

Funding Formula Working Group Minutes

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015 5:00-7:00pm

Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island Room

Attendees- Julie Nora, Deborah Ruggeiro, Jo Eva Gaines, Stephanie Gonzalez, Alan Tenreiro, Scott Avedesian, Michael D'Antuono, Hanna Gallo, Donato Bianco, Adam Ramos, Sean Doyle, Georgia Fortunato, Stephanie Ogidan Preston, Amy Mullen, Lisa Tomasso, Greg Amore, Isadore Ramos, Daniel Da Ponte, Joe MarcAurele, Nancy Carriuolo, Karen Davis, Kenneth Wong, Patti Dicenso, Victoria Gailliard-Garrick, Toby Shepherd, Gara Field

Welcome: 5:05 pm

Governor Raimondo introduced the group and her charge for the Committee.

Commissioner Wagner introduced the purpose of the working group, rules for public comment, and the #edfundingri hashtag.

Don Sweitzer, co-chair, introduced himself and discussed how the funding formula recommendations would be created and how meetings would proceed.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, co-chair, introduced herself, and welcomed the community to the meeting. Elizabeth charged the group with creating balanced recommendations to improve existing formula.

Each member of the Working Group was introduced and offered their name, organization, and aspirations for the group. Members remarked about the importance of equity, fairness, and the use of data in any recommendations made to improve the formula.

Dr. Kenneth Wong: Context Presentation

Summary and overview of 2010 Funding Formula Legislation presented by Dr. Wong. The presentation included an overview of the 2010 legislation, its design features, the core instructional amount, and the scope of working group topics.

Andrea Castañeda: Funding Formula Overview

Andrea Castañeda introduced the group to the core mechanics of the funding formula, including an introduction to the core instructional amount, the student success factor, and the state share ratio. The audience discussed this presentation, asking follow-up questions of Dr. Wong and A. Castañeda about topics such as: (1) the role of English learners in the formula; (2) the way that the state share ratio is calculated; (3) special education and career and technical education weights; (4) the way that the categorical funds function; and role of capital costs in the formula.

Representative Amore Overview of House Commission's Work

Greg Amore reviewed House Special Commission on Funding Formula work in studying funding formula. Commission met six times from January to March 2015. Reviewed Commission's Report, available on Funding Formula website.

Overview of Upcoming Meetings

Don Sweitzer reviewed purpose and scope of each meeting of the Working Group.

Conclusion

Elizabeth Burke Bryant discussed the next meeting on November 16th from 5:00-7:00pm as well as the option to sign up for Public Comment.

Andrea Castañeda shared that Public Comment sign-up is web-based and will go live 24 hours before the meetings and that anyone can submit written comment at any time that will be added to the record. She indicated that all materials submitted or presented to the working group will be posted on the RIDE website.

Adjournment at 6:40