

Minutes  
Santa Fe, NM  
January 16, 2023

Monday, January 16

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

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary, Natalie Figueroa, Joy Garratt, Rebecca Dow, D. Wonda Johnson, Willie D. Madrid, Debra M. Sariñana, and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson, and Senators David M. Gallegos and Linda M. Lopez.

**Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of Agenda.** Senator William P. Soules, Chair of the LESC, called the meeting to order and provided a review of the LESC's work under his leadership over the previous two years. Chairman Soules also facilitated introductions of the members of LESC. The January meeting agenda and December meeting minutes were also approved.

**Director's Report.** Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., LESC, provided an update to LESC members including information about staff biographies, the LESC annual report and data reference guide, and insight into the role of systems-based framework to support education transformation. Dr. Perea Warniment then stood for questions on the annual report, which included LESC member inquiry about strategies and policy options to fund career technical education (CTE). The LESC members unanimously approved the annual report and data reference guide.

**Committee Endorsed Legislation.** Dr. Perea Warniment presented an overview of bills for potential LESC endorsement, which included seven legislative proposals. The proposed bills included:

- 1) A bill to amend high school graduation requirements;
- 2) A capital outlay omnibus bill;
- 3) A bill to increase instructional hours to 1,140, sunset the current K-5 plus and extended learning time program, to define instructional hours, to allow up to 60 hours of professional work time to be embedded, and provide a daily rate for school districts that choose to go above 180 days of instruction;
- 4) A bill to increase educational assistant salaries from a statutory minimum of \$12 thousand annually to a minimum of \$25 thousand annually;
- 5) A bill to make funding formula changes to increase the principal responsibility factor, increase the at-risk factor, and increase the fine arts factor;
- 6) A bill to create a tribal education trust fund and seed it with \$50 million; and

7) A bill to amend the methods for distributions from the Indian education fund.

Representative Derrick Lente joined Dr. Perea Warniment to present two of the proposed bills: a bill to create a tribal education trust fund and a bill to amend the method for Indian education fund distributions.

LESC members noted the importance of ensuring the budget recommendations from the LESC and the LFC were aligned. LESC members also inquired about adequate funding for learning time changes, how to support high quality professional learning for educators, and how proposed changes to instructional hour minimums related to scheduling decisions in secondary schools. The proposed bills were unanimously approved for LESC endorsement by LESC voting members.

**LESC Budget Recommendation.** Dr. Perea Warniment provided an overview of the LESC's FY24 public school support scenario recommendation.

Members asked about the differences in the LESC's and the Legislative Finance Committee's recommendation for instructional materials, the fiscal implications of the increased instructional hour requirement proposal, the source of funds for the prior fiscal year's cybersecurity and data systems appropriation, requirements for school bus replacement, whether funds were recommended for the Black Education Act, and whether the public school support scenario includes an appropriation for the Office of the Special Education Ombud.

The committee unanimously voted to endorse the LESC's FY24 public school support scenario.