

Quality Education Commission

June 8, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608452355>

Meeting ID: 160 845 2355

Meeting Participants

John Rexford, Chair	Whitney Swander
Carlos Sequeira	Andrea Townsend
Samuel Henry	Camille Preus Ball
Dana Heppner	Reed Scott- Schwalbach
Tricia Mooney	
	Staff:
Excused:	Evan Fuller
Monica Cox	Jon Wiens
	Jan McComb

Chair Rexford called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

INTRODUCTIONS & COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Carlos Sequeira stated that his ESD was coping with a shortage of instructional assistants. The ESD relies upon instructional assistants, especially for those students who need 1:1 staffing. The ESD usually employs about 90 assistants; they are short 60. They are looking at HB 4030 for additional resources. They would like to be able to offer assistants a living wage.

Sam Henry echoed Sequeira's comments. The Multnomah ESD is down in terms of staffing. It doesn't have the resources to hire and retain staff. Also, redistricting is having an impact. There's a major population shift to the east due to housing affordability, especially among Black and Hispanic populations. This affects equity initiatives and board representation. He has been in contact with people in Bosnia and Herzegovina on strategies they used when school started back up again.

Reed Scott-Schwalbach noted that Oregon Education Association members have been shaken by the Uvalde school shooting. Educators are questioning their working conditions and coping with the possibility of an active school shooter. It's stressful. How can we ensure educators are supported and feel safe? Another priority is building an educator workforce that reflects the student population.

Whitney Swander stated she was working with the High Desert ESD, working to support community engagement, building on existing relationships, and creating new ones. ODE's Scott Nines and his team have been touring the state and working with districts on systems of

engagement. Also, she is now the interim director of the local United Way and she would be working on increasing attention on education.

Tricia Mooney stated that it was graduation week and she was very busy with that as well as rolling out summer programs. There's been an upward shift in classified staff pay. She is also meeting with representatives of the Western Governor's University to explore options for instructional assistants to further their education while continuing to work.

Dana Heppner stated a team of 18 people from around the state are meeting to address what the legislature can do to support early childhood facilities. The last legislative session expanded access to early education, but that effort stalled due to the lack of facilities. She expects to make a funding request for facilities. Returning the \$3 billion kicker to taxpayers is bad public policy. Local zoning laws prohibiting such facilities also needs to be addressed.

Camille Preus Ball noted that on June 8, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission will meet and will examine DAS's current service level recommendations. They need to explain why community colleges need more funding when enrollment is down. Staffing is down. While they expect to see a 9% increase in funding, it falls short of meeting the old 20-20-40 goals. She would like to see part of the kicker re-directed to education.

Andrea Townsend stated that housing affordability was a real problem in Ashland. Her district was looking at stipends and what areas they were used. The areas should represent the values and priorities of the district. Most districts seemed to use them in the area of sports and some academic areas.

Guest Laurie Wimmer commented that she has been thinking about the Uvalde shooting. Thanks to legislation, Oregon districts have the option of banning firearms from their schools and she expects more will do so. She added that the CSL did not anticipate such high rates of inflation.

John Rexford stated he had met with legislators Dembrow and Frederick regarding the CSL discussion. He also informed members that they would be getting notifications from Work Day regarding mandatory training.

ODE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Colt Gill updated the commission on the recent Secretary of State's Systemic Risk Report and the Funding Coalition Letter to Governor.

The SOS report stressed the importance of sticking with reform efforts, highlighting the Student Success Act and the Measure 98 initiative. Oregon needs to continue to support those two strong reforms. There were five risk areas noted: additional reporting and monitoring and clarity in what those reports mean; more scrutiny in district spending; clear and enforceable standards; and governance and funding stability. The report was directed toward school leaders. ODE is largely in agreement with the recommendations, but would like to emphasize the need

for a welcoming culture in schools. COVID affected some resources/staffing. Two risk areas challenge ODE. Data is being weaponized and risks equity efforts. Also, ODE has a lot of data on district spending; it's unclear what more is being requested.

A funding coalition sent a letter to Governor Brown concerning CSL calculations. ODE is requesting Policy Option Packages that include factors that should be included when calculating the CSL. For example, the SSF is distributed on a 51/49 split and the CSL is based on the second, lower number which artificially lowers the set point. Assumptions for enrollment and inflation are also problematic.

WRITING UPDATE

Jan McComb gave an update on the writing process.

- The Writing Subcommittee met last week and those edits were incorporated into the latest draft (Exhibit A).
- Notify me of any concerns or changes by the end of the week.
- Will run it past Communications for style guidelines review.
- Would like to have it formatted for the July meeting.
- Asked for cover preferences.

Dana Heppner noted that the approach used mirror the SOS report recommendations, in that the report didn't suggest new reform ideas and focused on process and racial equity. The writing subcommittee kept in mind the statutory directive for the QEC. Whitney Swander echoed Heppner comments. Carlos Sequeira stated that he appreciated an objective perspective. Reed Scott- Schwalbach stated that she hoped the shorter length would be more inviting to readers. Rexford agreed the shorter length was helpful.

QEM MODEL UPDATE

Evan Fuller reviewed how the model changed from the 2020 model and the methodology for increasing the SSA funds (Exhibit B).

Discussion:

- How the model underestimates cost.
- The difference between the community college CSL increase and the K-12.
- Inflation; the difference between what was expected and the reality.
- Salary assumptions may be wrong given shortage situation.
- Staff turnover; an estimated 8.29% not returning.
- Average teacher salaries; lag in audited financials
- That some people ignore the QEC cost figure because it is always high.
- Whether it is possible or desirable to insert uncertain elements in the model.

Fuller cautioned members and the report from promising the new model could be ready for the 2024 report. Sam Henry expressed the hope that it could be.

ORIENTATION OF NEWER MEMBERS

Chair Rexford stated that because new members Monica Cox and Laurie Danzuka were not present, orientation would be delayed.

ADJOURN

Chair Rexford adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.