



## QUALITY EDUCATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

### ONLINE MEETING ZOOM

255 CAPITOL STREET NE, SALEM, OR 97310

***Commission Members:*** John Rexford, 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:**

Reed Scott-Schwalbach - High school Spanish teacher and the president of OEA.

Dana Hepper - Director of policy and advocacy at the children's institute.

Whitney Swander - Director of data and research with FBO (foundations for a better Oregon)

Tricia Mooney - Superintendent of Hermiston school district

Laurie Wimmer - OEA for government relations

Cam Preus - Executive director of the community college association. I know a few people in the QEC that I have worked with in the past. I am pleased to be here and looking forward to learning a lot.

Carlos Sequeira - Assistant Superintendent of Lane ESD

### **ODE Directors Report**

Colt Gill - Senate bill 744 I will drop into the chat a document that we sent out yesterday that gives everyone some communication tools around senate bill 744 with some talking points. AS a reminder senate bill 744 was passed by the legislature this last session it was led by the senate education chair. It asks the agency to use a transparent process to look at 2 things around the graduation requirements in Oregon. 1. comparison system, what ours look to other states. We will also look at how other states determine their graduation requirements and three of the states there are no state graduation requirements, only local districts determine that. It's a design to take the second action from the bill to have this open process to engage Oregon communities especially the communities that are disproportionately impacted by the graduation requirements and are graduating at lower rates. Representing the state geographically. WE have coordinated with Oregon kitchen table to hold 19 geographically representative engagement

sessions that will be aligned with 19 ESD regions in Oregon and separate meetings that are for certain communities that have disproportionate graduation outcomes in Oregon. This bill was not funded and it's a big ask for no funding. We are paying for the engagement portion by savings from not hiring some positions. We have been doing a lot of engagement and a department with communities across the state of Oregon and specific communities of color, disability and others. This seems like a highly critical topic and we want to make sure that all communities come to this space feeling safe and comfortable. So we will work through the year to develop this research engagement community and the department is responsible for delivering that information along with some recommendations to the legislature and state board of education in September 2022.

### **Report on State School Fund Budget Note Committee**

Colt Gill - Writing a proposal to create both staff to support the QEC and some funds for research for the rewrite to update the QEM model. An agency puts forward a proposal with how much funding and the purpose. We do some engagement to make sure that other folks are in support of it. In the 2023 session if it makes it into the governor's budget then the agency will advocate for that funding. We will be working on this for the next several months to refine how much money is exactly needed and what position would provide the best support.

When the legislature passed the state school fund budget bill 5006. They attached a budget note that did come with funding 500,000. This is to review the expenditures of state school funds and the impacts of BIPOC students vs non BIPOC students. It has a few research requests. How schools and districts are spending state school funds. It's really about how schools use those funds and the impacts that has. We have an advisory committee that has been developed for that purpose to review the research that has been done and to refine what research we are asking for. This committee, the QEC, is represented there by Carlos. They can provide regular updates to the QEC. There have been two meetings so far. We will share the outcomes of the research to the QEC. The report is also due in September but that is a risk due to procurement challenges. The legislature does not ask for recommendations but the committee could offer anyways but they ask for the information from the research and the committee.

### **October Enrollment**

Jon Wiens - Showing a powerpoint. I was asked to talk about enrollment this fall. I wanted to share some preliminary numbers. The data is still being received by school districts and there may be changes. I have rounded most of the numbers just to reflect that the data is not final. I will only talk about state level data. So what I have here is enrollment counts from the ADM collection first period. I will go through a lot of data but at the end Mike will be available to talk a little but about the effect this will have on the state school fund. So here is an overview of

what we know so far. In person learning has brought more kids back but students are still staying away. If we look across the years you can see that total high school enrollment has held pretty high. So transition out of public school is happening in the earlier grades. Virtual schools have increased in enrollment.

Michael Wiltfong - We're seeing similar issues with the state school fund. I will talk about the state school fund for this current school year from where the school districts made their estimates in the summer to October. The high level 65 of 197 school districts reached out to us to make updates. The difference in the ADM for the state dropped 18,000 from their initial assessment. Keep in mind that in the state school fund it's a hedge fund. We tend to have our numbers higher than the district is telling us but we did adjust based on what the school districts told us. What we also saw in the data was more migration with the non bipoc students. What we're seeing from the ESD is that there are roughly 13,000 students that are in the home school setting. We're trying to anticipate when those students will come back in the public school setting.

Tricia Mooney - in planning for what online schools should look like and virtual schools in Oregon. because things have changed. My question is should the QEC see if we can get a member that sits on the committee that is having those conversations. We can't ignore when we are looking at the QEC model in Oregon brick and mortar and online education we probably need to think about both of those as we go forward. The fact remains that we talk about a funding level for quality education level and it doesn't cost the same to educate a student in brick and mortar as it is to educate a student in an online platform. Just wondering if we should reach out and see if a commissioner could sit on that group as they are moving forward and doing their work.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Report on Meeting with Governors Appointment Coordinator**

John Rexford - Dana, Reed and I met with them along with Colt.

Dana Hepper - I would say that Efrin seemed really open and happy to have help with this task. Recruiting new members for the QEC. and we also got really good confirmation from Colt about the meaningfulness about serving on the QC for the next 3 years. Top the commitment to put in the budget that increased staffing for the QEC and the research budget for that staff that will help us do that deeper thinking and looking at the model. We are recruiting folks to do really meaningful work grounded in equity and outcomes for kids. The importance of social emotional work. Efrin shared a spreadsheet of what information they would like on folks to be considered a potential member. Have names by December 1st because that is the timeline that the

governor appointment office to put names in the que for senate confirmation in February. WE didn't get to name the conversation with COSA but I can follow up with them.

Reed Scott-Schwalbach - The other part was that John talked about trying to narrow the list down to five names and give those names to the governor's office.

John Rexford - Im concerned to do that in a thoughtful manner with the december 1st deadline. I had the opportunity to meet with Lorie Sattensfield from OSBA. I did add their suggestions to the list. Is anyone else interested in joining us in helping recruit members? Trisha and Whitney will join.

### **Work Plan Review (including Writing Strategy)**

Evan Fuller - I have not worked on it since the initial Smartsheet I made for your use . I have not returned to it yet. I sent the more formal detailed one from 2018. But I couldn't find a similar document for 2020.

John - I suspect there wasn't one. This has to be a priority for us in the December meeting. We have maybe 9 months to put this report together and we got to get busy on it. Samuel is offline. I will not be available for the December meeting. I would love to have a volunteer to chair December's meeting in Samuels absence.

Laurie Wimmer - I had submitted an application to the executive appointments office to serve on this commission in one of the three existing vacancies. I made sure the governor and staff knew about that. I am retiring in January. So I will be serving as a private citizen with 26 years of experience. I have been with the QEC since the beginning. I am a published writer and editor so if you want someone to be the wordsmith for any of the written materials needed by the QEC.

### **Adjourn**

John - I will share out that draft appointment worksheet after adding HASBO. WE will schedule a meeting to work on that. Dana Reed Tricia and Whitney I will schedule that so we can work on it online. We will follow up with JOn Wiens on maybe a curated version of the presentation to the school advisory committee. We had a follow up question. Dana put in the chat asking Jon if he has any income demographics on those students that have left the public schools .

Jon - I have eligibility for school lunch. I could use that to see.

Tricia Mooney - We look at those that are free and reduced and one of the things for Hermiston is that we have seen a reduction in forms because everyone gets free lunch. So getting those forms filled out is a bigger push cause families don't need too.

Laurie Wimmer- I just want to publicly acknowledge that something horrible that happened in newburg and that was the firing of the superintendent byu the majority of the newburg school board. And yet another offensive no cause reminds me of the Albany school board action a month or two ago. It's starting to happen all over the United states. It is a partisan lead effort and it's weaponizing our school

system against them in a political way. It's the wrong place for that kind of behavior to occur. I feel so bad for the superintendent and I know our members are rallying and suing the Newburg school district for their racial policies. This is the national band wagon and how they think they are going to take over congress. It's a very scary time for kids because they are caught in the crossfire of all of this. I just thought we should acknowledge on the record that this is not keeping students safety and wellbeing in mind. it's really wrong and I'm heartbroken over what has happened.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021**

**9:00 AM – 11:00 A.M (Zoom)**