

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Education

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2019 Interim

September 10, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 10:00 AM, in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Steve Riley, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representatives James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senators C.B. Embry Jr., and Gerald A. Neal; Representatives Tina Bojanowski, Randy Bridges, Joseph M. Fischer, Kelly Flood, David Hale, Cluster Howard, Regina Huff, Bobby McCool, and Attica Scott.

Guests: Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Executive Director, Prichard Academy for Academic Excellence; Perry Papka, Deputy Director, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence; Mike Nemes, Deputy Secretary, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet; Linda Hampton, Executive Director, Early Childhood Advisory Council; John Roden, Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council; Bill Buchanan, Early Learning Liaison, Office of Special Education and Early Learning, Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool; Charles Harman, Director, Office of Finance and Operations, Division of Budget and Financial Management, Kentucky Department of Education.

LRC Staff: Chuck Truesdell, Jennifer Krieger, Seth Dawson, and Amie Elam

Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

Brigitte Blom Ramsey and Perry Papka, Prichard Academy for Academic Excellence, gave a presentation regarding the importance of early childhood investments.

In response to a question from Representative McCool, Ms. Blom Ramsey said that grandparents are able to access the childcare subsidy and public preschool dollars. She added a child is eligible for the services regardless of who their caretaker is.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Ms. Blom Ramsey said the freeze in subsidy allowance for families and a drop in the eligibility level left many families without a way to pay for childcare. Many childcare facilities had to close as a result of parents no longer being able to afford services.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Blom Ramsey said the Prichard Committee believes that education should take on a holistic approach. She stated that high quality learning environments understand the importance of developing social and emotional skills, both early on and throughout postsecondary education.

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Mike Nemes, Linda Hampton, and John Roden gave a presentation regarding the financial and economic benefits of early childhood education.

In response to a question from Senator Neal, Ms. Hampton said the preschool development grant application was built from the data and information gathered in the sustainability validation reports that were completed during the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant process.

Kentucky Department of Education

Bill Buchanan, Charles Harman, and Dr. Lewis gave a presentation focusing on kindergarten and state-funded preschool.

In response to a question from Senator Neal, Dr. Lewis said kindergarten is funded at half-day. However, the majority of districts provide full-day kindergarten. To pay for full-day kindergarten districts are subsidizing the increased cost with local funds. Dr. Lewis added that, beginning next year, districts will be submitting applications for non-competitive grants to fund public preschool services.

In response to a question from Chair Riley, Mr. Harman said that moving from 160 percent of the poverty level to 200 percent would be an increase of \$17 million. Mr. Buchanan said at least four districts in Kentucky do not offer full-day kindergarten.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Mr. Harman said that KDE will provide the committee with data from each district regarding the cost of going from half-day to full-day kindergarten.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.