



Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2010

1-4 p.m.

Battelle for Kids
1160 Dublin Rd., Suite 500
Columbus, OH 43215

Members in Attendance

Deborah S. Delisle, Chair	Bill Hiller	Richard Murray
Michael Dawson	Alan Hutchinson	Jack Pierson
Nathan DeRolph	Dave Huelsman	Sen. Tom Sawyer
Lynn Elfner	Bill Leibensperger	John Scheu
Robyn Essman	Richard Lukich	John Stanford
Rep. Randy Gardner	James McClure	Sue Taylor
Neil Gupta	Renee Middleton	George Wood

Members Not in Attendance

Dayvenia Chesney	Jan Kennedy	Richard Petrick
Rep. Stephen Dyer	Kathryn Lorenz	
JoAnn Johnntony	Adrienne O’Neill	

Member Introductions

Chair Deborah S. Delisle called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting and gave each Council member the opportunity to introduce themselves and share what strengths they bring to the table and what questions they hope to answer during this process. Questions or expectations members indicated that they hope to answer or fulfill are summarized in Attachment 1.

Welcome, Chair Delisle

Expectations for Members and Meetings

Chair Delisle outlined expectations for members to participate in meetings, including reading prepared briefing materials prior to arrival, and making contributions to the discussion in a manner that allows other members to also contribute. She explained that the Council is considered a public body and therefore subject to Ohio’s public meetings law and open to the public. Members are required by law to “serve without compensation” and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) cannot provide reimbursement for any travel for meetings. Members were made aware that by executive order of the Governor, state agencies are prohibited to providing food and/or beverages at meetings.

Staff Introductions

Chair Delisle introduced the School Funding Advisory Council staff and various other ODE staff that will assist in the process. School Funding Advisory Council staff consists of:

- Carey McDonald, Coordinator
- LeeAuna Taylor, Administrative Assistant
- Brad Cromes, Intern
- Heather Hill, Intern
- Emily Nemeth, Intern
- Starla Powell, Intern



Administrative Process and Materials

Chair Delisle explained that communications to members and interested parties will primarily be sent via email. External parties were encouraged to contact Council staff to have their names added to the email list of interested parties in order to receive any materials distributed publicly. Requests for information or research from members of the Council were asked to be directed to Coordinator McDonald. A website for the Council, which is projected to be available in February, will include information such as meeting notices, agendas, meeting minutes, and research documents. Agendas and meeting materials will be prepared by staff and sent to Council members during the week prior to each meeting. Members were asked to print those materials and bring them to meetings themselves, rather than to receive printed copies from staff at each meeting. Members wanting to share informational documents with other members should send them through Coordinator McDonald for distribution.

Discussion of Council's Goals

Chair Delisle led the discussion of the goals of the Council by first reading the charge of the Council written in law (ORC Sec. 3306.29 (C)), and then gave the opportunity for members to share what they determine to be the most important questions to answer this year, detailed in Attachment 2.

Break

Open meetings presentation, Assistant Attorney General Lisa Whittaker

Assistant Attorney General Lisa Whittaker gave a presentation on the Ohio "Sunshine Laws" Open Meetings Act. She defined what is considered a public body, and explained the different types of meetings public bodies may have. Meetings of public bodies are required to be open to the public, to post a public notice, and to keep minutes of each meeting. Public bodies are also required to establish procedures for voting and decision making, and are encouraged to use processes such as Roberts Rules to make procedures clear. Assistant AG Whittaker noted that telephone calls or emails back and forth between members regarding the business of the Council are in violation of the open meetings law.

Assistant AG Whittaker clarified that any Council member not attending the meeting may listen by telephone but cannot participate or interact with the meeting's proceedings, or count for the purposes of a quorum. The Council was made aware of remedies which can be sought in court if a member of the public feels the open meetings act was violated. All members received a copy of the 2009 Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Government Resource Manual CD. The presentation is included as Attachment 3.

Results of policy areas member survey Chair Delisle (and staff as needed)

Coordinator McDonald presented the responses of members to a policy area survey which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members' responses indicated an interest in all of the areas included in law as required or suggested for the Council to consider; the most popular area of interest was cost-savings and efficiencies. Chair Delisle led a discussion of a possible organization structure to reflect these interests, and put forward a proposal for five subcommittees to address specific issue areas:

- Educational linkages
- Regional Variation
- Special Needs
- Learning Environments
- Traditional Public/Community School Collaboration



Members commented on and made suggestions to the proposed subcommittees, discussing areas that are a priority by law versus those of further interest. No vote was taken on the issue. Chair Delisle offered to clarify the subcommittee proposal, especially with regards to which statutory areas and requirements are covered by which subcommittee, and send it to members for their feedback.

The discussion of subcommittees and their structure was informally agreed to continue at the Jan. 19, 2010 meeting. Points of decision will include how to involve external stakeholder groups and whether to appoint additional members (who are not members of the full Council) to subcommittees as permitted by law, which elements of the Council's charge would be addressed by subcommittees and which would only be discussed by the full Council, what issues would be appropriate to add to the Council's agenda, and the membership of the subcommittees (including the ability of members to serve on multiple subcommittees). It was further noted that subcommittees will themselves constitute public bodies and be subject to the public meetings law requirements, which limits the ability of the Council to administer a large number of subcommittees.

Meetings and calendar issues, Chair Delisle (and staff as needed)

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2010. Reserved meeting dates for 2010 are as follows:

- Feb. 4th
- Feb. 16th
- March 1st
- March 25th
- April 1st
- April 27th
- June 4th
- June 22nd

Chair Delisle suggested that all reserved meeting dates be used for scheduled meetings, given the scope of the work ahead of the Council, and that scheduled meetings can then be canceled or postponed if not needed. Meetings will generally be held at Battelle for Kids, 1160 Dublin Rd., Suite 500, Columbus, OH 43215 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. unless there are conflicts with the facility.

Closing, Chair Delisle

The agenda for Jan. 19th meeting was discussed to include:

- Education finance background presentation and the evidence-based model, ODE staff
- Ethics presentation, Ohio Ethics Commission staff
- Public records presentation, Ohio Attorney General's office staff
- Communication/outreach ideas
- Approve subcommittee appointments

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



Attachment 1

What questions do members hope to answer during their service on the Council?

Member responses

- How do we develop the stability of the funding system?
- Do the recommendations of the Council reflect stability and practicality in their implementation?
- What are the details of the evidence used to develop the evidence-based model?
- How can equitable funding be provided for all public schools in Ohio?
- How do we use tools in House Bill 1 to make sure every student has an equitable and adequate education in Ohio?
- How do you ensure education in Ohio is universally thorough and efficient, despite the great diversity in students and school districts?
- What does an effective delivery system for educational services look like?
- How do we prepare students to compete effectively in the 21st century?
- Which districts are the “winners” and “losers” in different funding formulas?
- How do we measure the success of the Council?
- Can we have a funding model that is clear and easy to understand but also allows for the flexibility necessary to accommodate all types of schools and school districts?
- How will the state support education reform in the coming years?
- How will the Council fulfill its charge in law of strictly recommending changes to the existing funding formula?
- How do we educate all students in Ohio, regardless of their ZIP code, with a sense of purpose and graduate them well-prepared for success?

Attachment 2

What are the most important questions for the Council to answer this year?

Member responses

- What are new options to promote school cost saving measures and efficiencies?
- What is the next state budget likely to look like?
- What can we do to assist school districts in best implementing the evidence-based model in the coming year and a half, specifically with flexibility and adapting to any new requirements?
- Does what we have asked schools to do match what we have given them to do it with?
- How will the components of the evidence-based model be phased in?
- Will school districts be required to comply with all the elements of the evidence-based model (does one size fit all?)
- What does “high quality research” mean?
- How much does the evidence-based model cost to implement?
- What research exists that connects stability of communities (especially economic stability) to student attainment?
- How many students are not meeting state standards in every school district, regardless of report card designation?
- How is the evidence-based model connected to other reform efforts going on at the state level?
- What other resources are available for school districts, and how are they distributed? Can any of those additional resources be used to help implement the evidence-based model and other reform efforts?
- With relation to teacher compensation, what efforts are already under way?
- How will the Council go about coming up with a recommendation for ORC 3306.29 (C)(2)(a)?
- How are reporting standards for community schools and STEM schools different from those for traditional public schools, as related to ORC 3306.29 (C)(2)(e)?
- Where does funding come from for incentives and other teacher compensation changes?
- How can dollars be reallocated to support reform efforts (e.g. not continuing to test for standards that will be soon revised)?
- Can the PASS report be revised to provide greater clarity in the funding districts receive?
- How was the educational challenge factor developed?
- How will we avoid the residual budgeting “trap” and implement the evidence-based model in a way that is consistent with the vision that developed it, given the constraints of current funding resources?
- What does “residual budgeting” truly mean? How can we answer this question in a way that moves the discussion forward?
- What are the unintended consequences of implementing the evidence-based model?
- How can we reduce or eliminate the animosity between community schools and traditional school districts?
- How does educator training and professional development interface with the discussions on school funding and educational systems?
- How do we promote the important qualities of “understandability” and “fairness” in developing a funding system, especially for members of the general public?



Ted Strickland, Governor
Deborah S. Delisle, Chair

- Are there better delivery models for eliminating the duplication of services, connecting regional service delivery and cost-savings measures (ORC 3306.29 (C)(2)(c) and ORC 3306.29 (C)(3)(a))?
- How can we establish a better understanding of how to transition from the evidence-based model as a funding formula to the spending requirements and other implementation issues?

What information and support does the Council need to answer those questions?

Member responses

- A print-out for school districts that describes all the resources available to them.