

MINUTES  
Alamogordo, NM  
July 27-29, 2022

Wednesday, July 27

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Vice Chair G. Andrés Romero, Representatives T. Ryan Lane, Christine Trujillo and Susan K. Herrera and Senator Gay Kernan.

Advisory: Representatives Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, D. Wonda Johnson, Willie D. Madrid, Debra M. Sariñana, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Senator Craig Brandt. Representative Rachel A. Black attended as a guest.

**Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes.** Chairman William P. Soules called the meeting to order with brief introductions of legislators and LESC staff. On a motion by Representative Trujillo and a second by Representative Herrera, the July agenda was approved. On a motion by Representative Trujillo and a second by Representative Romero, the June 8-10 minutes were approved with no opposition.

**Welcome to Alamogordo** Susan L. Payne, Mayor, Alamogordo; Kenneth R. Moore, Ed.D., Superintendent, Alamogordo Public Schools; Anne Ricksecker, Vice President for Student Success, New Mexico State University-Alamogordo (NMSU-A). The panel answered several questions from members regarding dual credit participation between Alamogordo Public Schools and NMSU-A as well as the impact of the Opportunity Scholarship on college tuition coverage.

**Local Perspectives-Superintendents.** Jessica Hathaway, senior policy analyst II, LESC, facilitated a panel of superintendents including Kenneth R. Moore, Ed.D., superintendent, Alamogordo Public Schools; Tana Daugherty, superintendent, Cloudcroft Municipal Schools; and Ralph Ramos, superintendent, Las Cruces Public Schools. The superintendents answered questions related to budgetary processes and needs including describing their school district's budgeting process, how they are using funds allocated by the at-risk factor in the state equalization guarantee (SEG), how they are supporting new teachers with mentorship, how they purchase instructional materials, and their use of federal relief funds related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Extended Learning Time Program Discussion.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC; Charles Sallee, Deputy Director, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC); Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D., Secretary, Public Education Department (PED); discussed the historical context for funding K-5 Plus and Extended Learning Time programs (ELTP) and provided recommendations to increase instructional hours, provide professional work time, increase incentives for participation, right-size appropriations, and support alternatives for high-performing schools.

Members asked about research on the efficacy of adding hours versus days to a school calendar, how the state would assess the effectiveness of K-5 Plus and ELTP, and how other states are using funding to support extended learning time programs.

**Teacher Workforce.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC; Charles Sallee, Deputy Director, LFC presented a joint LESC and LFC brief on educator workforce issues, including teacher licensure processes, educator retention, current educator workforce numbers, student-to-teacher ratios, school leadership, and best practices around teacher preparation. Ms. Perea Warniment discussed investments in PED school leadership professional support, teacher compensation increases, school mental health providers, and teacher residency programs.

Thursday, June 28

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

Advisory: Representatives Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, D. Wonda Johnson, Willie D. Madrid, Debra M. Sariñana, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Senators Craig Brandt and Linda M. Lopez.

**Landscape of Public Education and Budget Considerations.** Daniel A. Estupiñan, senior policy analyst II, LESC, provided context for ongoing economic, public health, and academic trends in New Mexico, as well as an overview of the LESC's initial K-12 budget considerations for FY24.

Members asked for additional considerations regarding programs and services for students with disabilities, a comprehensive overview of school personnel compensation and benefits, how districts and charters could potentially leverage funds generated by the secondary factor for career technical education (CTE) programs, sources of funding that could be used for social-emotional supports, the sufficiency of funding for school security, and whether the Family Income Index should be appropriating funds for a third year.

**State Assessment Results.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC, presented a staff brief on assessment results throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Perea Warniment explained data from the Istation assessment, likely the best means of comparing student achievement before and after the pandemic, suggest students began the 2021-2022 school year significantly behind their peers from prior years and achieved about one-year worth of growth.

Lynn Vasquez, Director of Assessment, PED, presented the recent history of assessments in New Mexico that led to the adoption of the NM-MSSA, a new summative assessment administered in the 2021-2022 school year. She noted an interim assessment study by the national Center for Assessment

found trends in New Mexico mirror trends nationally, with students falling behind in math more than in reading.

**Career Technical Education—Capital and Programming Needs.** Jessica Hathaway, senior policy analyst II, LESC, presented a slide deck to LESC members that included information about the history of CTE, components of high-quality CTE programs, structures used by states nationwide to fund CTE programs, and current CTE funding, both at the state and federal level, used in New Mexico. New Mexico receives \$10.1 million in federal Perkins funding to support CTE. The Legislature also allocated a \$10 million appropriation to support CTE programming at the state level during the 2022 legislative session. Ms. Hathaway then facilitated a panel of CTE and college and career readiness directors from three school districts: Zeke Kaney, director of career and technical education, Hobbs Municipal Schools; Jack McFarland, director of instruction and college and career readiness, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, and Milo McMinn, director of career technical education, Aztec Municipal Schools. All panelists answered questions about their development of CTE initiatives in their respective school districts, what funding streams they are accessing for their school districts, capital outlay needs related to CTE programs, and what policy suggestions they have for legislators to bolster CTE programming statewide.

Friday, July 29

The following voting and advisory members were present: Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Vice Chair G. Andrés Romero, Representatives T. Ryan Lane, Christine Trujillo and Senators Gay Kernan and Harold Pope Jr.

Advisory: Representatives Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, Willie D. Madrid, Debra M. Sariñana, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Senators Craig Brandt and Linda M. Lopez.

**College Student Panel.** Jessica Hathaway, senior policy analyst II, LESC, facilitated a panel of current New Mexico college students for LESC members to hear about current student needs, concerns, and suggestions. The panel included six students: A'Lora Norris, student, NMSU-A; Dana Armendariz, student, NMSU; Eli Baca, student, NMSU; Megan Steeby, student, NMSU; Mia Rascon, student, NMSU-A; Tazia Swift, student, Dona Aña Community College (DACC). All of the participating students attended high school in New Mexico and answered questions about how they were prepared for their postsecondary experience, how their learning has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, supports needed for higher education success, and what suggestions they would offer to legislators.

**Teacher Panel-Workforce and Compensation.** Daniel Estupiñan, senior policy analyst II, LESC facilitated a panel of educators. Kendra Anderson, teacher, Alamogordo Public Schools; Jackie Holycross, teacher, Alamogordo Public Schools; Melanie Hallbeck, teacher, Alamogordo Public Schools; Sarah Johnston, teacher, Alamogordo Public Schools answered guided questions followed by committee member questions. In their responses, the teachers highlighted the challenges faced by teachers

relating strong professional development, the importance of strong school leadership, and strategies to better support teacher learning.

Committee members asked questions about school mental health resources, mentorship programs, teacher preparation programs, the role of technology in classrooms, and extending the school year.

**Director's Report.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC, reported to the committee the staff policies and procedures have been updated and needed approval. The committee did not have a quorum and could not conduct a vote on the policies and procedures.