

Funding Formula Working Group Minutes

Tuesday, November 24th, 2015 5:00-7:00pm

Northern RI Collaborative, Lincoln

Attendees- Elizabeth Burke-Bryant, Don Sweitzer, Gregg Amore, Scott Avedesian, Donato Bianco, J. Michael D'Antuono, Karen Davis, Daniel Da Ponte, Kas R. DeCarvalho, Pattie DiCenso, Sean Doyle, Georgia Fortunato, Victoria Gailliard-Garrick, Jo Eva Gaines, Hanna Gallo, Stephanie Gonzalez, Amy Mullen, Julie Nora, Stephanie Ogidan Preston, Adam M. Ramos, Isadore S. Ramos, Deborah L. Ruggiero, Toby Shepherd, Alan J. Tenreiro, James Vincent, Lisa Tomasso, Commissioner Ken Wagner, Andrea Castaneda, Dr. Kenneth Wong,

I. Welcome: 5:10

Elizabeth Burke-Bryant and Don Sweitzer welcomed the group.

II. Andrea Castañeda Meeting Review

Andrea Castañeda reviewed the discussion from the previous meetings and the meeting schedule going forward.

III. Public Comment

Tim Groves, Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, discussed differences between charter and district spending.

Rose Mary Grant, head of Highlander Charter School, discussed special education and the prevalence of special education at charter schools in particular.

Dennis Littky, founder of the Met, discussed the history of CTE, the school, and the need for financial assistance for the Met.

Justin Walsh, parent speaking on charters and special education, discussed needs of special education student and his student's experience at Kingston Hill Academy.

Loren Spears, parent of Met students and former Met teacher, spoke about how the Met has helped her students and how access to CTE is important in Rhode Island.

Anna Cano Morales, Director of the Latino Policy Institute, International Charter School Board Member, and Central Falls Board Member, discussed needs of Latino students, ELLs, and equity in funding.

Bianca Pelosi, parent of a student at International Charter School, spoke in Portuguese about how the school has helped her daughter, a recent immigrant, adjust and develop.

Darlene Pugnali, Assistant Director at International Charter School, interpreted Ms. Pelosi's comments and spoke about dual language education and ELL services.

JoAnne DeVoe, taxpayer from Warren, spoke about the regional school district aid and way funding is distributed in Warren is unfair and should be adjusted.

Cheryl Carroll, Business Manager at Davies Career and Tech, discussed students at Davies and financial difficulties the school faces.

IV. Mary Ann Snider, Presentation on Changing Demographics

Mary Ann Snider, member of RIDE staff, presented on the increasing and changing poverty rates throughout the state, the declining rate of identification of students with disabilities, and increases in students identified as English-language learners as well as the makeup of English-language learner students.

V. David Sienko, Presentation on Educational Considerations of English-Language Learners and Students with Disabilities

David Sienko, member of RIDE staff, presented on best practice in programming for English-language learners and students with disabilities, and how a formula can ensure appropriate programming is sufficiently funded.

VI. Working Group Discussion of English-Language learners in Rhode Island

Elizabeth Burke-Bryant introduced the discussion and topics. Discussion focused on topics that included: (1) research behind need for ELL funding; (2) Title III and adequacy in ELL funding in the state; (3) forms of ELL funding other states use; (4) ELL student performance;

VII. Working Group Discussion on Special Education

Elizabeth Burke-Bryant introduced the discussion and topics. Discussion focused on topics that included: (1) students with multiple needs and potential weights; (2) district and charter school special education costs and differences; (3) continuum of services and differences in special education costs by need; (4) federal funding for special education; (5) adequacy of current funding mechanisms for special education.

VIII. Working Group Discussion on Career and Technical Education

Don Sweitzer introduced the discussion and topics. Discussion focused on topics that included: (1) state career and technical education school finances; (2) academic vs. program costs in CTE programming; (3) district satellite schools and regulations; (4) costs between CTE programs and their effectiveness; (5) the need for further discussion on career and technical education.

IX. Conclusion

Don Sweitzer summarized discussion of presentations and comments related to the lens of the group's criteria for a successful formula; that any recommendations promote equity, fairness, and the use of data.

X. Overview of Upcoming Meetings

Don Sweitzer announced details for the next meeting and coming meetings.

XI. Adjourn, 7:10