

MINUTES
Santa Rosa, NM
June 8-10, 2022

Wednesday, June 8

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

Advisory: Senators Linda M. Lopez and Shannon D. Pinto, and Representatives Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, and Debra M. Sariñana.

Call to Order, Introductions. Chairman William P. Soules called the meeting to order with brief introductions of legislators and LESC staff.

Director's Report. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC provided a report to LESC members detailing updates with Public Education Department (PED) leadership, upcoming meetings that she would be scheduling with LESC members, LESC staff updates, and an introduction to a revised structure of LESC research groups.

Welcome to Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools. Martin Madrid, Superintendent Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools (SRCS), welcomed LESC committee members and staff, shared information on progress made to outfit students and staff with the latest technology, and provided brief context on the TriStar Academy, a joint program with neighboring districts Vaughn and Fort Sumner.

Strategic Initiatives of Local School Districts. Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC framed the presentation by noting panelists would focus on initiatives that strive to improve academic and career opportunities, reduce education economic inequities, and promote economic development. Chantel Lovato, Executive Director, Guadalupe County Developmental Corporation; Kodi Sumpster, Superintendent; Des Moines Municipal Schools; Steve Aguirre, Director, High Plains Regional Education Cooperative; Kristen Forrester, Project Director, Northeastern New Mexico College and Career Ready Consortium gave a presentation to inform members about local strategic initiatives happening at the district level. Panelists discussed career and technical education, creating career pathway opportunities at all grade levels, community schools, partnership with the Anna Age Eight Institute, and building partnerships with local businesses.

Approval of April 27-29 and May 10 Minutes, and June Agenda. On a motion by Representative Trujillo and a second by Senator Stewart, the April and May minutes were approved with no opposition. On a motion by Senator Stewart and a second by Representative Baca, the June agenda was approved with no opposition.

Impacts of Covid-19 in Elementary Classrooms. Helen Gaussoin, Principal Analyst, LESC; Cami Shoemaker, teacher, House Municipal Schools;

Cayetana "Pepper" Zamora, teacher, SRCS; Jessica Lucero, teacher, SRCS. The panel of elementary school teachers answered guided questions about their classroom experience during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Gaussoin led the panel by asking the teachers if they experienced the pandemic differently at their rural school districts. The teachers agreed it was different from what larger school districts experienced. They expressed that attendance issues, as well as a lack of knowledge with technology were difficult when moving to remote instruction in 2020, but recognized these are similar to issues experienced by larger school districts.

High School Experience. Joseph J. García, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC; Jacob Cordova, student, Santa Rosa High School; Juaquin Segura, student, Fort Sumner High School, Tyler Saiz, student, Fort Sumner High School; Ivoree Velasquez, student, Santa Rosa High School, answered guided questions followed by member questions. In their responses, the students highlighted the challenges they faced during high school, including disruptions caused by online learning and a lack of relevancy between coursework and the skills students believe they need to be successful after high school. The students asked for more variety of courses, especially dual credit courses. Members asked the students' thoughts on requiring financial literacy in high school, the activities and courses that motivated them, and whether they had ideas for improving public education in New Mexico.

Local CTE Initiatives. Martin Madrid, Superintendent, SRCS; Sharon West, Director, TriStar Academy, SRCS, and Matt Moyer, Superintendent, Fort Sumner Municipal Schools; shared information about how their school districts are providing career technical education (CTE) programming for students including additional information about a new partnership, TriStar Academy, between Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools, Fort Sumner Municipal Schools, and Vaughn Municipal Schools. Superintendent Madrid noted the importance of dual credit and partnership with Luna Community College for students in SRCS. Superintendent Madrid also noted the importance of early identification of student interests to ensure exposure to career options and related academic programming. Ms. West provided information about TriStar Academy, how it formed and how it's being used by all three participating school districts to ensure academic programming and support for students that is more flexible to student needs. Superintendent Moyer underlined the importance of the consortium of the school districts participating in the TriStar Academy to ensure relevant CTE programming for all students. Superintendent Moyer also shared information about how Fort Sumner Municipal Schools is reimagining learning for its students by thinking about how programming can be provided beyond traditional classroom environments.

Following these remarks, LESC members and staff took a tour of the Santa Rosa High School wood shop, performing arts, and athletics building as well as a building used for CTE partnerships with Luna Community College.

Thursday, June 9

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

Advisory: Senators Linda M. Lopez and Shannon D. Pinto, and Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, Tara Lujan, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero and Debra M. Sariñana.

Implementation of 2022 Session Public Education Compensation Increases.

Travis Dempsey, Superintendent, Gadsden Independent School District; Dawn Apodaca, Superintendent, Mountainair Public Schools; Alexandra M. Boyd, Ph.D., CEO, The ASK Academy, spoke about their district and charter schools' unique experience in implementing the compensation increases passed by the legislature in the 2022 regular session.

Members asked the panelists about the impact of enrollment declines on school and district operations and staffing, the impact of compaction on local budgets and personnel compensation, the extent to which they are investing in social emotional learning, administrative expenses in charter schools, the establishment of STEM academies in the Gadsden Independent School District, the recruitment of STEM educators, insight into the amount of funding that is needed to adequately fund the compensation increases, and the functions and uses of cash balances.

Factors Influence Teacher Retention. Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I, LESC; Aimee Para, Teach Plus Network Coordinator, Teach Plus New Mexico; Alisa Cooper de Uribe, Teach Plus Fellow, Teach Plus New Mexico; Mark Anthony Barela-Eubank, Ph.D., Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals; Erik Bose, State Coordinator, New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals, presented on teacher retention strategies including quality training, differentiated support, teacher leadership, and school leadership.

School Leadership Challenges and Support. Kristie Medina, Superintendent, Raton Public Schools; Carrie Nigreville, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and School Support; Matthew Vetterly, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Educational Administration, Eastern New Mexico University; and Kimberly Sanchez, Principal, Raton Public Schools, participated in a panel discussion focused on efforts in school leadership support. Panelists discussed the need for consistent professional development for school principals, the importance of mentorship for school leaders, the necessity for regular coaching opportunities, and the difference strong leadership makes for a school.

Members asked panelists about developing reflective practice, principal recruitment practices, principal preparation program training, and community leadership.

Reporting Requirements: Streamlining Initiatives. Helen Gaussoin, Principal Analyst, LESC, presented a summary of school district reporting requirements. According to an informal LESC survey of school districts and charter schools, schools spend an average of 560 hours per year meeting reporting requirements, which can cost up to \$357 thousand per district per year. Cindy Sims, Superintendent, Estancia Municipal Schools, reported that, in a small, rural school district, the job of fulfilling reporting requirements often falls directly on the superintendent, resulting in less time to focus on instructional leadership. Angelo Gonzales, Managing Director, PED, explained the

department is working to reduce the number of reports and the number of questions on each report, eliminate duplicative requirements, streamline collection using data applications like STARS, and improve the efficiency of internal processes, particularly in PED's licensure and finance bureaus.

Representative Baca, Representative Garratt, and Senator Pope voiced support for a reduction in reporting requirements so educators can focus on education and asked PED staff to help identify where the Legislature can make statutory changes to reduce reporting requirements. Senator Soules noted that there are reports in statute that are not being completed each year and added this may become an issue or a potential lawsuit in the future if somebody asks to see a report that was never created.

High School Graduation Requirements: Graduate Profiles and Capstones.

Angelo Gonzales, Ph.D., Interim Deputy Secretary for School Transformation and Innovation at PED; Tony Monfiletto, Director, Future Focused Education; Lisa Harmon Martinez, Learning by Doing Director, Future Focused Education; Grace Granillo, Research Assistant, Future Focused Education; and Marcus Arellano, graduate, Youth Participatory Action Research Project, testified to the committee about the use of graduate profiles and capstone projects as part of an initiative to pilot these tools for high school graduation requirements. Dr. Gonzales noted PED has been exploring the use of capstone projects as an assessment alternative. Using an 18-month grant, the department, in partnership with Future Focused Education, has been working to define and pilot such alternatives. Dr. Gonzales added these efforts are consistent with PED's strategic planning goals.

Mr. Monfiletto and Ms. Harmon Martinez presented information about what capstone projects look like for participating schools in the pilot project. Marcus Arellano, a graduate of a school participating in the project, shared firsthand information about the student experience including how he felt this made school more relevant.

Friday, June 10

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

Advisory: Senator Shannon D. Pinto, and Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, and Patricia Roybal Caballero.

High School Graduation Requirements: Options to Demonstrate Competency.

Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, opened the panel by presenting a staff brief to members about current options to demonstrate competency as part of New Mexico's high school graduation requirements. Ms. Hathaway noted New Mexico is one of 11 states that requires exit exams as part of high school graduation requirements. Ms. Hathaway also shared while assessments are not the only form of demonstrating competency available to New Mexico students, they continue to be a widely used option. Elaine Perea, Ph.D., Director, College and Career Readiness

Bureau, PED, shared additional information about competency options, as well as PED's proposal for revisions to New Mexico's high school graduation requirements.

LFC Public Education Evaluation Update. LFC Program Evaluators Catherine Dry and Clayton Lobaugh briefed the committee on the program evaluation of Albuquerque Public School. Scott Elder, Superintendent, Albuquerque Public Schools; and Tami Coleman, Chief Financial Officer, Albuquerque Public Schools, were present to provide district context on the evaluation. Legislators raised concerns about how the evaluation was conducted and components that were not included, such as school security and social-emotional supports.