

Minutes
Taos, NM
June 28-30, 2023

Wednesday, June 15

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Joy Garratt, Tanya Mirabal Moya, Christine Trujillo, and Senators Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives John Block, Ambrose Castellano, Natalie Figueroa, Yanira Gurrola, Susan K. Herrera, Willie D. Mardid, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, and Senator Linda M. Lopez.

Representatives Kristina Orteza and Rod Montoya attended as guests.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of the June Minutes and July Agenda. Representative G. Andrés Romero, Chair, Legislative Education Study Committee, called the meeting to order. Chair Romero facilitated introductions of the members of LESC, as well as LESC staff. In a motion by Representative Trujillo, and a second by Representative Mirabal Moya, the May minutes were approved. The June agenda was also approved with a motion by Representative Trujillo and a second by Senator Stewart.

Community Welcome. The Taos Municipal School District presented the strategic plan and updates on the district. Valerie Trujillo, Superintendent, Taos Municipal Schools (TMSD); Rae Lujan, Indian Education Manager, TMSD; Renetta Mondragon, Assistant Superintendent, TMSD; CJ Grace, Director Federal Programs, TMSD; Bettina Sandoval, Director Educator Training Division, Taos Pueblo; and Lynn Brashar, Director of Exceptional Programs discussed the district's initiatives focusing on community schools, Native American education programming, social and emotional learning, fine arts education, homeless supports and family engagement work.

Members asked questions about special education staffing needs, early childhood programming, collaboration with Taos pueblo, and federally funding employees.

Funding Formula History. Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Fiscal Analyst II, LESC, provided an overview of the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG), how the SEG generates program units for Albuquerque Public Schools, and how the LESC plans to engage stakeholders in its review of the SEG. Members asked about recent changes to the public-school funding formulas used in other states and whether staff will also be assessing cash balances in their review of the SEG.

University of New Mexico - Taos. Mary Gutierrez, Ed.D., Chancellor, University of New Mexico-Taos (UNM-Taos); Randi Archuleta, Ph.D., Dean of Instruction, UNM-Taos; Alison McPartlon, Director, UNM-Taos Kids'

Campus; Kelsey Mead, Dual Enrollment Operations Specialists, UNM-Taos; Rose Reza, Executive Director, UNM-Taos H.I.V.E.; Paralee King; Student Support Specialists, UNM-Taos provided an update on the institution including enrollment data, programs offered, identified workforce needs, dual credit options, and UNM Taos Kids' Campus.

Members asked questions about UNM Taos Kids' Campus, early childhood workforce needs, dual-credit course work, and apprenticeship programs.

The Future of Education Data In New Mexico: An Update on STARS and Project NOVA. Tim Bedeaux, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, presented an update on Project Nova, a real-time student data system that will replace the Student and Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS) in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. The transition to Project Nova will improve the reliability and availability of data, helping policymakers make more timely decisions. Mary Montoya, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Public Education Department (PED), and Conrad Cordova, Deputy CIO, PED, presented on the five-year process that created Project Nova. The department noted it will likely need additional staff in its Information Technology bureau to improve how data is transmitted statewide.

Pathways2Careers Math Curriculum: An Evaluation Update. Tracey Bryan, Director, State Workforce Partnerships, NS4ed and Joseph Goins, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, NS4ed, presented to the LESC a math curriculum designed to better connect classroom learning to workforce expectations and possible careers. The curriculum, called Pathways2Careers, is available in New Mexico for algebra I, geometry, and algebra II. Ms. Bryan and Dr. Goins shared results from an evaluation of the curriculum that showed positive results from students and teachers using the curriculum, particularly in improving students' attitudes about learning math skills in the context of careers.

Taos High School Wellness Center - Tour. Valerie Trujillo, Superintendent TMSD; Jerome Williams, Chief Operations Office, El Centro Family Health; Delmiria Sanchez, Health Program Director, El Centro Family Health; Monique Visarraga, Regional Administrator North El Centro Family Health; Chloe Abreu, NP., Family Nurse Practitioner, El Centro Family Health led a tour of the Taos High School wellness center and provided an overview of Taos High School wellness initiatives for teachers and students.

Thursday, May 16

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Joy Garratt, Tanya Mirabal Moya, Christine Trujillo, and Senators Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives John Block, Ambrose Castellano, Natalie Figueroa, Yanira Gurrola, Susan K. Herrera, Willie D. Madrid, Debra M.

Sariñana, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, and Senators David M. Gallegos, Linda M. Lopez, Shannon D. Pinto.

Representative Rod Montoya attended as a guest.

Indian Education Fund Review and Analysis. Marit Andrews, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, provided a historical background on the Indian education fund, including PED's administration of the fund to tribal entities, school districts, and charter schools. KatieAnn Juanico, Assistant Secretary of Indian Education, PED, presented on PED's Indian Education funding and programs, including accomplishments and bright spots. In addition, Assistant Secretary Juanico highlighted the key takeaways of PED's work. Assistant Secretary Juanico ended the presentation by sharing potential resources and policy needs for Indian education.

School Accountability: How Schools Meet Federal and State Requirements. John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC and Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Innovation, PED, presented about New Mexico's school accountability system. Mr. Sena provided an overview of the purpose of accountability systems, federal accountability requirements, and state accountability requirements in New Mexico. Mr. Sena also provided information about how designation scores are calculated for schools. Deputy Secretary DeBell presented an overview of when various accountability system data can be expected from PED and about New Mexico's Differentiated Systems of Support and how schools designated as needing improvement will be supported. Deputy Secretary DeBell also shared a handout of the schools in New Mexico designated as needing support, as well as spotlight schools that are scoring highly.

Special Education Update. Marit Andrews, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, provided an overview of special education services in New Mexico within the context of the consolidated *Martinez and Yazzie lawsuit* which found the state failed to meet its constitutional obligation to students in special education, as well as students from low-income families, English learners, and Native American students. Ms. Andrews outlined FY23 state and federal appropriations for special education, explaining how special education funding is generated. Next, Ms. Andrews updated the committee on Executive Order 2023-062 which creates the Office of Special Education. Ms. Andrews concluded the presentation by explaining upcoming LESC special education stakeholder public engagement process.

Education Leaders Panel. John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC, directed several questions toward education leaders in the Taos region, including Valerie Trujillo, Superintendent, Taos Municipal Schools, Melissa Sandoval, Superintendent, Peñasco Independent School District, Marvin MacAuley, Superintendent, Mora Independent School District, John Maldonado, Superintendent, Questa Independent School District, and Tracy Filiss, Ed.D., Executive Director, Taos Academy Charter School. The education leaders shared their experience with leadership development programs, support they received as education leaders, and lessons they wish they had known before becoming educational leaders.

Community Colleges and Career Technical Education: A Conversation with Presidents. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, facilitated a panel of college presidents in a discussion about community colleges and career technical education. Presidents included in the panel were Kevin Beardmore, Ed.D., President, Southeast New Mexico College; Alan Moss, Ed.D., Interim President, Mesalands Community College; Edward A. Martinez, Ph.D., President, Luna Community College; Hector Balderas, J.D., CFE, President, Northern New Mexico College. Ms. Hathaway presented questions about how career technical education programs are being offered, how the state can best support the budgetary and policy needs of colleges offering career technical education, and how K-12 education systems can best partner with colleges for positive student outcomes. Presidents shared various strategies and made recommendations to the LESC about changes that might bolster their college's career technical education and dual credit offerings.

Friday, June 30

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Joy Garratt, Tanya Mirabal Moya, Christine Trujillo, and Senators Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives John Block, Natalie Figueroa, Yanira Gurrola, Susan K. Herrera, Tara L. Lujan, Debra M. Sariñana, Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, and Senators David M. Gallegos, Linda M. Lopez, Shannon D. Pinto.

Representative Kristina Ortez and Rod Montoya attended as guests.

Director's Report. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC, provided an update to LESC members including information about the June newsletter, the FY23 budget, and personnel matters. Dr. Warniment introduced the LESC interns, Sarai Ortiz, Natasha Davalos, and Jesus Sanchez and honored Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst for her work at the LESC. Dr. Warniment gave an update on the LESC budget stating we ended the fiscal year under budget.

Legislators expressed their gratitude to staff during the questions portion of the director's report. Representative Lujan asked a question regarding filling vacant staff positions and Dr. Warniment responded that LESC is looking to fill one policy analyst position at this time.

Attendance: A Landscape Review. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC and Phyllis W. Jordan, Associate Director, FutureEd, presented to the LESC about chronic absence data and strategies to address poor attendance in schools. Ms. Hathaway shared a LESC staff brief that contained data about the depth of the chronic absence issue, particularly highlighting that nearly 40 percent of students are currently chronically absent and the earliest grades (kindergarten and first grade) and the latest grades (high school) are where chronic absence is highest. Ms.

Hathaway also shared chronic absence data by various demographics and sociodemographic variables and provided an overview of the state's Attendance for Success Act. Ms. Jordan gave a presentation about chronic absence from a national lens, sharing that chronic absence has increased nationwide. Ms. Jordan also shared common reasons for chronic absence and possible evidence-based solutions for all stakeholders in the education ecosystem, as well as policymakers, to consider in addressing chronic absence.