flexibility in deciding how to implement additional instruction hours, reduce matching requirements related to capital outlay, and assure flexibility to fully implement community school strategies. The second priority was attracting a diverse workforce by investing in substantial salary increases for all school personnel, mandatory minimums for certain school personnel, and increasing compensation for principals. The third priority was retaining a diverse workforce by mitigating healthcare costs and including funding in the state equalization guarantee (SEG) to support each district for salary differentials for additional supports provided by educators. The final priority was supporting a diverse workforce by protecting teacher planning time and provided mental and behavioral health services.

After the joint education partner's priorities presentation, each individual education partner and stakeholder presented their organizational priorities to members. Mr. Guillen and Dymorie Maker, President of NMSBA presented the NMSBA policy and budget priorities to members. These priorities included an emphasis on local decision making; providing adequate funding for educator recruitment, retention, preparation, and compensation; preserving and protecting school district operating budget reserves; continuing extended learning time

programs; funding culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum; and opposing any unfunded mandates. Bonnie Lightfoot, President of the NMSA and Mr. Rounds presented the priorities of the NMSA and the New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders to members. These priorities included assuring flexibility for local decision making to align with each community's educational needs, providing tools for recruiting and retaining quality educational personnel, meeting the needs of New Mexico students through financial solvency, and updating regulatory practices. Steve Sianez, Government Relations and Communications Director of the NEA-NM and Ms. Parr-Sanchez presented the policy and budget priorities of NEA-NM to the members. The priorities of NEA-NM included investing in community schools, protecting teacher planning time, fully funding an 80/20 employer employee healthcare rule, and statutorily prohibiting blanket class size waivers and class size averaging loopholes. Whitney Holland, President of the American Federation of Teachers- New Mexico (AFT-NM) and John Dyrez, State Affiliate Political Organizer of AFT-NM, presented the policy and budget priorities of AFT-NM to members. Reneta Witte, Vice-President of the Parent Teacher Association- New Mexico (PTA-NM) and Fatima Ceballows, Bylaws Chair of PTA-NM, presented the policy and budget priorities of PTA-NM to the members. The priorities of PTA-NM included a focus on mental health and the hiring of mental health professionals in schools, school leadership standards, and the community schools model. Matthew Pahl, Executive Director of Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM) presented the policy and budget priorities of PCSNM. The priorities of PCSNM included supporting funding parity for public school students in charter schools, legislation that funds student support staff for the general student population, ensuring salary and benefit increases are fully funded, ensuring charter schools are able to provide transportation for students, establishing new data systems at PED, and an investigation into at-risk funding.

LESC Budget Considerations and Discussion. Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Fiscal Analyst II, LESC, provided an overview of the budget considerations embedded in the LESC's FY24 draft staff scenario for public school support.

Members asked about residency programs, health insurance, the family income index, career-technical education, literacy, and school security.

Committee Endorsed Legislation. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), presented bills for potential LESC endorsement for the 2023 session, including a bill to amend the state's graduation requirements; a public school capital outlay omnibus bill; a bill to increase instructional hours for all schools to 1,140; a bill to increase educational assistant salaries to \$25 thousand; a bill to amend the SEG by increasing the at-risk factor to 0.35, the fine arts factor to .056, and also to amend the School Personnel Act to increase the administrative responsibility factors by 0.05; a bill to create a tribal education trust fund; a bill to amend the distributions from the Indian education fund; and a bill to increase employer

contributions for group insurance for all school districts and charter schools. The items were presented for discussion but the committee did not take formal action to endorse any legislation.

Wednesday, December 7

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Vice Chair Andrés Romero, Representatives Brian G. Baca and Susan K. Herrera.

Advisory: Representatives Natalie Figueroa and Tara Lujan, and Senator Shannon Pinto.

New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority. Patrick Sandoval, Executive Director, New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority (NMPSIA), and Martha Quintana, Deputy Director, NMPSIA, provided an agency update and an overview of the programs and resources for members, paid claims and Covid-19 related expenses, and their FY23 Appropriation Request. Notably, for FY24, the impact on Public School Support is \$15.2 million to fund the employer share of premium increases, which includes both the Employee benefits premiums and Risk Premiums.

HM18 Teacher Workforce Task Force. Patricia Trujillo, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary of the Higher Education Department (HED); Seana Flanagan, Interim Managing Director, PED; Glenabah Martinez, Ph.D, House Memorial 18 (HM18) Taskforce Member; and Karina Todechine, Native American Teacher Educator Pathway, University of New Mexico presented an update on HM18 to members. Ms. Flanagan provided background on HM18, noting it was established to study New Mexico educator workforce issues. Ms. Flanagan stated that members of the taskforce represented PED, HED, colleges and universities, school districts and charter schools, tribal partners, union representatives, and LESC representatives. Ms. Flanagan presented an update on the educator workforce to the committee noting that over four thousand teacher licenses have been issued since January 1, 2022. Ms. Trujillo presented the initial recommendations from HM18 task force members which included compensation and teacher preparation program funding, improvements to teacher education programs and licensure, access to specific data, professional learning opportunities for teachers, and educational leadership changes. Ms. Martinez and Ms. Todechine presented on the University of New Mexico Native American Teacher Preparation Program, stating that the program provides test preparation, professional development, and support with license application fees. The presenters concluded the HM18 presentation with next steps for members, noting legislative requests aligned with the PED and HED budget requests.

Members asked questions about the Educator Accountability Report and about future funding for programs focused on Native American teacher preparation.

Student Panel. Bridget Condon, Policy Analyst I, LESC, introduced the student panel to members of the committee: Daniyal Hussain, student, Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School; Amber Maberry, student, Estancia High School; and Eliza Lamborn, student, Los Alamos High School. Mr. Hussain, Ms. Maberry, and Ms. Lamborn discussed factors that have facilitated student engagement and connection with their school communities, including strong relationships with faculty, extracurricular activities, and career technical education courses. The presentation closed with committee members asking the panel questions regarding student educational needs.

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