



Public School Finance Task Force Meeting Minutes

August 29th, 2023 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

[Link to Live Stream Meeting](#) | [SB23-287](#)

Task Force Members Present: Alex Magaña, Brenda Dickhoner, Carrie Zimmerman, Craig Harper, Chuck Carpenter, Dan Snowberger, Deborah Hendrix, Jennifer Okes, Kathy Gebhardt, Kermit Snyder, Leslie Nichols, Lisa Weil, Marc Carey, Marty Gutierrez, Nick Plantan, Riley Kitts, Sarah Siegel, Sarah Swanson, Steven Bartholomew, Terry Croy Lewis

Task Force Members Absent: None

Guest Observers: Amanda Bickel - Chief Legislative Analyst, Andrea Uhl - Legislative Analyst

Facilitator & Support: Nick Stellitano – Dillinger Research & Applied Data, Patrick Gibson - CT School State Finance Project, Ashley Robles - CT School State Finance Project, Amy Carman - Executive Director of School Finance & Grants, Shelbie Konkell - Senior Legislative Advisor, Melissa Bloom - Principal Policy Advisor, Rich Hull School Finance Analyst, Tim Kahle School Finance Program director, Gene Fornecker - School Finance Senior Analyst, Corey Kispert - Network Admin, Annette Severson - Manager of Data Services

Welcome and Introductions

- The Task Force Facilitator, Nick Stellitano, kicked off the meeting, welcoming all of the Task Force members. He reviewed Microsoft Teams Meeting features and introduced his company, Dillinger Research and Applied Data and their role. Patrick Gibson introduced himself and the School and State Finance Project organization emphasizing that they are a non-profit from Connecticut providing additional analytical support to Dillinger Research and Applied Data. (slides 1-5)
- Jennifer Okes also welcomed the Task Force members and outlined CDE's role for the Task Force. As a non-voting member, Jennifer and the other CDE team members are here to support the Task Force with specific goals of supporting a neutral, fair and transparent process, allowing for the open discussion of the topics outlined in legislation, to make informed recommendations and to meet the appropriate timelines for various deliverables. (slide 6)
- Task Force members were asked to share what skills and experience they bring to the Task Force as well as what they hope to achieve. Small breakout sessions allowed task force members to introduce themselves to other members. After the breakout session, each task member introduced another task member and shared what they had learned regarding their 'superpower'. There is a variety of experiences and expertise that Task Force members bring to the table, including: analytical problem solving, years of classroom experience, ability to connect with families, multi-state SF knowledge, and student centered focus. Task force members were also asked what they hope to get out of the task force. Responses include crafting a funding methodology that works for all kids and lasts for all generations, fully fund public education and eliminate the Budget Stabilization Factor, and work that funding is equitable. (slides 7-8).

Statewide Training for Boards & Commissions

- Jennifer Okes covered Statewide Training for Boards and Commissions for information and awareness of Task Force members. Jennifer provided an overview of the Colorado Sunshine Law including review of purpose, who and what is covered with respect to boards, committees, commissions, authorities or other formally constituted bodies and any public or private entity

which has been delegated a governmental decision making function. A review of the public notice requirements. Open Meetings requirements were reviewed as well as what is exempt from open meetings law. CORA, Colorado Open Records Act, was reviewed. Intended to ensure transparency in government affairs. (slides 9-24)

Administration & Logistics

- Nick Stellitano covered various administrative and logistical topics. He reviewed the purpose of the Task Force.
 - A task force member asked about item E related to securing equalization in mill levy override (MLO) for institute charter schools. District charter schools can participate in mill levy overrides of their authorizing districts. The Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) is not able to authorize MLOs. Therefore CSI has requested funding from the Joint Budget Committee over the past few years, but the current funding level is not equal to districts statewide.
 - A task force member pointed out that the legislation also tasked the group with creating parameters for costing out studies. Nick confirmed that the Task Force is also required to create a report detailing out the recommendations of the Task Force members and to set the parameters for costing out studies.
- Task Force members shared what is important to them for meeting logistics and expectations:
 - Resources that we need include a solid grounding in the formula now, including breakdown of factors, the policy behind them, and the funding that goes into each one.
 - Clear understanding of the intent of what has gone before and what didn't work.
 - Clear established norms around the use of Microsoft Teams.
 - Clear understanding that the current system creates haves and have nots. Some communities have granted MLOs and other communities that have not provided the same level of financial support.
 - Task Force members should assume good intent of comments from other Task Force members.
 - Task Force members need to anticipate there will be a need for work in between meetings in terms of readings, surveys, review of models and scenarios, etc.
 - Craig Harper clarified that he is a non-voting member, similar to CDE and Legislative Council representatives. JBC and LCS (as well as CDE) are all non-partisan staff. In terms of the role for this Task Force, Craig will be in a different role than he has played in the past in some cases. For the task force, the JBC, LCS and CDE will support the Task Force for members including research, data questions, modeling, etc.
- Nick reviewed that Design Thinking process is a means to making decisions to meet our tasks. He also reviewed the Draft Project Plan. Beginning in August, Sept-December are when the task force will meet with the final meetings being in Dec/Jan. We will finalize the report in January to submit to the legislature. 2 Adequacy studies will be developed by 2 different companies. Pre-reads and additional supporting documents will be sent out ahead of each task force meeting. Be prepared for each meeting. (slides 23-28)

Colorado State Funding Review

- Amy Carman provided a high level overview of Colorado State Funding. (slides 29-36)

State Funding 101

- Nick reviewed principles and aspects of various state funding formulas. Within each slide are links to various resources to read further up on each topic. (slides 37-43).

Task Force Chair Responsibilities

- The Task Force discussed responsibilities of the Task Force Chair. (slides 44-46)
 - Qualities:
 - Be available
 - Be willing to communicate and talk to other members
 - Growth minded

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If you plan to attend a meeting and require accommodations, please notify Amy Carman at carman_a@cde.state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting date. If you have requested accommodations and are then unable to attend, please provide 72-hour notice if possible.

- Looks outside of the box
 - Good listener and good collaborator
 - Someone has an understanding of the entire state - broad perspective +
 - District leadership or budget experience
 - Student-centric +1
- Skills
 - Experience around previous task forces and committees
 - Deep understanding and experience of Colorado Finance historical context and experience +1
 - Leadership expertise
 - Experience leading groups
 - Wide knowledge around attempts and formulas in other states
 - Experienced facilitator and balancing perspectives
- Nick reviewed the election process to elect a chair, detailed on the slides. Chuck Carpenter and Kathy Gebhardt were both nominated. Before the vote, each candidate addressed the task force. A member of the task force expressed interest in having co-chairs. Many members expressed interest for and against the idea of co-chairs. Nick indicated that the bill only calls for a Task Force Chair and does not mention co-chairs and so the task force proceeded with the voting for a chair and then would discuss the potential of a co-chair after. Chuck Carpenter received 11 votes and Kathy Gebhardt received 6.

Next Steps

- Nick covered the next steps for the Task Force. Priority would be for Nick and his team to develop a survey to solicit input from the entire task force around agenda items and meeting dates.
- Nick provided a recap of today's meeting and suggested moving to a tentative next meeting on September 12, 2023 from 11-2 pm. (slides 47-48).