

**MINUTES**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

9:00 AM

Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

\*\*\*\*\*

Pursuant to a notice posted in accordance with Senate Rule 11.10 and 11.18, a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Education was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, in the Capitol Extension, Room E1.036, at Austin, Texas.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Larry Taylor, Chair  
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senator Paul Bettencourt  
Senator Donna Campbell  
Senator Sylvia Garcia  
Senator Don Huffines  
Senator Lois Kolkhorst  
Senator José Rodríguez  
Senator Kel Seliger  
Senator Van Taylor  
Senator Royce West

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairman Seliger called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. This being a joint hearing, Chairman Larry Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. There being a quorum present, the following business was transacted:

Chairman Seliger and Chairman Taylor shared presiding duties.

The Chairs made opening remarks about the joint committee hearing.

Senator Lucio was recognized on a point of personal privilege.

Chairman Seliger laid out the following interim charge: Monitor the ongoing implementation of HB 5 (83R), and examine current projections for preparation of Texas high school students for postsecondary education and workforce training. Examine best practices and recommend strategies to align the implementation with the 60x30TX higher education plan, including, but not limited to, dual credit, credit transferability, and fields of study.

Chairman Seliger called invited testimony (see attached witness list).

Senator Creighton was present.

Chairman Seliger laid out the following interim charge: Study teacher shortage and retention issues in Texas and evaluate educator preparation programs to determine if these programs are preparing educators for the rigors of the 21st century classroom. In particular, examine the shortages of ELL, special education, and STEM educators across the state and identify the issues creating a shortage. Make recommendations to improve educator preparation throughout the state and increase certification rates.

Chairman Seliger called invited testimony (see attached witness list).

Chairman Taylor opened public testimony on the joint interim charges (see attached witness list).

Chairman Taylor moved that the public testimony be closed; without objection, it was so ordered.

There being no further business, at 6:56 PM Chairman Taylor moved that the Senate Higher Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee stand recessed subject to the call of the chair. Without objection, it was so ordered.

---

Senator Larry Taylor, Chair

---

Nicole Sunstrum, Clerk