

## **AGENDA**

**LIAISON COMMITTEE, STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION,  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1995  
5:00 P.M.**

**AUDITORIUM, ARCH FORD EDUCATION BUILDING**

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1. REVIEW OF JOINT MEETING OF BOARDS 9/11/94
2. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION SUMMIT
3. UPDATE ON LANGUAGE NEEDS/INITIATIVES
4. UPDATE ON LEGISLATION AFFECTING EDUCATION

**JOINT MEETING OF BOARDS  
GENERAL, VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Sunday, February 12, 1995**

The State Board of Education, Vocational Education and Higher Education met on Sunday, February 12, 1995 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Arch Ford Education Building, #4 State Capitol Mall, Little Rock.

In attendance at the meeting:

Bill Fisher, State Board of Education  
Mitch Llewellyn, State Board of Education  
Jim McLarty, State Board of Education  
Elaine Scott, State Board of Education  
Richard Smith, State Board of Education  
Sherry Walker, State Board of Education  
Ed Crowe, Department of Higher Education  
Mary Beth Frazier, State Board of Higher Education  
Pat Gray, State Board of Higher Education  
Dave Luck, State Board of Higher Education  
John Spraggins, Department of Higher Education  
Mary Beth Sudduth, Department of Higher Education  
Lonnie McNatt, Vocational Education

DINNER WITH HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Board members dined at the Capitol Club with members of the House and Senate Education Committees. Southwestern Bell sponsored this dinner.

EDUCATION SUMMIT

At the July meeting, an education summit was discussed. The discussion tonight was to decide if there was still a need to pursue the education summit. The opinion was that the Boards needed to spend more time together and collapse their energies and efforts. It was also mentioned that the Governor has planned a School-to-Work Summit for March 22, 1995, which would meet the Boards' needs for discussion.

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) had planned to make their

Commissioners more active by aiding in conversations at the state level on any of the issues the state wants to discuss and perhaps that opportunity might be used to move the discussion forward.

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) PROPOSAL

Dr. Ed Crowe discussed how the two departments are working jointly on a proposal to the National Science Foundation for the Rural Systemic Initiative (RSI), which was due at the end of March. Dr. Crowe along with other individuals met in Monroe, Louisiana on Friday, February 17, 1995 with the NSF program directors. The grant will be two million a year for a five year period for the following states: Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Under the criteria of RSI, there were only a handful of Arkansas counties that qualified. For a county to qualify it can't have a city or town with more than 20,000 people in it. Arkansas is reported to have between 9 or 11 counties which qualify.

### TECHNOLOGY CRUSADE

Dr. Crowe reported that he and Mr. Charles Watson have been working on a proposal due in its preliminary form on February 15, 1995. This proposal was to train teachers who had been through the Math/Science and K-4 Crusades in the use of computers and software. This training would prepare the teachers to take advantage of APSCAN and access the Internet for student use in the classrooms. Dr. Crowe also mentioned that it was his hope to have a link with Teacher Education Programs at different colleges and universities and possibly become tied to school districts as partners. But they wouldn't know until sometime this summer.

It was reiterated that collaboration of the Boards would be most beneficial as soon after the March School-to-Work Summit as possible. Mr. Fisher, chair of the Vo-Tech Board, agreed to find a date for the three Boards to meet.

John Spraggins provided information from a panel of college professors with experience in Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The schools represented on the panel were Arkansas Tech, UALR, Arkansas State, and University of the Ozarks. The panel met to develop a curriculum that would lead to a 12 hour endorsement type certificate. The panel determined that there should be two steps, one for an endorsement for someone who already has a license in the field and one beyond the 12 hours. It was also stated that LEP was addressed in the Governor's funding proposal.

It was reported that Charles Green, Dean of the College of Education at Henderson,

has a program which is training parents of Spanish-speaking students to work as aides in the classroom. He has done a number of Saturday sessions with the teachers and the parents who will work with them.

Ms. Pat Gray reported that Arkansas will receive a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to host a conference this fall led by the Arkansas Foreign Language Teachers Association to discuss language needs in the state.

Ms. Scott reported the third Annual Conference of Metropolitan and Urban Universities will be held March 19-21 at UALR. On Monday, March 20, Ms. Scott will chair a panel discussing how urban universities interact with public schools in their areas. One of the guests slated to attend has done a pilot project using performance assessment for admission into participating colleges.

### SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES

Mrs. Sherry Walker talked about bills that supported and enhanced existing scholarship programs. The scholarship created in 1991 to offer college scholarships to the ten students who scored the highest on the GED exam was changed to allow part time students to become eligible for the scholarship.

A program to develop voluntary mergers of public higher education institution, two-year with two-year, two-year with four-year and four-year with four-year, is before the legislature. The idea is that any administrative cost savings from that consolidation would be matched.

It was reported that the expansion of the summer school program, K-4, and K-5 is completely through the House and Senate, waiting for a signature. The change in the textbook/instructional materials law was also completely through both House and Senate.

### LOCAL AND STATE SUPPORT VS. NATIONAL AVERAGE

Mr. Wilhoit reported that in Arkansas sixty-two percent of the money going into public education in Arkansas comes from the state. That is high in relation to the national average. He stated that we are high in two categories: percent of budget that is expended for elementary and secondary education, right at fifty percent, and our Federal resources, about ten percent, with the National average between seven and eight percent.

Mr. Wilhoit also reported that the courts say, regardless of the kind of system you have to generate revenue, it is the states' responsibility to ensure an adequate education. Regardless of how difficult it is for us, we are held accountable. Wilhoit stated the

message is clear; we need not think of massive new infusions of money, because there is not any big place it can come from.

There will be changes in the way we fund education in Arkansas. We can do it through the legislative process or through the courts.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Boards adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by Reginald Wilson