

MINUTES
Legislative Education Study Committee
State Capitol, Senate Chambers
Santa Fe, New Mexico
October 4-6, 2021

Monday, October 4

The following voting and advisory committee members were present:
Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Vice Chair G. Andrés Romero, Representatives Alonzo Baldonado, Susan K. Herrera, Derrick J. Lente, and Christine Trujillo, and Senators Gay Kernan and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, and Roger Montoya, and Senators Craig Brandt, Linda M. Lopez, and Shannon D. Pinto.

Senator Gregory A. Baca attended as a guest.

Call to Order and Introductions. Chair Soules called the meeting to order.

What Students Want from the New Mexico Public Education System. High school seniors—Elena Gonzales, New Mexico School for the Arts; Dylan Lincoln, Santa Fe High School; and Joshua Wheat, Pojoaque Valley High School—answered guided questions followed by member questions. Some challenges students face are large class sizes, lack of internet access, and few structures in place to address mental health issues. Ms. Gonzales wants schools to have mandatory consent training and more supports to prevent sexual assault and harassment. Ms. Lincoln noted the lack of diversity in her advanced placement (AP) classes, and Mr. Wheat highlighted the numerous teacher vacancies.

Members asked about extended learning, teacher retention, vacancies, recruitment, lack of diversity in AP courses, dual credit, and graduation requirements.

Public Education Department Priorities. Kurt Steinhaus, secretary designate, Public Education Department (PED), discussed short-term and long-term priorities that included addressing teacher vacancies, strengthening PED capacity, expanding career-technical education, and finalizing a plan to address *the Martinez-Yazzie education sufficiency*

lawsuit. He wants educators to have regionally competitive salaries, urged the implementation of culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogies, and stressed the importance of increasing PED's operating budget.

Members asked about teacher salaries and retention data, diversity and equity training, ethnic studies, how other states are improving National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, and accountability measures to address the *Martinez-Yazzie* lawsuit, and stressed the need to improve statewide math scores and increase teacher pay and CTE funding.

History of the Education of Native American Children in the United States and the Southwest. Professors Joseph Suina, Cochití Pueblo, and Glenabah Martinez, Taos Pueblo/Diné, provided a high level overview of Native American education in the U.S. and New Mexico. They discussed the purpose, origins, and practices of Native American boarding schools, various government acts and reports, and how traditional, U.S., Anglo-centric public schooling has impacted the cultures and languages of Native Americans. Regis Pecos, Cochití Pueblo, co-director of the Leadership Institute at the Santa Fe Indian School and co-chair of the Tribal Education Alliance, stated that Native Americans have not been given the opportunity to thrive in traditional public schools due to their racist structures and urged full implementation and funding of the Tribal Remedy Framework.

Members expressed the need to act now and commit to new structures of schooling through permanent funding of education that is sufficient and adequate to all students.

Martinez-Yazzie Technology Order. Timothy Bedeaux, legislative liaison, PED, and John Sena, policy director, PED, provided an update on the *Martinez-Yazzie* technology order, including how PED is providing technology to students and legislative recommendations. Mr. Bedeaux noted providing statewide broadband requires a multi-agency effort to address student connectivity at home.

Culturally Relevant Early Learning Programs. Leah Davidson, director, Family, Infant, and Toddler Program; Kimberly Kee, program coordinator, Navajo Nation Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services; and Tracey Cordero, director, Indigenous Montessori Institute, presented programs and strategies to increase culturally relevant early learning.

Ms. Davidson discussed the Early Childhood Education and Care Department's strategic plan and early interventions in tribal nations. Ms. Kee focused on early childhood programs on the Navajo Nation. Ms. Cordero presented on the Keres Children's Learning Center model of instruction.

Members asked questions about the early childcare services available on tribal nations, populations served by New Mexico's early intervention services, and the collaboration of indigenous language programs across the state.

Tuesday, October 5

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

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, and Elizabeth Thomson, and Senators Craig Brandt, Linda M. Lopez, and Shannon D. Pinto.

Senator Gregory A. Baca attended as a guest.

On a motion by Senator Stewart and a second by Vice Chair Romero, the committee approved the October agenda and August-September minutes with no opposition.

Albuquerque Public Schools and Public School Insurance Authority FY23 Health and Risk Insurance Request. Richard Valerio, director, Public School Insurance Authority, and Todd Torgerson, chief of human resources and legal support for Albuquerque Public Schools, presented their health insurance benefits and risk insurance budget requests for FY23.

Education Efforts to Preserve Native American Languages. LaShawna Tso, assistant secretary, Indian Education, PED; Mayra Valtierrez, director of language and culture, PED; and Anpao Duta Flying Earth, executive director of the NACA Inspired School Network, presented state-level and school-level strategies to preserve Native American languages.

Educator Preparation Program Efforts to Increase Teacher Quantity and Improve Teacher Quality. Sandra Rodriguez, chair, Teacher Education, Northern New Mexico College; Alexis Esslinger, director, Teacher Education Programs, San Juan College; and Hansel Burley, dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of New Mexico, presented teacher preparation programs across the state and their programmatic responses to the *Martinez-Yazzie* lawsuit.

Subcommittees. The committee recessed and met in three subcommittees: Administrative Reporting; High School Graduation Requirements; and Teacher Preparation Programs.

Administrative Reporting. The administrative reporting subcommittee discussed a policy framework for proposed statutory reporting requirements; heard testimony from Jean Wood, project manager, Information Technology Division, PED, on progress being made towards implementing a real-time data collection system; and heard recommendations for improvements to the state's system of funding public school capital outlay projects from representatives of Gallup-McKinley County Schools and Alamogordo Public Schools.

High School Graduation Requirements. Jessica Hathaway, senior policy analyst, LESC, presented a brief regarding statutory competency requirements for New Mexico students to graduate with a diploma and facilitated two committee activities focused on the purpose of assessments and career planning in high school. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., deputy director, Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, PED; Elaine Perea, director, College and Career Readiness Bureau, PED; and Yanira Vazquez, director, Math and Science Bureau, PED, presented the department's recommendation on high school graduation requirements and discussed how assessments, coursework, and competency requirements are used to educate and graduate high school students.

Teacher Preparation Programs. Chelsea Canada, senior policy analyst II, LESC; Debra Dirksen, associate dean, School of Education, Western New Mexico University; Hansel Burley, dean, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of New Mexico; Alexis Esslinger, director, Teacher Education Programs, San Juan College; and B. Lee Hurren, Ph.D., dean, College of Education, Eastern New Mexico University, presented teacher preparation programs and provided committee members with recommendations to support the teacher pipeline in New Mexico.

Wednesday, October 6

The following voting and advisory committee members were present:
Voting: Vice Chair G. Andrés Romero, Representatives Alonzo Baldonado, and Christine Trujillo, and Senators Gay Kernan, Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, Willie D. Madrid, and Elizabeth Thomson, and Senators Craig Brandt and Linda M. Lopez.

Acting Director's Report. Joseph Simon, principal analyst, LESC, and Clayton Lobaugh, program evaluator, Legislative Finance Committee, presented a draft report on the effectiveness of the public school funding formula's Teacher Cost Index. Mr. Simon noted the final report would be provided to members by the statutory deadline of November 1.

Adverse Childhood Experiences. Katherine Ortega Courtney, Ph.D., co-director, Anna, Age Eight Institute; Dominic Cappello, co-director, Anna, Age Eight Institute; Dr. Thomas Massaro, chief medical officer, New Mexico Department of Health; and Matthew Probst, co-director, 100% San Miguel, presented information about the impact and definition of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Information was also shared about the Anna, Age Eight Institute and how its 100% Community initiative can be used to prevent and address the impact of ACEs.