

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hartford**

**Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing  
and Choice Funding**

**Work Group to Develop Proposal Regarding Committee Priorities**

**Draft Minutes of Meeting of September 7, 2010 (Subject to Change)**

Present: David Calchera, George Coleman, Kathy Demsey, Kathy Guay, Alex Johnston, Brian Mahoney, Mark McQuillan, Allan Taylor, Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Virginia Seccombe, LEARN; Dani Thibodeau, Education Connection; Craig Edmondson, ACES; Paula Cohen, EASTCONN; Don Walsh, CREC; and Evan Pitkoff, CES.

Absent: Lauren Kaufman, Dudley Williams

**Welcome – Call to Order**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, Commissioner McQuillan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The meeting was held in room 307 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Calchera, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the work group voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2010, work group meeting.

**Overview of the MORE Commission Report and the Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) Alliance**

Craig Edmondson, Executive Director, ACES, along with the other five RESC Directors, Virginia Seccombe, LEARN; Dani Thibodeau, Education Connection; Paula Cohen, EASTCONN; Don Walsh, CREC; and Evan Pitkoff, CES, gave an overview of the RESC Alliance. The RESC Alliance is a not for profit, fee-for-service, public education agencies. RESCs offer cost effective, cooperative efforts for Connecticut's public school districts. RESCs have saved districts billions of dollars for the past 40 years and have assisted schools to expand services beyond what they could accomplish alone. Each RESC is:

- Locally governed by member Boards of Education;
- Cost effective in delivering programs and services to school districts in their region;
- Committed to helping local school districts improve teaching and learning;
- Responsive to local needs and interdistrict opportunities; and
- Flexible in creating, adopting and/or terminating programs.

The work group discussed the MORE Commission findings and why they haven't been implemented. Mr. Edmondson stated that the Commission will continue its discussion after the election and the convening of the General Assembly.

Members discussed the importance of demonstrating who will benefit by regional efforts and providing a cost benefit analysis. Discussion also included how the state can afford to provide incentives, as well as the timing of showing ways to realize efficiencies and savings.

Discussion ensued regarding the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in New York State, an extension of the New York State Department of Education. School districts statewide depend on BOCES to meet their educational and financial goals. The BOCES model provides accountability, municipal sharing, efficiency and equity.

There was continued discussion on maximizing the use of existing and duplicative resources amongst the districts to be more efficient.

Commissioner McQuillan stated that there is a need to reframe the issue of what RESCs can do collectively to promote regionalism:

- Everyone is "in"?
- Accentuate added value to participate
- Select 1-2 issues to demonstrate benefits of a regional approach
- Build framework
- Determine what legislation is required.

Discussion ensued regarding several areas (i.e. "soft services") that could be considered to achieve efficiencies: (transportation, cooperative purchasing, staff services, information technology, etc.)

The Commissioner recommended:

1. The Alliance to engage in statewide contract for essential services for purpose of rededicating dollars; and
2. Grow system from small to large scale, in transportation and technical instruction support, with foundation or venture capital.

The Commissioner also asked consideration of changes in RESC governance structure to include the municipal leaders either in the full committee or in workgroups.

### **Next Full Committee Meeting**

September 13, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Room 307, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. Topics to be covered include:

- CORE Values and
- Magnet School Funding Issues

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- RESC/CAPSS Presentation on Regional Services

October 18, 2010

- Funding Models

**Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

