

Members

Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson
Rep. Richard Bodiker
Rep. Clyde Kersey
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Sue Scholer
Rep. Phyllis Pond
Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Steven Johnson
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Connie Sipes
Sen. Earline Rogers



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 3, 2000
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: Central Nine Career Center
1999 U.S. 31 South
Meeting City: Greenwood, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson; Rep. Richard Bodiker; Rep. Clyde Kersey; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Sue Scholer; Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Steven Johnson; Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Earline Rogers.

Members Absent: Rep. Phyllis Pond; Sen. Connie Sipes.

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:10 A.M., and thanked the staff of the Career Center for the tour of the facility and the boxed lunches provided. The chairperson then called upon Terry Spradlin, legislative liaison for the Department of Education (Department) for an update on the Department's meeting with Standard & Poor's (S&P) following the last Committee meeting.

Mr. Spradlin explained that the Department's meeting with S&P also included Sen. David Ford and Larry Grau, the governor's executive assistant for education. The discussion at the meeting focused on how the services S&P provides could tie in with existing Indiana

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provisions concerning accountability, and what benefits S&P's analysis could provide. S&P could use existing reports to generate the data it would require to perform analyses, but some concern was raised as to whether this would be a duplication of the existing information. The Department has asked S&P to quantify the services and benefits it could provide to the state. Mr. Spradlin suggested that perhaps the Education Roundtable might be an appropriate body to continue discussions with S&P.

The chairperson asked Sen. Lubbers to review the recommendations submitted by the Indiana Association for the Gifted (Attachment A). The recommendations, presented by Virginia Burney, are summarized as follows:

1. Add a representative for high ability education to the Education Roundtable. This could be accomplished by changing a reference in statute from a representative of "special education" to a representative of "exceptional learners". "Exceptional learners" would be defined to include both special education students and high ability students.
2. Add high ability education provisions to strategic and continuous school improvement and achievement plans. An amendment to the statute would be necessary to specify the inclusion of provisions for exceptional learners. In addition, this recommendation sets forth secondary indicators of improvement for the Education Roundtable to consider adopting that would focus on programs for high ability students.
3. Amend the statute concerning academic honors awards to schools to specify that the money received by school corporations would be used to improve programs that lead to the awarding of academic honors diplomas.
4. Increase funding for high ability services grants and require that school corporations have a comprehensive plan to identify and provide services for high ability students in K-12. In response to Committee questions, Ms. Burney stated that students with high abilities can, in some cases, be identified in kindergarten, and that the Department could provide guidelines as to what constitutes a comprehensive plan. A school corporation would not be required to provide specific services or programs to receive a grant.
5. Require certification, endorsement, or licensure in gifted education for individuals who have direct responsibility for planning and supervising programs and services for high ability students.
6. Recommend that the Professional Standards Board add language concerning gifted education to the core standards for teachers of students with exceptional needs, and add gifted education as a new specialty area. Ms. Burney indicated that Sen. Lubbers and a representative of the Indiana Association for the Gifted would be meeting with Tom Hansen of the Professional Standards Board to discuss this recommendation.

Sen. Lubbers indicated that she would have a working draft of language covering recommendations 1 through 4 to the final meeting of the Committee.

The chairperson asked Rep. Bob Hoffman to summarize the testimony concerning the vocational funding formula presented to the Committee at its second meeting. Rep. Hoffman did so, and called upon Bill Riley, budget analyst for the Department, to present a synopsis of recommended changes to the funding formula (Attachment B). Mr. Riley

stated that the points set forth in his memo were points on which a consensus between interested parties had been reached. These points are as follows:

1. Eliminate funding for certificates of technical achievement.
2. Count cooperative education students in the program area in which they are gaining cooperative experience for funding purposes.
3. Fund area school participation at \$150 per student based on programs serving students from multiple high schools.
4. Include wage demand, along with labor demand, in the funding mechanism.
5. Create a flat vocational grant for family and consumer sciences at 80% of the reimbursement received for the 1999-2000 school year (in calendar year 2000).
6. Provide some form of program protection to permit school corporations to transition programs to the new funding formula.
7. Move the department of workforce development program category listing to the department of education from April 1 of the current year to before December 1 of the previous calendar year.
8. Provide program funding on a basis proportional to the number of credit hours earned.
9. Include the same increases for inflation in the vocational funding formula that are normally included in the basic tuition support formula.

The Committee agreed to have a draft prepared based on these recommendations.

Beverly Henkenhoff, area vocational director for New Castle, spoke briefly concerning the career cluster cooperative program in her area.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 P.M.