

Commission to Study School Funding (RSA 193-E:2-e)

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2pm via Zoom Webinar

Commission Attendance: Bill Ardinger, John Beardmore, David Luneau, Val Zanchuck, Susan Huard, Mary Heath, Iris Estabrook, Dick Ames, Chris Dwyer, Mel Myler, Jay Kahn, Corinne Cascadden, Barbara Tremblay, Jane Bergeron-Beaulieu; David Ryan, Jon Morgan. Not present: Rick Ladd. Also present: Doug Hall and Jeff McLynch. 14 phone listeners from the public.

Welcome/Call to order/tech check:

Rep. Luneau welcomed everyone in attendance, called roll, and opened the meeting. Chairman Luneau noted that public comment is available by emailing schoolfunding.commission@unh.edu or visiting www.carsey.unh.edu/school-funding.

Dave discussed the work group schedules moving forward. To be notified about any meeting changes, please review the Carsey-Commission website or email schoolfunding.commission@unh.edu.

Dave noted that the Massachusetts joint house/senate committees on education will be holding a meeting on Weds at 9am regarding remote learning which will be live streamed. May be interesting for commission members to listen in and see if there is any relevant information for the commission.

Bruce gave a high level overview of our group agreements.

Minutes were approved unanimously by all attending commission members for 3/9 (David Ryan abstaining) and unanimously for 5/4.

Presentation by Doug Hall and Jeff McLynch:

Doug Hall opened the presentation by introducing himself and Jeff McLynch. Their presentation focused on data availability and potential uses. For poverty, they reviewed Free & Reduced Lunch (FRPL) data, the decennial census, and the American Community Survey (ACS). Doug reviewed the dangers of relying on sampling data in small communities, like most communities in New Hampshire. They recommend using FRPL data as the best income measure available. They reviewed data available through DOE and its uses and limitations. Jeff McLynch then reviewed data available from the NH DRA and the office of LBA and some ways those data might be used or analyses that could be done. Urged the commission to ask DRA and LBA to

collect and update fiscal notes, and do so sooner than later. They also mentioned that the office of strategic initiatives (annual town population projects and GIS data) and USNH/CCSNH (enrollment, applications, admissions, and achievement data) are resources available. Encouraged commission to avail itself of other state resources like NCSL, ECS, NEPPC, Urban Institute, or Pew Charitable Trusts. Suggested inviting representatives from other states to help inform process.

During Q&A between commission and Doug and Jeff, they reiterated not using ACS data, suggested asking for specific types of fiscal notes as needed, noted that DRA property data may not be as granular as we would like (data reported to DRA is aggregated), and recommended that the commission look into the NH Public Finance Consortium database. Following that, there was further discussion of FRPL's pros and cons. Key takeaway is knowing how good any data the commission chooses to use are. Commission resolved to dig deeper into how Title I funding is allocated.

The presenters discussed data usefulness from NCES and Reaching Higher NH, both of which use data from NH DOE. Noted once again that its very important to know what is in the data the commission uses and where it's coming from.

Bidder Screening Committee Report:

Dave Luneau shared the bidder screening committee's recommendation, which is that the commission begin negotiating a contract with AIR. Both groups capable of doing multiple kinds of modeling and using various approaches. Both proposals were strong, but felt that AIR's experience, team, and commitment best fit this commission's work. Recommendation unanimous. Felt that our process of costing and modeling best served by AIR's proposed process. Some parts of the process at present will remain confidential as negotiation begins. Comparable in terms of price. RFP is public and final contract will be public. Some work at present may be done at-risk prior to formal approval of a contract by the commission.

Motion to negotiate a contract with AIR – unanimously approved by commission members in attendance.

Work Groups Reporting Out:

Work groups met on Thursday last week. They were staggered last week, and this practice will continue as possible. Public attendance appreciated at those meetings.

The three work groups spent significant time discussing their workgroup task lists developed previously and began to map the work ahead. Meetings are available for viewing on the Carsey-Commission website.

Scheduling/Calendar:

Bruce will work with Mel, Jay, Dave, and others to bring other presentations to the commission. Working to finalize schedule through June, likely on an every other week schedule.

Workgroup meetings :

May 18, 2020, 10am (Engagement), 1pm (Adequacy), 3pm (Fiscal Policy), all via Zoom. Please note that Adequacy and Fiscal Policy will overlap from 2-3pm

May 21, 2020 (TENTATIVE) – 10am (Adequacy), 1pm (Fiscal Policy), 3pm (Engagement) via Zoom.

Next full commission meeting:

May 26, 2020, 2pm-4pm via Zoom

If there are further thoughts, please email Dave, Bruce, or workgroup heads. Jordan will email any public feedback to the commission. Calendar will be sent out by Bruce to commission.

Documents:

- Agenda 5/11
- Minutes 3/9
- Minutes 5/4
- Presentation Paper
- Proposal Review Recommendation