

Commission To Strengthen the Adequacy and Equity of
Certain Cost Components of the School Funding Formula

Meeting
Burton Cross Office Building
111 Sewall St., Augusta, ME
Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Room 202

July 25, 2014

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Sen. Millett called the meeting to order at 9:34

- II. Introductions
 - a. Jim Grant, representing Maine School Boards Association (MSBA)
 - b. Martha Harris, representing State Board of Education (SBE)
 - c. Jude Cyr, representing Maine Association of School Business Officials (MeASBO)
 - d. Daniel Higgins, representing Maine School Superintendents Association (MSSA)
 - e. Dick Durost, representing Maine Principals' Association (MPA) (sitting in for Kim Buckheit)
 - f. Rep. Mattie Daughtry, representing House District 66
 - g. Rep. Brian Hubbell, representing House District 35; Co-chair
 - h. Sen. Rebecca Millett, representing Senate District 7; Co-chair
 - i. Charles Betit, representing Maine Education Association (MEA)
 - j. Jim Rier, Commissioner of Education, representing the Department of Education (Maine DOE)
 - k. Kathryn Colfer, representing Educare Central Maine
 - l. Rep. Beth Turner, representing House District 11
 - m. Ann Belanger, representing Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC) (sitting in for Jill Adams)
 - n. Absent – Rep. Brian Langley
 - o. Staff – Maine DOE, Jennifer Pooler, Special Projects Manager
 - p. Staff – Maine DOE, Suzan Beaudoin, Director of School Finance and Operations
 - q. Staff – Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI), Dr. David Silvernail
 - r. Office of Policy and Legal Analysis (OPLA), Dr. Phil McCarthy (will provide policy drafting assistance to the Commission)

- III. Overview of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act – Dr. Phil McCarthy
 - a. State Role in Education Finance – National Conference of State Legislatures
 - b. Legislative History of Maine's Essential Programs And Services – Table of Bills
 - c. An Independent Review of Maine's Essential Programs and Services Funding Act: Part 2 (Picus and Associates)
 - d. Constitution of the State of Maine – Article VIII. Part First. Education.

- IV. Review Commission charge – 2014 Resolve, Chapter 114, Section 6 - Commission meetings authorized
 - a. Today – first organizational meeting
 - b. No more than six meetings to carry out duties
 - c. Commission will be reviewing the data; not necessarily the model itself

- V. Review Commission duties - 2014 Resolve, Chapter 114, Section 5 -
 - a. Public preschool programs
 - b. Support for economically disadvantaged students
 - c. Professional development
 - d. Cost adjustments for regional teacher salaries
 - e. Debt service
 - f. Special education for minimum subsidy receivers
 - g. State contribution to teacher retirement

- VI. Current status of cost components and other elements of education policy as outlined in the Resolve and review of the Work Plan and proposed Time Line.
 - a. Dr. David Silvernail, MEPRI, and Suzan Beaudoin, MDOE, provided the current status of items one, two, three and four of the Work Plan (see Work Plan and Timeline 7/18/2014).
 - b. Jim Rier, MDOE, provided the status of items five, six, and seven of the Work Plan.

- VII. Next meetings
 - a. October – DOE and MEPRI to provide a progress report on the Work Plan and Time Line.
 - b. November – expect two meetings in first week; this is when the serious work of the Commission will begin.

- VIII. Motion by Jude Cyr, seconded by Mattie Daughtry to approve the Work Plan and proposed Time Line knowing there may be some items completed earlier – voted unanimously by those present.

- IX. Meeting ended at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Pooler
Approved: October 20, 2014