

**Public Education Funding Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
March 10, 2025

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

The Public Education Funding Commission (PEFC) meeting was held on March 10, 2025, with the following members in attendance:

Cindy Marten, Ruth Ann Miller, Ann Visalli, Laura Sturgeon, Kim Williams, Eric Buckson, Taylor Hawk, Tammy Croce, Kevin Carson, David Tull, Emily Falcon, Sara Hale, Nick Johnson, Rachel Valentin, Jose Aviles Rivera, Evelyn Edney, Crystal Nelson, April Albury-Harmon, Melissa Tracy, Karen Ewing, Heather Hitchens, Cassie Queen, Sarah Celestin, Helen Anderson, Jennifer Fuqua, Britney Mumford, Gary Henry, Madeleine Bayard, Mary Andrews, Marcus Wright, Lisa Lawson

Also participating were Sarah Barzee, WestEd, Michael Griffith, Learning Policy Institute, and Jesse Levin, AIR.

[Audio Recording of Meeting](#)

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Senator Sturgeon opened the meeting and asked WestEd to conduct a verbal roll call. A quorum was present, and the meeting was called to order.

### **Approval of December 9, 2024 and February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 meeting. Brittney Mumford motioned to approve, and Marcus Wright seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting minutes were approved. The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025 meeting. Gary Henry motioned to approve, and Helen Anderson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **New Business**

Senator Sturgeon introduced Jesse Levin, Principal Research Economist at AIR. Levin gave a presentation to the commission titled, *Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding Findings from the Professional Judgment Panel Analysis*. Levin described the process AIR engaged in to conduct professional judgment panels (PJP) as part of their comprehensive review of Delaware's education funding system. Levin stated that AIR conducted both cost function analysis and PJPs as part of their review and noted that a strength of the panel approach is that it gathers rich descriptions of both the programming and resources that practitioners feel are necessary to achieve desired student outcomes. Levin reminded the commission that details about the PJP process can be found in Appendix F of the *Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding* report.

Levin then reviewed the findings of the PJPs, organized into four key themes (classroom conditions, teacher professional learning, school staffing recourse, and universal prekindergarten). He then described the process AIR undertook to use the PJP results to project adequate statewide cost for per pupil spending. Levin then shared graphics depicting

a comparison between current actual state and local spending and the projected adequate cost developed by the PJP.

Following the presentation there was facilitated discussion. Levin answered questions from members and provided additional information where needed.

Co-Chair Marcus Wright shared information about plans to engage the public through regional meetings. Additional information is forthcoming.

Secretary Marten shared the status of the work being done by her team to provide data in response to a request for data needed to generate proposed funding formulas.

### **Public Comment**

The commission received written comment from Bill Doolittle and heard virtual public comment from Tanya Hettler, Jackie Wager, and Kendall Massett.

### **Adjournment**

Senator Sturgeon reminded the group that the next meeting would be held virtually on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Marcus Wright moved to adjourn, and Helen Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anna Sullivan for WestEd

Updated on 03.18.2025