

**Special Education Cost Model Task Force
Minutes of Meeting
June 21, 2018**

Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Special Education Cost Model Task Force met on Thursday, June 21, 2018 in North Meeting Room C of the State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

Matthew Galligan, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

Task force members in attendance:

- Liz Donohue, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
- John Flanders, Executive Director, Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
- Matthew Galligan, Town Manager, South Windsor (Chair)
- David Lenihan, Director of Government Affairs, Connecticut Association of School Business Officers, (attending as a proxy for Michael Grove)
- Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Marie Salazar Glowski, Assistant Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Schools

Task force members participating by phone:

- Stephen DiCenso, Consulting Actuary, Milliman, Inc.
- Jeyaraj Vadiveloo, Director, Goldenson Center for Actuarial Research, University of Connecticut

Task Force Members Absent:

- Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education
- Jeffrey Kitching, Executive Director, EdAdvance
- Jan Perruccio, Superintendent, Old Saybrook Public Schools
- David Scata, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Administrators of Special Education

Others in attendance:

- Kyle Abercrombie, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Martha Deeds, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management
- Richard Kissel, Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents
- Sheila McKay, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Mandi Lewis, Office of the Governor
- Orlando Rodriguez, Connecticut Education Association

1. Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Task force members reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the May 17th, 2018 meeting. Ms. McCarthy moved, and Ms. Donohue seconded, a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17th, 2018 task force meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Lenihan, McCarthy, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Demsey, Kitching, Perruccio, Scata

2. Update from Request for Proposals (RFP) Subcommittee

Members reviewed the draft Parent Focus Groups RFP:

- Ms. Glowski commented that having the focus groups in each RESC region was a good idea.
- Ms. Glowski asked if a consultant had been identified with the experience to perform the tasks. Mr. Flanders said that there are several qualified consultants in the area.
- Mr. Lenihan asked how the RFP would be distributed. Mr. Flanders stated that The Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) would post it and would ask other parent groups to do the same. Ms. McCarthy stated that the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education will also post the RFP. Ms. Glowski asked that it be distributed to ConnCASE, and Mr. Flanders agreed.
- Mr. Rodriguez asked whether special education teachers would be included in stakeholder focus groups and was informed that they would be included in the focus groups conducted as part of the larger feasibility study.

Mr. Flanders moved, and Ms. McCarthy seconded a motion to approve the draft RFP for parent focus groups, and to move forward with distributing it.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Lenihan, McCarthy, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Demsey, Kitching, Perruccio, Scata

Members reviewed the draft scope of work for the feasibility study.

- Ms. McCarthy asked where other models would be considered. Mr. Vadiveloo stated that when the model was designed all other existing special education funding systems were considered. Mr. Lenihan asked that the historical background specifically include an examination of other models. Ms. Donohue suggested that the feasibility study will examine how to make special education costs more predictable, and the final report will include models from other states.

- Mr. Vadiveloo stated that the model under discussion could be modified with a variety of iterations.
- Mr. Lenihan asked that CASBO's name in first page last bullet be corrected to school business officials, not officers.
- Ms. McCarthy asked that school board members be included in the list of stakeholders.
- Ms. Donohue asked that teachers explicitly be included in the list of stakeholders, in response to Mr. Rodriguez's earlier comments.

Ms. McCarthy moved, and Mr. Flanders seconded a motion to approve the scope of work and to move forward with drafting the RFP.

- Ms. Donohue discussed the potential of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) putting out the RFP and indicated that the task force will have an opportunity to vote on this item at the next task force meeting.
- Ms. Donohue clarified that the RFP will still contain the standard language of state contracting process.
- Ms. Donohue stated that Mr. DiCenso may need to step down from the RFP subcommittee, to avoid any potential or perceived conflicts of interest. Mr. DiCenso agreed to take this action.

3. Opportunity to ask questions related to previous presentations to the task force

No members of the task force members had any questions.

4. Other Business

No members of the task force raised other business.

5. Discussion of agenda and scheduling of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 9:00 A.M. The agenda will include a vote on approval of an RFP for the feasibility study. A draft will be distributed to members for review in advance of the next meeting. Members discussed the potential of having this meeting via conference call.

6. Adjournment

At 9:41 PM, Ms. McCarthy moved, and Ms. Donohue, seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION

In favor: DiCenso, Donohue, Flanders, Galligan, Glowski, Lenihan, McCarthy, Vadiveloo

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Demsey, Kitching, Perruccio, Scata