



QUALITY EDUCATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

ONLINE MEETING ZOOM

255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SALEM, OR 97310

Commission Members: *Cam Preus, Samuel Henry, Dana Hepper, Carlos Sequeira, Tricia Mooney, Whitney Swander, Reed Scott-Schwalbach, Jon Wiens (Staff), Evan Fuller (Staff)*

Meeting Scribe: *Katie Chandler*

Welcome & Commissioner Updates:

Samuel Henry - The fact that I have joined this group out of PSU for the contract with ODE to help identify what the goals should be for the schools. I've been involved for 40 years. If we reopen this topic at the QEC we could focus on different indicators. I have been involved with the IMESD that's on the ground trying to talk about putting equity through the educational institutions. I will keep the QEC updated on when policy becomes action.

Cam Preus - I have been asked to join Samuel on the Oregon's Kitchen to do some thinking about the transition between high school and college. I'm hoping to bring some perspective. I have been focusing at work on transitioning since I am retiring.

Reid Scott-Schwalbach- President at Oregon Association. I will say that educators are struggling right now. Trying to keep some hope alive for folks. I am worried about next year's staffing. It's not just classroom educators, it's administrative too.

Dana Hepper - From the Children's institute . K-12 we are seeing the same in childcare we have lost a lot of providers. And there is a childcare crisis. For the 2022 legislative session I am part of a group that is seeking a 150 million dollar child care investment. The biggest challenge is trying to figure out how to get dollars out the door to the field. The procurement process is taking a really long time now. The next thing I want to talk about is the implementation to prevent early explosion for early childhood learning. The work is moving forward.

Whitney Swander - Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO) has on their radar is working with representatives to fund ethnic studies. That's where our support is going. We gave testimony. It was a great group of people that showed up. We've been coordinating with our partners around thinking about a longer term strategy for Summer learning. There were a lot of investments made last summer.

John Rexford - I missed the previous meeting due to being on vacation. I have been chatting with former colleagues and I'm worried about the missing students. We know there is a significant amount of kids

missing from the system. Private school and home school numbers have gone up but that doesn't count for the students that are just missing from the system.

Laurie Wimmer - This might be my last meeting. I want to echo that our educators are working triple time to keep kids engaged.

Tricia Mooney - No updates.

Carlos Sequeira - Were at the 2 year mark for the local service plan so we're going to districts and presenting to the board. As the ESD sometimes we are disconnected from what's happening on the ground.

Staff Updates

Katie Chandler - No updates

Evan Fuller- Still solo, I haven't hired anyone yet to help in my office. There should be some interviews coming soon.

Jon Wiens - Sorry Colt couldn't be here. We had a presentation on remote learning from Kate Pattinson and Ken Greenbaum. Statue is making it hard to set standards but they are working toward clarifying the expectations. We are gearing up for the legislation session. WE continue to slowly work on the project to a better definition for economically disadvantaged. Whitneys group and others will be involved to find something better than the definition is now. Hopefully by the fall we will be ready to update the definition. We are releasing graduation rates next week. At the next QEC meeting I can talk about that more. We are releasing Fall enrollment counts in February. I can give an update at the next meeting.

COVID Impacts on Schools

Jon Wiens - Laurie was a part of the class size task force to define the rules. Reduction in class size is a goal of the governor. We have included class size on school and district report cards for a while. We put that data front and center. I did receive some letters from superintendents that were upset about that. Some research says that reducing class size doesn't help so there is a lot of controversy around this topic. Parents asked for the class size data to be front and center on the district and school report cards. We created a project team to determine how to calculate class size. We report medium class size. There is a list of things that could have affected the class size change. The main thing we saw is that there were a lot of things that could influence how big a class is and how the district reported the class size. We did see smaller class sizes last year at the elementary level. At highschool these are classes by department and again you can see there was a trend to smaller class sizes. If we go to high school and middle schools these classes were reported eing a lot smaller. It's hard for us to tell what the reasons are for this.

There are probably a lot of reasons. We do hope that as the data collections resume that we start to get a better idea of how the pandemic has affected kids and their outcomes across the state.

Potential QEC Appointments

Dana Hepper - The governor put her recommendation appointments. She recommends 3 appointments. Megan Cox, Andrea Townsend and Reed. The start date for the term is March 1, 2022.

Work plan assignments

John Rexford - We need to have writing support. Colt said he would look into it. Carlos offered support from a grant writer that works at the ESD. Some other people have helped too. There is a section of the report that Carlos feels comfortable talking about but not facilitating. There are some things we can look up and see if we make a revision to those sections. That's as far as we got.

Reed Scott-Schwalbach - My question is at what point do we make a decision of what data the writing is being based from. A lot of the words are really independent to what the number ends up being. It may inform each other on each thread. So historically, did people write the report work together or alone? A little of both. Brian Reeder did most of the writing when he worked at ODE. Laurie Wimmer is willing to help anyway the commission would like.

John Rexford - I am feeling the deadline getting closer. I have a suggestion. I would suggest that we divide into a couple sub committees to work on model assumptions and also a writing committee that would look at the 2020 report and identify the sections we want to expand on or what is missing in the QEC report.

Costing Model Input Data and Assumptions

John Rexford - Evan sent out a document that describes the input data and assumptions. Evan notices some things that might need to be changed or updated. We should set up a meeting with Evan to walk through each line in the document. It needs to be done by the end of the month. Who from the commission wants to work on the model? Dana, Whitney, Reed and Tricia. We will set up some meetings to go over the input data and assumptions.

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

9:00 AM – 11:00 A.M (Zoom)

