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OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Carolyn Thompson, Director of Government Affairs
DATE: October 22, 2015
SUBJECT: Interim Study Update

Oct 6 - Personal Financial Literacy

The Oklahoma Council on Economic Education presented several concerns regarding the implementation of the personal financial literacy laws. Among the concerns were teacher training, steady funding stream, online programs, lack of an assessment to know how the program is working, and concern with 7-8 graders taking the course.

Oct 6 - Status of College Advising Standards to High School Students

Kelley Rampey from AIM Educational Foundation discussed her concerns around school counselors. Namely that counselors do not have the time and opportunity to discuss college options with students. They are not counseling for college. They are test coordinators, schedulers, and disciplinarians. Concerned there is no mandate for counselors in elementary schools.

Oct 6 - Continuation of Best Practices

Mark Officer, Director of Secondary Instruction, and Rebecca Morales, Secondary Science Instructional Specialist at Broken Arrow Schools presented on their open resource project and how their school is working to write its own interactive and relevant curriculum. Jeff Daugherty, Superintendent, and Tawn Rundle, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director at Merritt Public Schools presented on their 1:1 program and the variety of apps that the school is using through iTunesU.

Oct 7 - Student Data Act

Focused on concerns around what data is collected and the security of that data at both the state and district level. Presenters noted how quickly technology is moving and that almost all districts use third party vendors for something, but many do so without the appropriate policies in place to ensure the data appropriate and safe. Suggested there be some sort of lead data person in each district and at the state level to monitor practices. Additionally, suggestions included a data dictionary that lists the reasons for collecting certain pieces of data, data breach notification requirements, and effective dates for purging information for both vendors and districts.

Oct 7 - Teacher Leader Effectiveness

Included presentations from Tulsa PS on their quantitative measurements, from SDE on current implementation, from Moore PS regarding equity issues, and on the validity and use of VAM. Additionally, Washington State described their experiences without an ESEA Flexibility Waiver, and USDE clarified what was required to continue to have a waiver, including the requirement to use standardized test data as part of teacher evaluation systems.

Oct 7 - Inadequate Nutrition and its Role in Poor Brain Development during Pregnancy and Infancy

Rep. Richard Morrissette has stated that he plans to file a bill to require each school to hold one event focused on nutrition and fitness. Additionally, it will require that TSET provide grant money to all public schools to cover the costs of annual nutrition and fitness education.

Oct 13 - School Land Issues

Rep. Casey Murdock hosted two superintendents from Cimarron County who presented their concerns regarding the amount of school land located in their county and the effect that has on their ad valorem income. They are exploring possible solutions for making up the money they are losing in ad valorem, including a potential fee on leases from the Land Commission.

Oct 15 - Legislative Review of the Administrative Rules Process

A recent report says that Oklahoma Legislators have plenty of review power over the rules, but they do not exercise it effectively. The Governor has had to approve the rules by executive order the last two years, and so the consensus is that the new process is not working effectively. Some possible solutions include a joint rules committee to approve the rules, allowing the rules to go into effect without action, but allowing legislature to suspend a rule at any point in the process for review, sunset provision on rules. A few agencies gave their perspective including SDE. SDE presented the problems caused to schools by not having rules in effect by the beginning of the fiscal/school year. Also suggested changes to allow agencies to post notice of intended rulemaking on their websites followed by the Journal for added flexibility.

Oct 20 - Early Childhood Expenditures

This study was really an early budget performance hearing on all those programs that touch early childhood (birth through pre-k). The study sought to explore the effects of these programs and possible areas of duplication. Department of Education, Health and Human Services all presented on the programs they offer. OSDE highlighted its statewide pre-k program, SoonerStart and Parent Education Program.

Oct 21 - STEM Education

This study focused on barriers to STEM education and workforce, and efforts to address the problem. OSDE highlighted how it is helping to engage more and more students in STEM classes by connecting science and math courses to STEM related fields outside of the classroom. While there is lots of interest in these areas, students are not seeing the explicit connection.

OSDE is focused on increased rigor in the classroom and more exposure during the day. Other barriers discussed included the large teacher shortage in these areas, students lacking the foundation to be successful in STEM, and the issue that Oklahoma is not producing enough STEM graduates to meet its needs, even though there has been a slight increase in STEM graduates this last year.

Oct 21 - County-wide School Superintendents

The goal of this study was to explore the possibility of move to a county superintendent model. OSDE presented on the current process school districts go through for annexation and consolidation, which includes financial assistance from the School Consolidation Assistance Fund. Superintendent Zack Powell shared his experience of the annexation between Wayne and Byars public schools, which he feels like was very positive and beneficial to both districts. Powell also was the shared superintendent between the two districts before the annexation took place. Senator Anderson, the author, stated he did not have any specific legislation in mind for next year.

Upcoming Studies

Thursday, October 22, State Capitol:

10:00 AM Interim Study S15-025 Study on Modernization of the School Funding Formula, by Senator Ron Sharp

1:00 PM Interim Study S15-038 #OKhigh5 Plan, by Senators Patrick Anderson, Randy Bass, Mike Mazzei and Susan Paddock

Tuesday, October 27, State Capitol:

1:00 PM Interim Study S15-039 A Vision for OK Common Education, by Senators John Ford and Jim Halligan, and Reps. Ann Coody, Dennis Casey and Lee Denney

Wednesday, October 28, State Capitol:

9:00 AM Interim Study S15-031 State-Mandated Assessments, and Interim Study S15-032 Feasibility of Multiple Diplomas, by Senator John Ford

Monday, November 2, State Capitol, House Chamber:

9:00 AM Interim Study H15-091 Best Practices in the Top States in Education and Ways Oklahoma Can Replicate, by Rep. Ann Coody

Tuesday, November 3, State Capitol, Room 432A:

9:00 AM Interim Study H15-069 Federal Funding for Education, by Rep John Paul Jordan

9:00 AM Interim Study H15-111 State Employment, Workforce Development, and Alternative Recruitment, by Rep. Emily Virgin

10:00 AM Interim Study H15-069 Allowing Common Education Schools to Use Building Funds to Hire School Security, by Rep. Jeff Coody

1:00 PM Interim Study H15-012 HB1512 and Its Necessity in Public Schools and Understanding the Differences between Interpreters, Para-Professionals and Various Certifications, by Rep. Sally Kern

Thursday, November 4, State Capitol, Room 432A

9:00 AM Interim Study H15-068 HB1017 - 25 Years Later, by Rep. John Paul Jordan, and Interim Study H15-113 Educational Reform in Oklahoma, by Rep. Scott Inman

10:30 AM Interim Study H15-122 Study of Facility Funding for Charter Schools, by Rep. Lee Denney and Interim Study H15-108 Charter School Accountability Measures, by Rep. Chris Kannady, and Rep. Donnie Condit