



EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 18, 2022
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Representatives Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, LaurieBeth Hager, Patrick Hatlestad, Pat D. Heinert, Jeff A. Hoverson, Donald Longmuir, Andrew Marschall, David Monson, David Richter; Senators David A. Clemens, Cole Conley, Jay R. Elkin, Doug Larsen, Diane Larson, Richard Marcellais, Jonathan Sickler, Michael A. Wobbema

Members absent: None

Others present: See [Appendix A](#)

It was moved by Representative Hatlestad, seconded by Representative Marschall, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the February 23, 2022, meeting be approved as distributed.

REQUIRED REPORTS

Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council

Activities of the Council

Mr. Luke Schaefer, Chairman, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council, presented a report ([Appendix B](#)) regarding the activities of the Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council as required by North Dakota Century Code Section 15.1-01-04.

Study of Membership, Duties, and Term Limits of Council

Mr. Schaefer presented a report ([Appendix C](#)) regarding the results from the study of the membership, duties, and term limits of the Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council as required by House Bill No. 1388 (2021), including recommendations to change the makeup of the council and the number of required meetings and to clarify the council's role.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Schaefer noted the council discussed whether students should be included on the council, but ultimately determined student input can be accessed through the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Student Cabinet.

Department of Public Instruction

Interim Assessments

Mr. Stan Schauer, Director of Assessment, Department of Public Instruction, presented a report (Appendices [D](#) and [E](#)) of the study of interim education assessment systems as required by Senate Bill No. 2141 (2021), and outlined recommended legislation proposed by a committee of interested stakeholders for mandatory interim assessments of students in grades kindergarten through 10.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Schauer noted administering three assessments during the school year is the standard of practice, and most schools already administer at least two.

The committee requested the Legislative Council staff to prepare a bill draft incorporating the proposed legislation.

Academic Performance Metrics of Students in Virtual Instruction

Mr. Schauer presented a report ([Appendix F](#)) of the academic performance metrics of students participating in virtual instruction as required by Section 15.1-07-25.4.

Learn Everywhere Program

Mr. Jim Upgren, Assistant Director, Office of School Approval and Opportunity, Department of Public Instruction, presented a report ([Appendix G](#)) of the learn everywhere program enacted by House Bill No. 1478 (2021).

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Upgren noted the department has been promoting the program at conferences and in various publications.

Integration of Computer Science and Cybersecurity into Curriculum

Ms. Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented a report ([Appendix H](#)) regarding the outcome of the collaboration with workforce development stakeholders and the Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council on how best to integrate computer science and cybersecurity into curriculum as required by Section 15.1-02-04. Ms. Baesler recommended legislation proposed by the task force ([Appendix I](#)).

In response to questions from committee members, Ms. Baesler noted:

- There is a sense of urgency to provide instruction on computer science and cybersecurity in schools due to feedback received from families and communities.
- Legislators on the task force included Representatives Glenn Bosch and Keith Kempenich and Senators Kyle Davison and Donald Schaible.

Mr. Shawn Riley, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Department, noted numerous careers use computer technology every day, society is dependent on technology, and the education system should include instruction on computer science and cybersecurity.

The committee requested the Legislative Council staff to prepare a bill draft incorporating the proposed legislation.

Science of Reading Curriculum

Ms. Ann Ellefson, Director, and Ms. Brenda Ehrmantraut, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Support, Department of Public Instruction, presented a report ([Appendix J](#)) regarding the implementation and effectiveness of the science of reading curriculum as required by Section 15.1-21-12.1.

In response to questions from committee members, Ms. Ehrmantraut noted:

- The department provided an in-person science of reading training conference in July 2022, over 300 professionals attended, and 155 of the attendees completed assignments to earn professional development credit.
- The department will receive reports by October 1 from each elementary school noting whether a teacher is trained, untrained, or if the teacher's training is ongoing.

In response to a question from a committee member, Ms. Ellefson noted the department will continue to offer professional development courses for teachers on the science of reading curriculum, particularly the online training course because it is cost-effective.

Mr. Schaefer noted many schools have been striving to improve reading curriculum and professional development opportunities for school staff, and the legislation has allowed school districts to be more engaged in the process.

Statewide Prekindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Strategic Vision

Ms. Baesler presented updates and the collaborative report ([Appendix K](#)) on the statewide prekindergarten through grade 12 education strategic vision for 2019-2021 ([Appendix L](#)) and 2021-2023 ([Appendix M](#)) as required by Section 15.1-02-04.

Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Executive Director, Education Standards and Practices Board, provided an update ([Appendix N](#)) on the strategic vision regarding quality early childhood education.

Ms. Pamela Sagness, Director, Behavioral Health Division, Department of Human Services, provided an update ([Appendix O](#)) on the strategic vision regarding support for safe and healthy behaviors.

Mr. Wayne Sick, Director, Department of Career and Technical Education, provided an update ([Appendix P](#)) on the strategic vision regarding career awareness, exploration, and development.

Dr. Aimee Copas, Executive Director, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, provided an update ([Appendix Q](#)) on the strategic vision regarding quality education personnel.

Mr. Schaefer provided an update ([Appendix R](#)) on the strategic vision regarding quality student-centered instruction.

Ms. Sashay Schettler, Director, Office of Indian Education, Bismarck Public Schools, provided an update ([Appendix S](#)) on the strategic vision regarding efforts to reduce disparities in achievement for Native American students and for students with disabilities or living in poverty.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE TWELVE EDUCATION COORDINATION COUNCIL

Ms. Sara Medalen, Public School Teacher Representative, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council, noted continuous legislative mandates often add pressure and more responsibilities to teachers' plates which can take away from the joy of teaching.

Dr. Copas, North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders Representative, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Education Coordination Council, noted the spirit of the council was to vet new ideas, taking into consideration all the different vantage points in the education realm and to determine whether the idea is worthy of the effort required to implement the idea. She noted it would be beneficial if others used the council to vet new ideas.

In response to a question from a committee member, Mr. Schaefer noted the council works continuously throughout the year because the council's subcommittees meet monthly.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Chairman Schreiber-Beck noted the next committee meeting will be virtual, and the committee will discuss the two bill drafts the Legislative Council staff was requested to prepare.

No further business appearing, Chairman Schreiber-Beck adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Jill Grossman
Counsel

ATTACH:19