

Public Education Funding Commission Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

The Public Education Funding Commission (PEFC) meeting was held on November 13, 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 Long, David Tull, Emily Falcon, Jill Floore, Nick Johnson, Jose Aviles, Evelyn Edney, April Albury-Harmon, Heather Hitchens, Cassie Queen, Sarah Celestin, Jennifer Fuqua, Britney Mumford, Madeleine Bayard, Meedra Surratte, Marcus Wright, Carlton Lampkins, Melissa Tracy, Lisa Lawson.

Also participating were Sarah Barzee, WestEd, Michael Griffith, Learning Policy Institute (LPI), and Kim Klein, Delaware Department of Education.

[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 October 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2024 meeting. Marcus Wright motioned to approve, and Representative Williams seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

Senator Sturgeon reviewed the Commission's community agreements and logistics, including the cancelation of the January meeting and the decision to hold the February meeting in person. She also reminded members that the AIR report satisfied the requirements of the 2020 settlement but did not require that this commission follow the subsequent recommendations put forward by AIR, though the report informs the work of the group. Senator Sturgeon also encouraged commission members to reach out to the co-chairs and/or DDOE point of contact Kim Klein between meetings with questions, suggestions, or concerns and shared their contact details.

Senator Sturgeon then reviewed the results of the survey initiated by the Co-Chairs and administered following the October meeting to seek input from Commission members to inform next steps. Survey results showing that a majority of commission members feel they need additional information before being able to make a clear decision about whether to modify the current system or undertake a more significant redesign. She stated that the Co-Chairs and the planning team will address this in upcoming meetings as follows: in the December meeting the commission will hear a more in-depth presentation from DASA representatives about the current unit count system; in February Michael Griffith will share examples of "remodeling" the current system as well as of a more substantial "rebuilding" of the system; district and charter representative will also have the opportunity to share information about their funding systems in a future meeting. Co-chair Marcus Wright encouraged all commission members to explore these topics between meetings both by conducting their own research and connecting with interest holders in the community. Senator Sturgeon reiterated that members had been selected for their ability to be thought

partners and encouraged the group to raise questions, share current thinking, and keep an open mind as new information is shared.

New Business

Michael Griffith from LPI presented to the commission on referendum reform. He reviewed Delaware's current system and information from the AIR report on the topic, how Delaware compares both nationally and to like states, and shared potential options for the Commission to consider moving forward.

Public Comment

The commission heard public comments from two people.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Sullivan for WestEd

Updated on 11.18.2024