



QUALITY EDUCATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

ONLINE MEETING ZOOM

255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SALEM, OR 97310

Commission Members: John Rexford, 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:

Reed Scott-Schwalbach - High school Spanish teacher and President of Oregon Education Association. People are stressed there's a lot going on to cover staffing shortages and help students adjust back to school. We had a meeting last night and all of that spilled over in the meeting space. Everyone is feeling the pressure to keep school open with the limitations in place.

Samuel Henry - I'm going to reflect on the comments of my colleague. All Teachers are stressed and school districts around the country. Spent time with my niece who is an English teacher in Massachusetts. Enjoying my birthday fall trip in New York.

Dana Hepper - Schools are focused on the social and emotional health of the students. Focuses on getting kids reintegrated and being around kids again. The joint committee on public education appropriation asked the ELD division to come in and see how much it would cost to fully fund Pre-K for low income kids in Oregon. We're gonna need the feds to help us out to get there.

Whitney Swander - Director of data and research for foundations for a better Oregon. I would say to Dana that our organization is regrouping after the session and looking where there is need and opportunity in the ongoing challenges at the moment. For my part I am doing a lot of scanning and talking to experts and talking about assessment and accountability for the future.

Carlos Sequeira - Assistant Superintendent of Lane ESD. Much like Reed, that is heavy on our hearts. The challenges that our teachers and families are going through. There is a substitute teacher shortage. The School improvement team has multiple programs supporting our staff and students in their own guided programs. All of our specialists are teachers and their heart is in the classroom. The work that they do with the teachers and students they are even closer to what's happening. They want to come up with ways to support their colleagues that are in the classroom.

John Rexford - Retired Superintendent of High Desert ESD. Long time K-12 administrator. I spent time with 30 rural school administrators that are sponsored by REN (regional educators network). There is a

huge load on teachers. Working with these Rural educators that get isolated. I will be softly mentoring a couple of them. They have to juggle a lot and keep up with the paperwork that comes with the flood of money that schools are getting. It was a great way to network and a lot of personal development.

Tricia Mooney - Superintendent of Hermiston SD. We are getting ready for Monday the 18th. We are in a good spot. Our staff is 85% vaccinated and 14.5% with exceptions. We're losing three teachers. I'm more concerned about the day to day operations and getting subs. Teachers are having to sub during their prep time. We're excited to have kids in our classrooms.

Laurie Wimmer - A long time fan of the commission. I am back to serve as a frequent flyer until my retirement in 3 months from OEA after a 26 year career and 32 years in lobbying in public policy. I just finished the 20-21 legislation session and the more recent special session. Also, monitoring the ongoing conversation about how best to calculate the current service level roll up with is the baseline for QEM. I'm among a lot of allies who believe that is not being done appropriately. We're also paying attention the fact since the passage in 2012 of the corporate kicker to the state school fund that is measure 85 there is no transparency to suggest that money has done anything but is being dumped in the general fund for general purposes and that was put on the record by the fiscal manager in 2021 its constitution violation were interested to see the money go back to the school state fund intended by the voters. I'm also monitoring the school finance study and will serve on the advisory committee. Is the school state fund disproportionately impacting in a negative way for bipoc students. Also working on a school finance book to leave to the education community behind me after I leave. And I just want to say that as we think about the current struggles that all educators and administrators are going through right now that there is a special population in education that has had that reality for a long time. JCEP/YDEP doesn't have a license teacher for all classes of children and the hospital education programs are underfunded and have other systemic challenges in serving those kids who are ill but likely to recover and deserve an education as well. How can the QEC factor out special population kids into the mix as we think about prototype schools.

Quality Standards for Online Education

Kate Pattinson - Charter school specialist at ODE. Presenting a powerpoint. Remote learning programs and standards engagement process and we will cover the scope and plans for gathering input and learning about what exists in remote learning options across the state. Not all schools and instructional models are reliant on digital technology and are not all online. We are including students and teachers who are not in the same room. There are current models in Oregon home based schools. We want a clearer picture of what is working in the state, how it's working and then form recommendations on future policy work. Our current plan is to engage with education leaders and partners and make a new advisory committee called remote learning advisory community. ODE staff will also do site visits. This will help us not make assumptions about remote learning options in Oregon. The makeup of the advisory committee we are still accepting applications. The hope is to develop a shared understanding of the opportunities and the challenges in remote learning and instructional models currently across

the state. Should we identify any policies or changes that need to be in place the plan is to bring them back to the state board in December and January to hopefully have enough time for districts and schools to respond to that as they start to prepare for implementation for the school year. We hope to publish a report in January that will include recommendations in policy and how to extend our engagement after January.

Ken Greenbaum - Director of digital learning and education technology- clarify program standard- policy or actions to continue to clarify and create equitable access to students in remote programs. Access to high quality instruction, sense of belonging and safety, high quality material, access to school devices, serving students who require different accommodations and addressing the needs for all students. A well rounded education. As we have seen, remote learning options and enrollment has been increasing over the past decade. But now with the pandemic we have seen remote options become a critical part of almost every K-12 student's education. As a state we have an opportunity to address the 2017 SOS state audit for alternative education and online education. The department is approaching this engagement to improve policy and practices for online models. During the pandemic response most schools provided some form of online learning. It became more clear that there was a need for an alignment across policy and urgency to make sure there is equity.

Jon Wiens - Director of accountability and reporting. Some recent trends in charter schools and enrollment. What's interesting is the growth in charter schools that are virtual have stopped lately. There were a lot of new virtual charter schools in the years before this. What we have seen since the pandemic started is districts standing non charter virtual schools. These are attempts to recapture kids that have chosen homeschool. Districts are standing up virtual schools so many of the kids are remote learning. There are a number of districts that have started virtual programs that students can attend. But they aren't classified as schools so they don't make it to this count. You can see the enrollment counts for the charter and non charter schools grew significantly. Even before the pandemic started we were continuing to see increases in virtual charter school enrollment but it really rose when the pandemic started. You can also see a huge increase in non charter schools as the pandemic was under way. We don't have enrollment counts for this year. We're just starting to collect Fall enrollment. We are working to collect a little more information on kids who are enrolled in virtual programs. We have instituted a new distant learning flag. Districts are supposed to submit a why if students are learning remotely more than 50% of the time. Flag on remote learners that will help identify some of the students that might be in virtual programs that are not reflective in these counts. We will get a better idea who is remote learning this year.

Review of JPEA Presentation

John Rexford - It went really well. The presentation and slides were the last version that we sent out a couple weeks ago. We had four committee members there. We had their attention and really tried to emphasize a couple points that we really thought the model needs to be updated and be done in a thorough and thoughtful manner. The focus would be authentic and real equity for children across the state including those who have been underserved over time. I really was struck that I was really focusing on communities of color and students navigating poverty. Co chair Frederick called us to make sure that we dealt with rural poverty and homelessness. That was right in line with what our conversations have been over time. He also mentioned broadband internet coverage. Given what we have been trying to do with distant learning as a state system that is really spot on. I really appreciated their attention and comments. Dana watched it, Laurie too. Any other comments?

Dana Hepper- The committee was really engaged this time and asked John and Evan questions about the model. They were asking questions and it seemed to really click that this is a model that was created over 20 years ago and it could be time for a bigger more comprehensive look at the core assumptions and approach for creating the model. They seemed open to that conversation and interested in it.

John Rexford - I also get a mention into the concerns about the current service level calculation. Co chair Fredrick had another great question and that was what is a realistic timeline for a rebuild. I think in the presentation I talked about having it done by the 2024 report. If we're going to do a really thoughtful process that engages our stakeholders and reflects feedback from the communities that were trying to support that could be a heavy life. It will be important to work with ODE on putting appropriate POP to get additional staff to be dedicated to that process.

Laurie Wimmer - I wanted to point out that in the meeting LFO analyst Doug Wilson presented. He made comments that reflect on a disturbing trend in the 2021 session that has been a driving force at the legislative fiscal office level. Which is related to the student success act and how it integrates with the school state fund to provide support for the K-12 part of our system in the case of SSA and early learning as well. The comments he made were more reflective that an attitude of all the money and therefore there is a goal of backing out of general fund and using the CAT funds to fill that gap and when the SSA act was created when they voted on it they all talked about the SSA as a supplement to the core operational dollars in the state school fund to close the funding gaps expressed by the quality education model optimal funding level. That extra increment of SSA funds was supposed to bring us closer to full funding. Instead they are backing out the general fund to a certain extent and the trend might continue into the future.

Evan Fuller - that presentation has sparked a lot of questions to explain the difference in accounting a bunch of times. I would suggest not making the decision that Brian made in the 2020 report in the future but to calculate the cost of state school fund dollars required and if you want to include the estimate of the SSA dollars would be to include under the line and not above the line. It brought up a lot of questions.

Tricia Mooney - I want to agree with that's been said about the SSA and student investment account and one of the things that I'm seeing in the school district that we are going to have to use our student investment account to backfill what we can't cover out of the general fund and there are additional reporting requirements so in addition to the fact that its the back door way to find the state school fund there are additional reporting requirements on behalf of school districts. The whole thing is couched as a further investment really doesn't end up being an additional investment.

Review Potential Member List

Dana Hepper - John and I had the chance to meet and begin a brainstorm about continuing the work to fully get our membership up to where it can be in the QEC statute. I started thinking about what kind of skills and expertise we want represented on the QEC and then what and who we might talk to to identify that kind of expertise. I think today we have two main questions which are: Is there expertise you would like to see, what kind of thinking and expertise do we need and how do we go about identifying people that would help us have that expertise around the table. We have eight current members and we have three openings currently. Then of course we need a pipeline as our respective time lines end. It would be great to have people coming down the pipe to fill spots. We thought it could be useful to have another Superintendent or sitting school leader around the table could be useful like a school board member with more CBO representation. Always thinking about geographical diversity. We want to do this big rethink of who would sit on the commission to be successful with the legislature to help with getting the funding and POP to do the rethink and to also move the rethink through the political process.

Samual Henry - We've had a lot of wonderful members on the QEC over the years. One role member that I miss is the one where we had representation from community colleges because as we go back to the conversations about what we want students to be able to know and do. I think that's a perspective that Greg brought to us for the years he was on and I think it's worth it to really have someone that brings that perspective.

Tricia Mooney - School board member I'm wondering if maybe we engage with OSBA and whoever is their president. I'm thinking similar to Reed now, thinking about taking over for John

that whoever is the president of OSBA would have a different perspective for school boards across the state.

Reed Scott-Schwalbach - I think about the roles are important but also thinking about the quality and type of thinker. System thinkers are really helpful in this process and I don't want us to get caught in the trap of assuming that someone holds a role they might not be a system thinker.

Dana Hepper - We brainstormed names or connections that could connect us with people. Begin to think about how these folks reflect the regional diversity. COSA is a good place to start. Also the Educator Advancement Council would be a good place to go. Does anyone have individuals in mind or connections that might help us?

Carlos Sequeira- Paul Jerral vice president of land community college. Active partner of the ESD. I've been impressed with how thoughtful he is and open. I would say he's a systems thinker. He connects with K-12 teachers, students and programs.

Work Plan Review (including Writing Strategy)

Evan Fuller - I don't have any specific things on the timeline. It's hard to tell the history of files like when Brian was working on anything because he uses these the model outputs in other work so the file update date doesn't update. I'm unsure what the schedule looked like.

John Rexford - We could do some of the work offline in a sub committee.

Dana Hepper - I was just wondering if we should turn this into a month to month agenda item. Creating the 2022 report and revisions to the model and the next is a path for 2023 for a proposal of the new model. Maybe have some workgroup time in between.

Future meeting topics & prep:

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

9:00 AM – 11:00 A.M (Zoom)