

Commission to Study School Funding (RSA 193-E:2-e)

Meeting Minutes

February 21 2pm LOB 210-211

Commission Attendance: Val Zanchuck, John Beardmore, Susan Huard, Mary Heath, Iris Estabrook, Dick Ames, Chris Dwyer, Jon Morgan, Mel Myler, David Luneau, Jay Kahn, Rick Ladd, Corinne Cascadden, Barbara Tremblay, Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu; Zoom: Bill Ardinger; Absent: David Ryan

Call to order:

Rep. Luneau welcomed everyone in attendance and opened the meeting with a reminder that the next meeting is March 2nd at 2pm. He reminded the group that a new method of transcription is being used and for everyone to use their microphone and be clear when speaking, so the new transcriptionist can be accurate.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes were approved by the Commission without any changes.

Calendar (upcoming meetings and agenda items):

Dr. Mallory alerted the Commission and the public of the two 10am meetings on March 2nd and 23rd. The Commission continues to determine relevant presentations and discussions moving forward, previous topics are available on agendas and minutes. Mr. Beardmore suggested the DRA talk about how property values are equalized and how tax rates are set, and Mr. Ardinger suggested people review the 2000 Shaheen School Funding report.

Dr. Mallory has contacted Education Commission of the States to share lessons-learned from other states. Reaching Higher NH will present on March 16th regarding their research and what other states have done.

Rep. Luneau announced that the meeting location may change to the BEA across the street from the LOB for future meetings after March 2nd. The March 2nd meeting will be in the LOB 210-211.

Dr. Mallory asked the Commission to review the Group Agreements and pick one to think about each meeting. These agreements will be used during public engagement (focus groups and community conversations) as the Commission moves forward. The Commission may talk about changes throughout the work.

Presentation:

Ms. Davis, Department of Education Division of Education Analytics & Resource, provided an overview of federal funding streams – “What are the federal funding streams for Pre-K to 12? How are they allocated?” Ms. Davis informed the Commission that she can ask certain programs within the Department of Education to present as needed. This presentation provided a broader overview of each funding stream that comes into the Department of Education. Her one-page hand out is available on the Commission webpage documents.

Commission members showed interest in learning more about Medicaid and schools, poverty indicators (including people who may not meet poverty guidelines for support but struggle to afford childcare and higher education costs), Youth Behavior Risk Survey (DHHS), advanced placement testing costs for districts and students, Kindergarten, preschool/early childhood special education, Charter Schools. Commission members and the public can learn more about how funds are used statewide on the Dept. of Education 25. A summary will be provided in the future on the Commission website.

Discussion:

Mr. Hensley, Policy Analyst UNH Carsey School for Public Policy updated the Commission about the Request for Proposal for a sub-contracted research vendor. The sub-committee met last week to clarify language and legalities. They have another Zoom meeting will occur next week with the subcommittee. Dr. Mallory asserted the group continues to work on revisions and study management is under discussion with the subcommittee in reference to the Commission’s questions about the vendor scope of work and the commission’s ownership of the process. Carsey remains the agent of the Commission. The data and findings produced through the sub-contract will remain with the State of NH.

The Commission discussed the importance of stating the problem and identifying the areas that will be helpful to form guiding questions for the study. The Commission will complete the “Understand the Problem” section of the Design Thinking Process form.

On March 5th there will be a focus group with key stakeholders (e.g., NHSAA, NHSBA, NHASP, Reaching Higher, NEA, AFT, NHASEA, Governor’s Council on Diversity, State Board of Education) at the UNH Law School from 3pm to 5pm. All Commission members are welcome to attend and provide input about invitees.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Boylston, Lyme, NH – Hope for the Commission to steer away from an over reliance on property taxes for school funding. Would like to see the Commission to adopt a shared view of students beyond community borders. Welcomes a conversation in the Upper Valley.

Next meeting – **March 2, 2020, 10am-12pm**

Items moved to the next meeting:

- Summary of Hopes, Concerns, and Questions – Moved to the next meeting
- Design Thinking and Guiding Questions - Definition of the problem and What will success look like?
- Commission working structure – subcommittees? Ad hoc working groups?

Documents:

- Agenda 2/21
- Meeting Minutes 2/10
- US Department of Education Funding New Hampshire
- Design Thinking Process
- Summary of Hopes, Concerns, Questions from the Commission