

MINUTES
Taskforce for the 21st Century
August 12, 2008
Arkansas State Capitol – Rooms 138, 141, 151
1:00 p.m.

Chair Dianne Lamberth called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members present: Dianne Lamberth, Chris Masingill, John Ahlen, John Barnes, Gary Campbell, Mac Dodson, Guy Fenter, Bill Ferren, Maria Haley, James Hendren, Gene Hill, Pat Lea, Sam Walls, Jim Youngquist, and Randy Zook

Members absent: Judy Adams, Clay Curtner, Brad Lacy, and Mike Maulden.

Staff present: Lisa Cogbill, Valerie Haley, Terre McLendon, and Mike Gerfen.

Guests present: Watt Gregory, Kutak Rock; Ed Franklin, Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges; Gene Eagle, ADFA; Morris Jenkins, AEDC; Tonya Haas, IEA; Charlie Frago, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

A motion to accept the amended minutes from the July 28th meeting was passed.

Watt Gregory gave a brief presentation about the advisability of removal of the constitutional prohibition on state equity investments, including the history behind the prohibition, current state “quasi-equity” investments, why the current system isn’t working, what is needed, and how we get there.

John Ahlen gave an update on programs and services offered by the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority, stressing the funding gap between K-12 education and higher education/workforce education, especially in regards to research and development.

After a break, committee members were divided into three subgroups: Role and Scope/Programs and Services, the constitutional prohibition on state equity investments, and structure of the existing economic development-related agencies.

Members reconvened for closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be September 3, 10 a.m. at the State Capitol.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Cogbill.