

Technology Strategy Task Force
8/30/18
Minutes

Meeting began at 1:05 PM

Ms. Nesmith welcomed the committee and visitors. Roll was called and 14 members present; proxy for Ms. Abshire (Yvette Ardoin)

Senator Appel provided opening remarks.

Ms. Nesmith reviewed the task force charge as outlined in Act 381 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session.

Ms. Nesmith opened the floor for chairperson nominations or volunteers. Senator Appel volunteered to chair the committee and Mr. Stevens expressed his support of Senator Appel to serve as chair. No other volunteers or nominations, so Senator Appel was selected without opposition.

Ms. Nesmith presented information regarding educational technology background and educational technology today.

Senator Appel began discussion stressing the importance of active participation by all task force members. He also suggested the formation of working groups and presentations by expert speakers. Members agreed with the concept of working groups and felt that guest speakers would be helpful and that it might also be helpful to identify models of excellence to highlight. Senator Appel then asked what technology should look like in five or ten years. Members discussed the concept of distance learning and preparing students for the workforce that they will enter. The discussion then moved to the need to ensure teachers are prepared to utilize technology in the classroom. Are preservice teachers properly prepared? Do veteran teachers have what they need? A complicating factor is the turnover of educational technology tools; every day new tools emerge, and it is very difficult to plan for the future in this situation as well as to ensure privacy and security. The question of possible benefits of centralized governance for technology was discussed, considering purchasing power, assistance with ensuring quality tools, privacy concerns, and tool alignment with curriculum.

Public comment was received from Donald Songy, representing Office of the Governor and from Robert Logan, representing himself.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM.