

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**November 5, 2013**  
**Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building**

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 10:00 AM in Room 643 Legislative Office Building.

Twenty-four members were present. Members present include: Representative Bryan Holloway (Co-Chair), Representative Linda Johnson (Co-Chair), Senator Jerry Tillman (Co-Chair), Representative Hugh Blackwell, Representative Marcus Brandon, Representative Rob Bryan, Representative Tricia Ann Cotham, Representative Craig Horn, Representative James Langdon, Representative Marvin Lucas, Representative Chuck McGrady, Representative Paul Stam, Senator Tom Apodaca, Senator Chad Barefoot, Senator Bill Cook, Senator Earline Parmon, Senator Louis Pate, Senator Trudy Wade, Representative Brian Brown (Advisory), Representative Debra Conrad (Advisory), Representative Jeffrey Elmore (Advisory), Representative Chris Malone (Advisory), Senator Martin Nesbitt (Advisory), and Senator Josh Stein (Advisory).

Senator Jerry Tillman presided. Senator Tillman called the meeting to order and recognized the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Drupti Chauhan, Research Division, was recognized and explained that the members can find the following documents in their committee notebook behind Tab 2; Article 12 H Authorizing Legislation, 2013 Reports/Studies by Education Oversight, and a draft copy of Chapter 9 Education Enacted Legislation.

Dee Atkinson, Research Division, was recognized and presented an overview of the committee website. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee website will include committee agendas, committee membership, and committee reports from agencies.

### **North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Update**

Chairman Tillman introduced Dr. Richard Thompson, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT), Interim Executive Director. Dr. Thompson provided the members with an overview of the mission for NCCAT. Dr. Thompson's presentation also included a timeline, goals for the future, statewide impact, and NCCAT's core values. A copy of Dr. Thompson's overview is included as Attachment 5, and is made part of the minutes.

Following Dr. Thompson's presentation, Chairman Tillman recognized members for questions.

Representative Horn was recognized and asked Dr. Thompson how teachers are selected to come to NCCAT.

Dr. Thompson stated that in the past teachers were self-selected, teachers applied, were screened and then chosen. NCCAT is moving more towards specified recruiting and selection based on recommendations, but self-selecting still exists.

Representative Horn asked who pays for the teachers to attend.

Dr. Thompson responded that the State's appropriation pays for the teacher's attendance.

Representative Horn asked if there are partnerships.

Dr. Thompson stated that the NCCAT facilities have been rented to generate revenue. School districts have used the facilities on a rental basis. An example is the program in Wilson County, where the Wilson County Superintendent and NCCAT are partnering in applying for a grant. Current funding is at 80% state, 20% private. The goal is 70% state, 30% private.

Representative Horn asked about the digital connectivity on the 2 campuses.

Dr. Thompson replied that the hardwire is very good, wireless capacity is approximately 150 devices. Upgrades could be used in this area. Ocracoke is not as good and is an area that needs to be assessed appropriately first.

Representative Horn asked how many teachers are served.

Dr. Thompson stated that 7,000 teachers are served per year on both campuses. As budgets have been reduced, the numbers have decreased.

Representative Lucas was recognized by Chairman Tillman and asked how title 1 schools, like Pinkston in Vance County performing in the top 10%, scores rate with non-Title 1 schools.

Dr. Thompson indicated he did not have the information with him but could get this information. He added they are looking at the rewards schools status but did not have the data on how they rate to the non-title 1 schools.

Representative Johnson was recognized for a statement. Rep. Johnson expressed appreciation to Dr. Thompson and applauded the things that NCCAT have done for people in her district. She added that teachers return to the classroom and affect the students as well as impacting the whole school. Rep. Johnson asked what difference it makes having two locations, one in the West and one in the East and is it more affordable or better participation.

Dr. Thompson explained that the Ocracoke campus is smaller. The residential capacity is smaller and the coast guard station is smaller. It has made a difference and we are learning that based on analysis that it is very difficult to make long treks. The focus is to impact the school districts in the Eastern part of the state and getting more to attend the Ocracoke location. One campus does certain things better because of the location. It has increased our participation

significantly because of capacity in one building versus another. Part of the mission is that we cannot be in just these two buildings, we are getting our people to move out and work with surrounding areas and work on the district level.

Rep. Johnson was recognized and asked if there is still a partnership with Ocracoke and East Carolina.

Dr. Thompson indicated he is scheduling a meeting with the Provost at East Carolina. It is not as active now as it was originally and he is not sure why. The relationship with Western Carolina is fine. A formal partnership not as much as there is with Western Carolina at this point but is working on it.

Chairman Tillman shared with the committee that what he is seeing and hearing during the transition is that in the past teachers got a wonderful experience, reinvigorated, returned with a lot of enthusiasm, and shared their experience with other teachers. Now he sees them as in-service facilitators for digital learning and the K-3 reading program. He indicated that money and legislation is being put there. He sees it as a potential partnership in developing these programs on more of an in-service type basis where teachers are getting their whole counties involved in a program. Sen. Tillman expressed that he is looking forward to working closely together in the future.

## **Advanced Placement Program**

Chairman Tillman recognized Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Director, Gifted Education and Advanced Programs, Department of Public Instruction.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane presented to the committee an update on the 2013 legislation to Broaden Successful Participation in Advanced Courses. This presentation is included as Attachment 6, and is made part of the minutes.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane commented that the timing of the legislation will allow synergies in the efforts of the legislature, the State Board, and school districts at a time when it is critical for our students and families to have support and to ensure teachers get the resources that are needed.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Tillman recognized several members for questions.

Senator Pate was recognized and commented about the legislation that he worked on with former Rep. Folwell that addresses the cutoff date for entry into kindergarten. Senator Pate stated that research indicated that 4% of students are gifted and the presentation shows up to 18% of North Carolina students are enrolled in AP or IB courses. Senator Pate asked if there is a correlation.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane commented that the percentage of gifted and talented students is 12% statewide. AP and IB programming is open access. Students are allowed to take these courses whether they have been identified at K-3 under local school districts' plans for gifted

programming. The 4% has been debated across the country. In NC, the law states that local school districts are allowed to look at their own students based on local context.

Representative Holloway was recognized and commented that in the budget bill there was an appropriation to create a partnership and he was hopeful that it would be up and running as of now. Rep Holloway asked for a timeframe as to when it will be up and running and what is needed in order for it to happen.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane indicated the timeframe is late January. It is with the Department of Administration now going through the appropriate state channels.

Senator Stein was recognized and asked how NC at 18% compares to other states and is there a goal for the number of students enrolled in AP classes.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane replied that there is no statewide goal now. We also do not know participation rate nationally yet because the data resides individually within state and college boards. When it comes to test takers, NC is 18<sup>th</sup> in the country. The percentage of test takers has increased 5-6% consistently. This past year not only did the amount of test takers increase, but success on test improved as well as an increase in participation in every ethnic population. Hopefully a goal will be established with the partnership.

Senator Barefoot was recognized and asked where NC ranks nationally on scores of 3 and higher on AP courses.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane indicated that NC ranks 18<sup>th</sup>.

Representative Starnes was recognized and asked of the students taking AP classes, how many take the exam to qualify for the college credit. Rep. Starnes also asked what the cost of the exam is.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane replied that 11% qualify with a 3 or 5. The cost of the exam for AP is different between low income students and non-low income students. The cost of the exams is approximately \$100 for AP and approximately \$130 for IB.

Representative Lucas was recognized and commented that only 7 LEA's are taking advantage of partnering with the NC School of Math and Science and asked if there is a reason for this low number.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane responded that it is based on their capacity as they work with school districts with cohorts of children in an interactive video conferencing manner.

Representative Brandon was recognized and asked how many 7<sup>th</sup> graders have the potential to take AP courses based on EVAAS scores.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane replied that many school districts do use EVAAS scores in conjunction with AP potential and other data sources to help recognize students; however, EVAAS does not directly correlate with success in an AP course.

Chairman Tillman recognized David Colwell, Principal Hibriten High School, Lenoir, NC. Mr. Colwell expressed concerns about the cost of AP exams particularly at his school with 60% on free and reduced lunches. He indicated it is difficult to aggregate students taking the AP course with those actually taking the test because of the cost factor. Mr. Colwell would applaud efforts by the legislature to remove the cost of the exam from the equation for kids taking AP classes.

Sneha Shah-Coltrane explained that this legislation provided close to 11 million dollars to help support test fees. A grant is available to cover the test fees for the free and reduced lunch students.

## **Career and Technical Education Updates**

Chairman Tillman recognized Jo Anne Honeycutt, Director, Career and Technical Education, Department of Public Instruction and Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Executive Vice President for Programs & Chief Academic Officer, Community Colleges System.

Jo Anne Honeycutt and Dr. Morrissey presented to the committee an update on the 2013 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Legislation. The presentation included information on how the partnership with the Community College System works with the Department of Public Instruction to increase student participation in Career and Technical education. The presentation is included as Attachment 7 and is made part of the minutes.

At the conclusion of the presentation Chairman Tillman commented that the first bill the Governor signed was the CTE bill. Chairman Tillman asked if the legislation, Senate Bill 14, is working or does it need additional fixes.

Dr. Morrissey replied that the legislation is being implemented and all were very happy to see this legislation. The State Board of Education has already done significant work on the high school endorsement. The biggest challenge is increasing the number of high school students engaging in career and technical education especially in the areas of engineering and industrial technology. Those numbers are too small. Dr. Morrissey does not feel the legislation needs to be tweaked; it's just an implementation challenge.

Chairman Tillman added that there is a need to make it easier for teachers to get certification and get into these programs in high schools. There is a need to fast track teachers and get them in the classrooms and this bill should help do this.

Chairman Tillman recognized Representative Horn and he asked what the legislature needs to do to reduce the 60% of our students needing remedial courses in college.

Dr. Morrissey responded that the State Board of Community Colleges has implemented the policy. Colleges have three years to implement because of the huge shift in how they do business. Seventeen colleges jumped out wanting to do this and there are others in line to do it in the fall of 2014 with 2015 being the final year of implementation. We will see these numbers greatly reduced because of the policy and because of the great work the State Board of Education is doing with education standards for K-12.

Chairman Tillman recognized Representative Elmore and he expressed concerns about the role of the guidance counselor. He asked what training is provided to guidance counselors so they may better direct students.

Jo Anne Honeycutt replied they are working with school counselors both formally and informally to help them better understand the endorsement criteria and what career clusters mean and how they can advise students to continue that path. The explore assessment that 8<sup>th</sup> graders take does have a career interest inventory. This data will provide diagnostics for not only English and Mathematics ability but there is an indication of what the students' interests are. That component will help channel students in a focused area.

Chairman Tillman recognized Representative Blackwell and he asked about the chart on reported credentials. He asked is it correct that over one half of the reported credentials are in Microsoft Office and does the State Board have any concern that this is a disproportionate number of credentials in a single area.

Jo Anne Honeycutt replied that about 45,000 of the 104,000 are Microsoft Office. The Career and Technical Education staff has done an alignment study between the courses that are offered and the credentials offered in related subjects. The alignment is published for school districts. There are a number of credentials that are of high value to business and industry and they are promoted as well as the Microsoft Office content. The Microsoft Office is proportionally larger because it mirrors the enrollment in those courses. A benefit of the appropriations for credentials is that it will remove a barrier for students to be in the courses and complete other high value credentials.

Representative Blackwell asked if the State Board has a plan for encouraging growth in the other areas.

Jo Anne Honeycutt responded that insuring the credentials students earn are marketable in that they are regional or that the local economy demands them is important. The pathway to prosperity that the State Board has supported helps with the alignment.

## **Licensure Changes**

Chairman Tillman recognized Dr. Rachel McBroom, Director, Educator Preparation, Department of Public Instruction and Susan Ruiz, Section Chief, Licensure Section, Department of Public Instruction.

Dr. McBroom presented an update on the legislative changes that impact how our colleges and schools of education prepare future educators as well as how licenses are renewed once they are in the field.

Susan Ruiz presented an update on the legislative changes for teacher licensure continuing education credits.

The presentation is included as Attachment 8 and is made part of the minutes.

Chairman Tillman recognized Representative Blackwell and he referenced the annual report, line j, Effectiveness of teacher education program graduates. He asked who is determining how it will be measured and if there is any discussion with the Program Evaluation Division to ensure that we are not only getting the schools of education's own assessment of their graduates.

Dr. McBroom responded the educator preparation report cards came about as a result of the state's race to the top. This is connecting back to the evaluation data of graduates during their first three years of teaching as determined by the school administrators and their value added data through SAS for standards 6. Line j, does not include any data coming from the colleges and schools of education, it is tracking their graduates out in the field and then filtering back and reporting by institution what percentage of their graduates were rated at each level of the evaluation system.

There were no additional questions from members of the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21.

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Senator Jerry Tillman, Presiding

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Suzanne Castleberry, Committee Clerk

Attachments:

1. Committee Notice
2. Agenda
3. Visitor's Registration
4. Authorizing Legislation/Reports/Education Summaries
5. North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Update
6. Advanced Placement Program Presentation
7. Career and Technical Education Update
8. Licensure Changes Presentation