

Public Education Funding Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024

Location: Delaware Legislative Hall, House Hearing Room,
411 Legislative Ave, Dover, DE 19901

The Public Education Funding Commission (PEFC) meeting was held on September 26, 2024, with the following members in attendance:

Mark Holodick, Ruth Ann Miller, Cerron Cade, Laura Sturgeon, Kimberly Williams, Eric Buckson, Taylor Hawk, Tammy Croce, Kevin Carson, Emily Falcon, Jill Floore, Nick Johnson, Michele Marinucci, Jose Aviles, Evelyn Edney, Crystal Nelson, April Albury-Harmon, Karen Ewing, Heather Hitchens, Sarah Celestin, Jennifer Fuqua, Britney Mumford, Madeleine Bayard, Meedra Surratte, Marcus Wright, Carlton Lampkins, Melissa Tracy, Lisa Lawson.

Also participating were Sarah Barzee, WestED, and Michael Griffith, Learning Policy Institute (LPI).

[Audio Recording of Meeting](#)

Welcome/Introductions

Senator Sturgeon opened the meeting and Anna Sullivan from WestEd conducted a verbal roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of September 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2024 meeting. Representative Williams motioned to approve, and Secretary Holodick seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

Dr. Sarah Barzee reviewed the Commission's community agreements and logistics, including the rescheduling of the November meeting to Wednesday, November 13th. Senator Sturgeon then addressed the request to consider conducting these meetings in a hybrid format and shared that due to logistical constraints meetings will either be fully virtual or, if needed, in person.

Regarding the timeline of the work, Senator Sturgeon stated that the current resolution that has convened this commission expires on November 5th. In January when the legislative session begins, she will put forth a new resolution that would authorize this commission for the duration of that legislative session, which is two years. She noted that the new resolution would call for preliminary recommendations by October 2025 with any additional, final recommendations due by July 2026. She further noted the impact of this timeline on the timeline for implementation of recommendations the commission makes.

Michael Griffith from LPI then facilitated a process to hear Commission members' reactions to a list of topics generated in the September meeting for further exploration in future meetings. Senator Sturgeon asked members to share their current thinking about the outstanding decision to either "remodel" or "rebuild" the current funding model. Rather than share in the meeting, it was agreed that an anonymous survey would go out to members following the meeting.

New Business

Michael Griffith reviewed the hold harmless concept with the Commission. Members shared comments and raised questions about the process.

Dr. Barzee then introduced Jill M. Floore, Chief Financial Officer, and Lisa A. Lawson, Superintendent, from the Brandywine School District who presented to the Commission about the current referendum process in Delaware and addressed comments and questions from members. Due to time constraints, members were notified that Michael Griffith would present on the referendum process in other states during the November meeting.

Public Comment

The commission heard public comments from one person.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Sullivan for WestEd

Updated on 10.17.2024