

SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS



SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FINANCE RECALIBRATION

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

6-24-2010

University of Wyoming Outreach Center
Casper, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Henry "Hank" Coe
Senator Jim Anderson
Senator Kathryn Sessions
Senator Michael Von Flatern
Representative Del McOmie
Representative Rosie Berger
Representative Bernadine Craft
Representative Patrick Goggles
Representative Steve Harshman
Representative Matt Teeters

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Senator Mike Massie
Senator Phil Nicholas

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Dave Nelson, School Finance Manager
Matt Sackett, Research Analyst
Matt Willmarth, School Finance Analyst
Josh Anderson, Staff Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to Appendix 1 to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@state.wy.us. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Committee met for one day in Casper, Wyoming. The Committee formally adopted a work plan for the recalibration process. The Committee heard a presentation on instructional facilitators and received a report on the implementation of the resource use study findings. The Committee heard a presentation on accountability. The Committee also received information on federal funds used in education.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Coe called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to Appendix 2 to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the May 19-20, 2010 Committee meeting were approved with no changes.

STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Representative Berger provided a handout to the Committee on school leadership (see Appendix 3 for a copy of the handout).

Mr. Dave Nelson of the Legislative Service Office noted that Packet A was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting to provide a response to Committee questions. Mr. Nelson noted that the Committee can access web-based public comments as submitted to the Committee and noted that Committee members should contact LSO if they have any issue with accessing comments.

INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATOR PRESENTATION

Ms. Debbie Hammons gave a presentation on instructional facilitators to the Committee. She noted that instructional facilitators are funded categorically and not as a part of the block grant.

Mr. Marty Kobza of Hot Springs #1 stated that instructional facilitators are important for student achievement. He noted that a majority of teachers like and appreciate the facilitators. He stated that if there was a new teaching strategy, the facilitators would model it, then co-teach it and then observe and give feedback to the teacher.

WORK PLAN

Mr. Nelson provided a handout to the Committee of a proposed work plan (see Appendix 4 for a copy of the handout). Co-chair Coe noted that the plan involved a refining of existing components and would avoid a complete overhaul of the model.

Mr. Nelson explained the handout and noted that the Committee would need to determine accountability indicators. He stated that the committee would also need to establish a methodology to measure divergence from the model. Mr. Nelson stated that the remainder of the work plan provides the outline of a work schedule.

After additional discussion, Representative Harshman moved that the Committee approve the work plan. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

IMPLEMENTING USE OF RESOURCE STUDY FINDINGS

Mr. Joe Simpson of the Department of Education provided a handout to the Committee on the 10 doubling performance strategies (see Appendix 5 for a copy of the handout). He noted that the goal is to embed those strategies into the fabric of how the state looks at public education.

Mr. Simpson noted that the IF-K test for kindergarten was implemented and that while it was not mandatory there was 100% participation. He stated that schools want to have this information.

In response to a question, Ms. Sue Belish of Sheridan #1 stated that a lot of districts are using the PAWS data. She noted that PAWS and ACT are summative assessments and noted that there is also a need for formative assessments.

In response to a question, Ms. Mary Kay Hill of the Department of Education noted that the department is working with the Elbogen certification to attempt to show the benefit of having national board certified teachers.

Mr. Simpson provided a handout to the Committee on the strategic plan adopted by the State Board of Education. See Appendix 6 for a copy of the handout.

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS AND OPTIONS

Dr. Allan Odden provided a handout to the Committee on accountability (see Appendix 7 for a copy of the handout). He stated that Wyoming has a very generously supported funding formula which was created based on a theory of action on improving student achievement. He noted that while funding has increased substantially, student achievement has not improved much. He noted that districts are not spending resources in line with the funding model.

Dr. Odden stated that it was important to think about an outcome based accountability system which would complement the funding and other support provided in the current system. He stated that it would be up to the State to identify the outcomes that are desired and then determine rewards or sanctions based on the achievement of those outcomes. Dr. Odden stated that this would modify some of the notion of local control.

Dr. Odden stated that it is important to measure student achievement. He stated that PAWS is a good test, but noted that there have been some problems with the administration of the test. He noted that it is important to measure change and set targets for improvement. He suggested that it would be appropriate to set stretch goals, where even if a district got half way to achieving the goal it would be a large improvement.

Dr. Odden noted that there would need to be rewards and consequences for meeting or not meeting results. He stated that rewards could be a monetary bonus, a pay hike, tenure or a promotion. He stated that sanctions could be state intervention, no bonus or a pay freeze.

Dr. Odden noted that the proficient levels in PAWS are not that ambitious so he suggested that the state should have goals based on percent proficient and percent advanced. He suggested that for reading no child except those with severe issues should not be able to read at grade level and to set a goal for percent of students below basic reading at less than 2% by grade 3.

Dr. Odden stated that step 1 was giving the districts notice that the state wants more accountability. He suggested that the Legislature continue funding instructional facilitators as a categorical program and that

it consider funding tutors through a categorical program as well. He stated that the first round sanction could be putting controls on a few smaller areas of the model.

FEDERAL FUNDS TUTORIAL

Ms. Mary Kay Hill of the Department of education provided a series of handouts to the Committee on Federal funds (see Appendix 8 for a copy of the handouts). She noted that in order to receive the funding there are certain requirements that the state has to comply with.

Ms. Christine Steele of the Department of Education noted that funding for Title I is based on poverty data while the use of funds is based on academic need and not based on poverty. She noted that the Title I funds must supplement, not supplant state funding. She noted that it was important for districts to spend older funds first because they expire.

Ms. Teri Wigert of the Department of Education noted that for Perkins program fund there is a 60-40 split of local funds with 60% to K-12 schools and 40% to colleges. She noted that the split is not mandated by the federal government. She noted that certain districts decline to accept the awards and that 5 districts will not accept funds this year.

Ms. Hill noted that special education is different and that the state must fulfill the IDEA requirements and that the state cannot decline funding unlike the Perkins program. Ms. Stephanie Weaver of the Department of Education noted that there are multiple measures of performance and compliance data and that determinations are made for each district in accordance with federal regulations.

The Committee Scheduled its next meeting for July 21-22, 2010 in Lander Wyoming. The following meeting will be August 25-26, 2010.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Coe adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Coe, Co-Chairman

Representative McOmie, Co-Chairman

Committee Meeting Materials Index

Appendix	Appendix Topic	Appendix Description	Appendix Provider
1	Committee Sign-In Sheet	Lists meeting attendees	Legislative Service Office
2	Committee Meeting Agenda	Provides an outline of the topics the Committee planned to address at meeting	Legislative Service Office
3	School leadership	School leadership	Representative Berger
4	Proposed work plan	Proposed work plan	Legislative Service Office
5	Implementation of strategies	Implementation of strategies	Department of Education
6	Strategic plan	Strategic plan	Department of Education
7	Accountability	Accountability	Dr. Allan Odden
8	Federal funds	Federal funds	Department of Education