

QUALITY EDUCATION COMMISSION

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 251B

Public Service Building
255 Capitol St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97310
Contact: Diane Rush 503-947-5679

Present:

Susan Massey
Pat Burk
Brian Reeder
Vic Backlund
Emilio Hernandez (by phone)

Frank McNamara
Lynn Lundquist
Marjorie Lowe
Andrew Dyke (EcoNorthwest)

Absent:

Beth Gerot
Ed Jensen
Deborah Sommer

Duncan Wyse
Larry Wolf

Welcome and Introductions -- Susan Massey

- 10:10 a.m. Ceremonial event to thank him and honor the work of Pat Burk

Reports

- Member Updates and Introductions -- Commissioners
- Governor's Update -- Marjorie Lowe
 - Shifting Duties
 - Tim Nesbitt will handle higher education duties
 - Marjorie, Tim and Chip will be spending more time on education
 - Mid-May Governor made comments to City Club.
 - He will be appointing a group to look at education continuum and other areas.
 - Resources are not working to the benefit of the state
 - Financial challenges forcing priorities and resources- Human services (healthcare), safety
 - Mid-August Governor is expected to make his announcement of membership and change
 - Expect substantial feedback prior to special session in January
 - Question - How will new group interact with longstanding boards and groups
 - Members from Board of Education and Higher Education Board will be on the new group
 - Still selecting
 - Long view
 - Radical thinking to face new challenges
 - Education is suffering due to massive state resources going to human resource and safety
 - Restore some equilibrium
 - Elements of the new group to rethink what we do:
 - Finance is a part
 - Delivery
 - Governance
 - Short assignment period (Mid August → December)
 - Entering a new political cycle
 - Members will include citizens from across the state
 - Hope to include Revenue in this discussion

- It is misleading to say we can fix the funding issue in higher ed just by fixing funding distribution formula
- Must significantly alter cost structure
- K-12, higher education, community colleges
- Marjorie has been involved in discussion on shifting from funding inputs to a model that funds outcomes
- No talk to sales tax
 - Unions oppose sales tax
 - Business opposed to business tax
- Reminded of the '03 Session chaired by Max Williams
- Could education funding be set outside the general fund?
 - May become more stable, e.g., sales or consumer tax dedicated solely to education
- Dedicated revenue stream?
 - 1¢ increase solely for education
- USDOE posted to ARRA website each state's plan and dollars they are receiving
 - Must identify mix of elementary, community colleges, and higher education
 - Other states funding plans are also posted
- Commissioner Frank McNamara has participated with the American Finance Association when they prepared a compendium, state-by-state, of all the financial information of each state
- Oregon is unique with the kicker
- Measure 5, ballot measure 50
- Health care costs to school districts
 - \$1,000 per month per employee is the average for school districts
- Some states do not have balanced budgets
- Pat provided a summary of budget and legislative issues (Morgan not available this week)

Next Steps

- EcoNorthwest -- Andrew Dyke
 - Brian introduced Andrew Dyke of EcoNorthwest
 - Handout provided - sample of report done by EcoNorthwest; walk through the report
 - Pat's question to clarify page 4
 - There are changes coming on how a family identifies the race of their children
 - Vic discussed the *Statesman Journal* series on teachers, students and free or reduced lunch
 - Salem/Keizer policy negotiated with union- any opening is offered first to existing teachers in their districts before being offered to any teachers outside the district
 - Teachers prefer lower levels of poverty and ESL students
 - Brian explained that the result of this is high needs schools have a less experienced staff
 - Andrew's comments on Hispanic Report – it has not been released yet
 - Pat has seen the draft of the Hispanic Report
- Update on research project design -- Brian Reeder (see handout)
 - Addresses questions:
 - How would we go deeper?
 - Why are some schools doing so much better than others?
 - How do different groups come out? (ethnic, socio-economic, etc.)
 - How do we close achievement gap?
 - Students are tested on subject matter they have not been taught yet
 - Trying to isolate the real reason -- if the student hasn't been exposed or if the student is not ready
 - If data is not available, it will be a school level analysis, not a student level analysis

- The teacher makes a difference
 - Leadership at the school makes a difference
- Vic taught his high school level students advanced placement, teacher prep
- Many nuances to this issue
- How does course taking relate to student achievement?
 - This is a more dynamic question
 - Do we have a fundamental problem that we're testing on material that hasn't yet been taught?
 - Timing
 - How do schools prepare students for the assessments?
- Brian talks about another scenario
 - Freshman/sophomore high school high level math student doesn't like the teacher
 - In college, thrown into it again
- Key Performance Measure will be 10th grade assessment
- Susan asks how does the Quality Education Commission fit in?
 - This seems like pure research
 - Data analysis
 - Panels
 - Best Practices
 - Use of time leadership
 - Use of data
 - Cost Panel
 - Capital cost component
 - Research possible changes to the quality education model
- State Board voted to delay implementation of math by 2 years (increase the ramp by 2 years)
 - Intervention for students who are not there and should there be more regulation?
- Discussion on Proficiency vs. Credits:
 - Tricky in the core areas of English, math, science (online courses or community college courses -- not approved curriculum by the high school)
- Frank will chair Best Practices Panel
- Beth Gerot will chair Cost Panel
- Susan will email her strategy document
- No QEC meeting in August
- Brian will report to QEC in September
- Yvonne Curtis will provide a list of possible replacements for her vacant seat
- Each Commissioner will commit to one panel
- Pat's Update:
 - Reviews draft budget handout
 - No funds are available for research
- Submit Pat's name to governor as to serve on the QEC

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 14, 2009

Adjourn -- Susan Massey