

Minutes  
Las Cruces and Hatch, NM  
October 12-14, 2022

Wednesday, October 12

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

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary and Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Craig Brandt, Shannon D. Pinto and Siah Correra Hemphill.

**Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of September 7-9 minutes and October Agenda.** Senator William P. Soules, Chair of the LESC, called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of the members and staff of LESC. On a motion by Senator Stewart and a second by Representative Trujillo the minutes and October agenda were approved with no opposition.

**Community Welcome.** James Whitlock, Mayor, City of Hatch; Ralph Ramos, Superintendent, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS); Michael Chavez, Superintendent, Hatch Valley Public Schools (HVPS) gave opening remarks and welcomed LESC committee members and staff to their community.

**Tour: Tombaugh Elementary School.** Members of the LESC, LESC staff, and several community members took a bus from Centennial High School to Tombaugh Elementary School, where they participated in a tour of the school and saw structured literacy lessons in classrooms. At Tombaugh Elementary School, the group split into three groups and took turns observing a kindergarten, first grade, and fifth grade classroom, each with their educators leading a structured literacy lesson.

**Structured Literacy.** Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, opened this panel by providing an overview of a staff brief that included research about structured literacy, New Mexico's statutory requirements, and current updates about implementing the state's transition to structured literacy. Following Ms. Hathaway's remarks, Jacqueline Costales, Interim Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Public Education Department (PED), and Severo Martinez, Director of Literacy and Humanities, PED, presented a slide deck that included information about how the department is upholding statutory requirements, supporting school districts and charter schools, and ensuring structured literacy professional development is being provided statewide. Following remarks from Ms. Costales and Mr. Martinez, members heard from LCPS about its work to implement structured literacy. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent of the Divisions of Teaching, Learning, Leadership, and Research, LCPS and Esther Peterson, Associate Director of K-12 Literacy, LCPS, provided an overview of LCPS' efforts to support structured literacy since 2019.

**Educator Workforce in Depth: Supply and Demand.** Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I, LESC, presented a staff brief that defined the components of supply and demand within the educator workforce, described New Mexico's current educator workforce landscape, and provided policy and budget considerations to support a high-quality workforce. Layla Dehaiman, Interim Director, Educator Quality and Ethics Division, PED and Jacqueline Costales, Interim Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, PED, presented to committee members details on the educator workforce landscape in New Mexico and PED initiatives to support educators. Debra Dirksen, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Western New Mexico University and Rick Marlatt, Ph.D., Interim Director, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership, College of Health and Education, New Mexico State University (NMSU), presented a one-pager to committee members that defined coursework requirements for teacher candidates at Western New Mexico University and NMSU.

Member questions included inquires about teacher residencies, how literacy is taught at educator preparation institutions, PED initiatives, and the diversity of the educator workforce.

**Educator Preparation: Residencies and Golden Apple Foundation.** Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I, LESC, presented a brief to committee members that defined teacher residencies, noted the research-based benefits of teacher residencies, described implementation of residency programs in New Mexico, and offered policy and budget considerations. Layla Dehaiman, Interim Director, Educator Quality and Ethics Division, PED, and Jacqueline Costales, Interim Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, PED, presented to the committee a detailed update on teacher residency programs during the 2022-2023 school year, described PED supports for teacher residency programs, and offered policy and budget considerations for the committee as teacher residency programs move forward. Marjori Krebs, Ed.D., Elementary Education Profession, University of New Mexico, detailed the teacher residency program in Albuquerque for committee members, focusing on the program's components and outcomes. Alan Mather, President, Golden Apple Foundation, presented about the Golden Apple Foundation's work to recruit and retain a high-quality educator workforce in New Mexico, emphasizing Golden Apple's focus on paid professional development for rising teachers.

Member questions included inquires about expanding the residency program beyond teachers, strategies to retain teacher residents, PED's work to expand the program across the state, and the diversity of teacher residency programs.

**Strengthening the STEM Workforce through Experiential Engagement in Water Research Tour and Panel.** Pei Xu, Ph.D., Professor, NMSU; Yanyan Zhang, Ph.D., Professor, NMSU; and Michael Hightower, Program Director, NMSU, provided an overview of ongoing research initiatives at NMSU focusing on water.

Thursday, October 13

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

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne J. Ferrary, Tara Lujan and Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Craig Brandt, Linda M. Lopez and Shannon D. Pinto.

**Supporting the Whole Child: Practitioners Panel.** Wanda Bulger-Tamez, Ph.D., Project Director, Mathematically Connected Communities, NMSU, May Sagbakken, Executive Director, New Mexico Out of School Time Network, Toni Hull, Ed.D, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction Innovation, HVPS, and Brandy Holguin, Principal, HVPS, presented to the LESC about efforts to support the "whole child" in an academic environment. This panel included information about adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the role of strong instruction for students, the role of out of school and after school time work with students, including how each of these educators is working to support the emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing of students in addition to academics.

**Martinez and Yazzie Lawsuit Roadmap, Public School Budget Considerations.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC; John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC; and Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, provided an overview of the ongoing litigation surrounding the *Martinez-Yazzie* sufficiency lawsuit. They also laid out potential legislative, policy, and budgetary responses to that ongoing litigation. Members asked whether PED has sufficient capacity to implement ongoing programs and services, how the funding formula directs financial resources toward specific categories, the role of parents in student's education, and funding specifics for the Black Education Act and the Hispanic Education Act.

**State Assessment Outcomes.** Tim Bedeaux, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, presented an analysis of the Spring 2022 summative assessment results. The results show one in three students is proficient in grade level reading, one in three in science, and one in four in math. The results also confirm the presence of a wide achievement gap affecting economically disadvantaged students, English learners, students with disabilities, and Native American students. An analysis of instructional hours found that increasing instructional hours can have a modest but statistically significant effect on student assessment scores. Matt Goodlaw, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Accountability, PED, presented the department's analysis of the results, noting that some districts are "beating the odds" based on their demographic data. Jacqueline Costales, Interim Deputy Secretary for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, PED, highlighted trends in successful school districts, including strong classroom instruction, family engagement, and integrated systems of support.

**Local Superintendents.** Vicki Chavez, Superintendent, Deming Public Schools, Michael Chavez, Superintendent, HVPS, Ralph Ramos, Superintendent, LCPS, and Travis Dempsey, Superintendent, Gadsden Independent School District, presented on demographics, student performance, strategic initiatives, use of at-risk funding, and legislative priorities in each of their school districts. The school districts are all in the southern part of New Mexico, and range in the communities they serve from agriculture-based areas to urban landscapes. Despite their differences in location, these districts have worked together collaboratively to support each other and cited many of the same concerns such as recruiting and retaining teachers, funding support staff, providing mental health services for students, and safety measures for school campuses.

Friday, October 14

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

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary and Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Craig Brandt and Shannon D. Pinto.

**STEM+ Teaching and Learning: Foundational Strategies for Enhancing Statewide STEM Education.** Dan Arvizu, Ph.D., Chancellor, NMSU, introduced NMSU's STEM+ Center for Teaching and Learning, which was founded as a means to enhance STEM pathways for students in response to local workforce needs. The center is focused on improving teachers' STEM training, engaging businesses and communities, and eventually scaling the program to be replicated in other New Mexico colleges and universities. Yoshi Iwasaki, Ph.D., Dean, NMSU College of Health, Education, and Social Transformation, explained how the STEM+ center will monitor data and evaluate progress towards its goals. The center established measurable goals in secondary, post-secondary education, and in the workforce and will continuously monitor these goals through 2025. Dr. Iwasaki pointed to the Gadsden Independent School District as a "pocket of excellence," noting the success of Gadsden is in part attributable to a sustainable partnership and a community-based model. In the future, NMSU would like to establish the STEM+ center as an official "Center of Excellence," which will cost \$2 million, and establish recurring funding as a research and public service project at \$500 thousand annually.

**Director's Report.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D, Director, LESC, provided a director's report to the committee to update the committee about staffing, the LESC budget, and a possible evaluation for the director. Dr. Perea Warniment noted the LESC is now fully staffed and the team would be welcoming Marit Andrews to the LESC as a Senior Policy Analyst II. The members also heard a financial update about the LESC budget and discussed a process to provide a six-month evaluation and feedback session to Dr. Perea Warniment at the upcoming LESC interim meeting in November.