

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

Ad Hoc Committee on Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding

Minutes of the September 13, 2010, Meeting

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Education Cost Sharing and Choice Funding (Committee) convened on September 13, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. in room 307, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Joseph Brennan, Vincent Candelora, George Coleman, Sherri DiNello, James Finley, Kathy Guay, Alex Johnston, Diana Palmer (representing Representative Deborah Heinrich), Robert Rader (representing Patrice McCarthy), Fred McKinney, John Yrchik, Sharon Palmer, Mark McQuillan, Allan Taylor

Committee members absent: Joseph Cirusuolo, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Dudley Williams, Douglas McCrory

I. Call to Order

Allan Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2010, Committee Meeting

On a motion by Joseph Brennan, seconded by Mr. McKinney, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2010, Committee meeting.

Commissioner McQuillan noted that the minutes of the work group meetings have been distributed to the full Committee to keep members informed of discussions regarding regionalism, the role of the RESC Alliance, and potential areas (transportation, technology services, etc.) for consideration.

III. Continuation of Discussion of Core Values

Laura Downs, Facilitator, directed the Committee to a printed list of value statements (dated September 13, copy in official file). The committee members discussed each item in depth. The Committee reached consensus on the following statements (in some cases, revised from the version dated September 13):

Consensus items:

- Consensus statement A (revised): *Excluding federal funds*, the State should pay for at least 50% of the cost of operating public schools.
- Core Value Statement #1 (revised): Every student has a right to, and the state has an obligation to ensure that, every student receives a high-quality education provided *by highly qualified and effective* educators, irrespective of his/her race, ethnicity, wealth, zip code and individual needs.

- Core Value Statement #3 (revised): Within limitations, parents should be able to enroll their student in any *public school* choice opportunity.
- Core Value Statement #5: The ECS formula and accompanying programs are not functioning effectively, thereby disadvantaging many different types of communities.

Omit:

- The Committee agreed to omit Core Value #6, as it is covered by Consensus Statement A, above.
- The Committee agreed to omit item c., “State funding for public schools should make schools, and not districts, the unit of analysis, to ensure that the unique characteristics of the school and its students are addressed properly.”

Defer:

The Committee deferred on the following items:

- b. Funds for public schools should be sent directly to the district or schools, and not the municipality.
- d. The State has an obligation to ensure that every student receives a high-quality education, even if it means targeting a larger percentage of existing funds for students in need.
- e. The state should ensure that each teacher and principal receives a basic starting salary, to ensure that the equitable distribution of highly-qualified educators throughout the state.
- f. To expand the funding for more choice options, the State needs to establish a money follows the child” system (deferred until presentation by ConnCAN and CBIA at October meeting).
- g. Choice options for parents should be greatly, and systematically, expanded over the next decade.

Follow-up to discussion: The Committee agreed to have the facilitator rewrite Core Value #2 and resubmit it for committee consideration. Mr. Yrchik, with assistance from Mr. Coleman, will rewrite Core Value #4 and propose a revised statement for committee consideration.

IV. Review of Current Services Budget and Status of Charter and Magnet School Funding for FY 2011-13

Commissioner McQuillan and Chief Financial Officer Brian Mahoney summarized the current services budget and the status of charter and magnet school funding for fiscal year 2011-13.

V. Future Discussion Topics

Future discussion topics include “Regional Cost Savings Recommendation” by the RESC Alliance on September 27, and “Funding Formula” by ConnCAN and CBIA on October 18.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Prepared by Pamela V. Bergin