



## MINUTES

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE JANUARY 9, 2018 Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met on Tuesday, January 09, 2018 at 10:00 AM. The meeting was held in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Senators Chad Barefoot, David Curtis, Rick Horner, Joyce Krawiec, Michael Lee, Ron Rabin, Gladys Robinson, and Joyce Waddell, and Representatives Craig Horn, Pat Hurley, Larry Bell, John Fraley, Holly Grange, Howard Hunter, Marvin Lucas, Bobbie Richardson, Debra Conrad, Rosa Gill, Bert Jones, Larry Pittman, Phil Shepard, Bob Steinburg, and Larry Strickland. The Sergeant-At-Arms are listed and labeled in Attachment #1. Visitors to the committee are listed in Attachment #2. Documents were given to the committee members at the committee, and they are also available online on the committee website.

Representative Craig Horn, presided. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM.

Representative Horn made introductory remarks and thanked the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Representative Horn introduced Joel Medley, North Carolina Virtual Academy Head of School, to present his presentation on Every Child, Every Class, Every Day (Attachment #3). Joel Medley discussed how this type of school is the only option for many families, he presented statistics on family satisfaction, provided parent and teacher comments, student demographics, student factors, discussed the Family Academic Support Team, and shared a story about one of the students at the North Carolina Virtual Academy. Joel Medley also provided another document, North Carolina Virtual Academy 2017-18 School Profile (Attachment #4).

Following Mr. Medley's presentation, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. Representative Horn commented that this is one of the many things we are doing to change how we deliver education in North Carolina. Representative Horn asked what things do we need to do to continue this process and help provide a quality education for every child. Representative Fraley mentioned that teachers are paid less at the standard rate and wanted to know why. Representative Hurley wanted to know the amount of students, teachers, and administrators at the North Carolina Virtual Academy and how big was their budget. Senator Robinson asked about students with disabilities and their performance compared to regular public schools. Senator Robinson also wanted to know how the staffing aligned with students with disabilities.



Representative Horn introduced Steven LaFemina, The New Teacher Project (TNTP), and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Deputy State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, to present on the Teacher Licensure Process. Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin's presentation, Education Oversight Licensure Presentation (Attachment #5), was divided into three sections: What are the steps that must occur for an individual to acquire a teaching license, How is a licensure application processed by DPI, and What is the current timeline in which these steps occur. At the conclusion of Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin's presentation, Steven LaFemina presented his presentation, NCDPI Licensure Review (Attachment #6). Steven LaFemina discussed the purpose, data sources, highlights, challenges, findings, and recommendations of the review.

Following the presentations of Dr. Pitre-Martin and Mr. LaFemina, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. Senator Waddell asked what role do institutions of higher learning play. Senator Waddell also commented on add-on certification and wanted to know who is responsible for determining add-ons. Senator Waddell brought her up concerns with consistency within course requirements. Senator Waddell's final question had to do with reimbursement and she wanted to know what happens when an applicant doesn't meet requirements but meets them later, are their records kept. Senator Barefoot asked if the automated process that licensure uses during the licensing process has been audited and what is the impact of the automated process. Senator Barefoot also asked about policy, whether they were talking about internal policy or state board policy and if the state board needed to be clearer or internal be better defined. Senator Barefoot's final question was is eight weeks an appropriate turnaround timeline for teacher licensure. Senator Rabin wanted to know if validation is included in the automated process because he is concerned with ensuring the quality of what is coming in. Senator Rabin also asked if validation is infused in the electronic system. Senator Robinson asked how often is training being done. Representative Hurley asked do you get a picture of the applicant and how many employees in DPI work in the licensure area. Representative Hurley expressed concerns that LEAs have to click on each separate applicant and she wanted to know if they were working with IT to fix this issue. Representative Shepard asked what percentage fail the state licensing test the first time and have to take the test again. Representative Shepard asked the cost of the test and if someone fails the test the first time, will they have to pay the fee again to retake the test. Representative Shepard also asked if there were statistics on what schools of education in North Carolina perform higher or lower than other schools of education. Senator Horner asked how the process ensures highly qualified educators are in the classroom and what does it bias. Senator Horner also asked is the financial functioning in DPI for licensure. Senator Horner mentioned charter schools are only required to have 50% of their teachers licensed and commented that there has to be something to which the money is expended and that maybe there need to be a closer look at what charter schools are doing. Senator Horner also mentioned that maybe we are spending a lot of time in an area that is not required. Representative Horn asked if there was a background check in the licensure process and what is the difference between licensure and certification. Representative Horn also wanted to know if teachers in the teacher preparation programs are required to be licensed. Representative Pittman expressed his concerns about the financial well-being of the teachers and maybe we should not charge teachers to take the test. Representative Horn commented why we don't charge people in the first place to take the test, because some people who apply don't make the cut and those who do apply and are



accepted are reimbursed. Representative Lucas commented that he appreciates what our state is doing in licensure and certification.

Representative Horn introduced Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director, Division of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education, Department of Public Instruction, to present her presentation Update on "Broaden Successful Participation in Advanced Courses" (Attachment #7). Sneha Shah-Coltrane discussed the foundation of North Carolina's focus on advanced courses, current legislation, AP and IB exam coverage, NC AP Partnership, AP enrollment and program highlights, AP courses through NC Virtual Public School, IB student course enrollment, IB exam overview, AP/IB teacher bonus pay, and elements of success.

Following Ms. Shah-Coltrane's presentation, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. Representative Steinburg asked when are AP courses offered and who is eligible to take AP courses. Representative Steinburg also asked what is being done to encourage more involvement in the AP program. Senator Horner commented on how critical these programs are and that they are expensive for LEAs because the class size is smaller and they have to divert resources from other high schools. Senator Horner asked what the distribution of teachers was for these courses. Senator Waddell had a question concerning coordination with colleges when it comes to students receiving the two year college credit. Senator Waddell commented that community colleges should accept these credits and give students an associate's degree. Senator Waddell's final question had to do with the 30% increase in AP exams and she wanted to know what is the qualification for someone to take an AP exam. Senator Robinson mentioned low wealth counties and their ability to offer AP courses and she wanted to know how many of these students are in low wealth counties and the percentage of students taking the exam and passing. Senator Robinson also asked about the overall percentage of African American and Hispanic students taking the AP exam. Representative Horn asked the percentage of student enrollment in high schools that takes advanced courses. Representative Fraley wanted to know the number of students actually taking the exam and how they perform.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Craig Horn".

Representative Craig Horn  
Presiding

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erin Wilson".

Erin Wilson, Committee Clerk