

Commission to Study School Funding

October 14th Public Commenting Session Notes

Attendees: Dave Luneau, Mel Myler, Val Zanchuk, Dick Ames, Jay Kahn. Also Present: Bruce Mallory, Carrie Portrie, Jordan Hensley. 4 public attendees.

Just after 4pm Dave opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and call roll.

Paul Deschaine, Newington:

Project manager for the town of Newington, part of his role is to monitor the Commission's work. Retired town administrator from Stratham. Appreciates the Commission revisiting the issues related to school funding. My newness to the Commission's current activities don't allow me to elaborate much but am interested in the source of funding. Seen a lot of work around the costs, adequacy, etc, including Val's comments about existing statutes. Notes property taxes as a primary sources of funding, which concerns Newington as a former "donor town". Hopes the Commission doesn't leave to the last moment the source of funding that is identified and has a dialogue with communities about that, as that was a contentious piece of previous funding. Thanked the Commission for its work but feels that piece of the work is a bit lacking from what he has seen. Appreciates all the materials shared on the website and elsewhere.

Dave asked Paul to email schoolfunding.commission@unh.edu and Jordan will help him navigate some of the topic areas he is interested in. Paul noted that he was very interested in yesterday's fiscal policy conversation with the representatives from Massachusetts.

Doug Hall:

I submitted a public comment to Bruce and Dave via email and wanted to make sure that you got it. The most important issue he wanted focused on is an issue with middle school counts, which he says is an issue with the way AIR calculated the data.