

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

Ad Hoc Committee on Funding for Public School Choice Programs

Minutes

Monday, May 3, 2010, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Ad Hoc Committee on Funding for Public School Choice Programs met on Monday, May 3, 2010. The meeting was held in Room 307A of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Joseph Brennan, Joseph Cirusuolo, George Coleman, Sherri DiNello, James Finley, Kathleen Guay, Alex Johnston, Fred McKinney, Mark McQuillan, Kathleen O'Connor, Sharon Palmer, Robert Rader (designee), Allan Taylor, John Yrchik

Committee Members Absent: Vincent Candelora, Deborah Heinrich, Theresa Hopkins-Staton, Douglas McCrory, Dudley Williams

Mr. Taylor welcomed the committee and thanked all members for their participation. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Review and Discussion of Charge to Committee

Committee members reviewed the charge to the committee, adopted by the State Board of Education on March 3, 2010 (copy in official file). A lengthy discussion ensued, including the following topics:

Charge to committee: Was the charge intended to be narrow in scope and focus solely on choice programs? Is it possible to focus on just one facet of funding, in isolation of the overall system? Should we take the opportunity to begin our work with a focus on public school choice funding and expand our scope thereafter? Board action will be required to expand the charge.

Factors impacting the work of the committee: Need to clarify what are the preferred design features of a new funding system (i.e., what do we mean by "fully funded"?); must consider limited resources of the State vs. what can be done to move toward increasing the State share to 50 percent; should review successful funding structures in other states, particularly with regard to eliminating the achievement gap; need to communicate and coordinate efforts with the Governor's Commission on Educational Achievement, particularly about the common objective of reviewing funding for public education.

While committee members acknowledged that it may be difficult to reach consensus on these matters, they noted that it is important to work together toward a successful resolution. To facilitate this, it was suggested that a process be developed to guide the committee toward reaching consensus, including a provision concerning how to handle instances in which consensus is not reached (i.e., voting).

III. Committee Meeting Schedule

A list of tentative meeting dates was distributed (copy in official file). Committee members were asked to e-mail the State Board Office confirming their availability. All meetings are scheduled for Mondays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If a committee member is unable to attend a meeting, a designee may be appointed to attend on his or her behalf.

IV. Other

Next steps: Commissioner McQuillan will submit a revised charge to the State Board of Education for consideration at its June 2, 2010, meeting. He will also draft committee guidelines for the committee's use as it works to reach consensus on developing recommendations for the full Board. At the next meeting (June 7, 2010), Chief Financial Officer Brian Mahoney will give an overview of ECS funding; John Yrchik will make a presentation on previous funding studies; and committee members will review the 2007 final report from Governor M. Jodi Rell's Commission on Education Finance, which is located on the Office of Policy and Management Web site:

www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/budget/educationfinance/edufinancefinalreport.pdf

Chairman Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.