

MINUTES
Legislative Education Study Committee
State Capitol, New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico
January 6-7, 2022

Thursday, January 6

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

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, and Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Linda M. Lopez and Siah Herrera Hemphill.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of January Agenda and November Minutes. Chair Soules called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of LESC members. On a motion by Representative Romero and a second by Senator Pope the committee approved the November minutes and January agenda with no opposition.

FY22 AND FY23 General Fund Estimates. Chief economists, Lucinda Sydow, Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD), Leo Delgado, Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), and Ismael Torres, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), presented global, U.S. and New Mexico economic outlooks and gave overviews of the general fund.

Members voiced concerns about high cash reserves and the need to diversify the New Mexican economy.

Public Education Department FY23 Public School Support Budget Request. Kurt Steinhaus, then secretary-designate, Public Education Department (PED) presented graduation rates, achievement data, absenteeism rates, and teacher vacancy numbers. He then discussed the PED FY23 budget request, highlighting three focus areas: addressing unfinished learning and student achievement, the educator workforce crisis, and the *Martinez-Yazzie* ruling.

Education Partners and other Stakeholders 2022 Legislative Session Budget and Policy Priorities.

Joe Guillen, executive director, New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) led the presentation by introducing the partner organizations, the American Federation of Teachers New Mexico (AFTNM), the National Education Association New Mexico (NEA-NM), the New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders (NMCEL), the New Mexico School Superintendents Association (NMSSA) the New Mexico Parent Teacher Association (NMPTA), NMSBA, and the Albuquerque Teachers Federation (AFT).

The joint partners presented their 2022 priorities. The partners requested increase salary tiers for administrators, expanding paid teacher residency programs essential for teacher recruitment and retention for a diverse workforce. They also requested flexibility addressing local needs, equity issues, and extended learning programs, K-5 plus attendance with creative programming and support for community schools to remove barriers to learning with more involvement by stakeholders.

Other Stakeholders Legislative Priorities.

Matt Pahl, executive director, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico requested equitable state support for charter school facilities, an increase in operational funding to increase the number of adults in schools, and a new data system for PED.

Alan Mather, president, Golden Apple Foundation and Emmanuel Del Rio, discussed programs to Address Teacher Pipelines & Retention and advocated for teacher preparation programs such as Gold Apple Scholars and Golden Apple Accelerators.

Friday, January 7

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

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, and Debra M. Sarinana, and Senator Linda M. Lopez.

Staff Brief LESC Public School Support and Other Public Priorities.

Joseph Simon, Principal Analyst, LESC presented the FY23 LESC budget recommendation to the committee.

Members asked about PED oversight and district discretion of SEG funds, funding for the Hispanic Education Act, and the use American Rescue Plan Act, Community Schools, and Public Education Reform funds.

Committee Endorsed Legislation. LESC staff presented bill drafts and analyses for several bills which the committee considered for endorsement. The committee voted to endorse the following bills:

- A bill to increase statutory minimum teacher salaries to \$50 thousand for level 1 teachers, \$60 thousand for level 2 teachers, and \$70 thousand for level 3-A teachers and counselors.
- A bill to increase the required employer contribution for group health benefits for entities covered by the Public School Insurance Authority.
- A bill to require PED to increase contributions to the educational retirement fund by an additional 1 percentage point in FY23 and by 1 percent in FY24.

- A bill requiring PED to calculate FY23 transportation allocations for school transportation based on data collected in FY20 and actual expenditures in FY19.

Directors Report. Acting Directors Report. Vanessa Hawker, Ph.D., acting director, LESC noted the January newsletter featured an article on rural CTE programs. Ms. Hawker noted the FY21 audit had no material weakness.

In closing Ms. Hawker discussed the LESC FY23 budget request submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration and LFC for a 6.51% increase resulting in a general fund appropriation of 1.43 million for LESC operations and personal services.

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