

Professional Review Panel

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

December 13, 2021

Via Go To Meeting

Join meeting online: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/298707933>

Dial in: 1 (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 298-707-933

WELCOME

Dr. Ayala brought the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Members Present by Phone:

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Marcus Belin, Principal, Huntley High School
Avery Bourne, State Representative, 95th District
Dr. Rebecca Buchanan, Western Illinois University
Tianna Cervantez, School Board President, Galesburg District 205
Tim Custis, School Board Member, Washington School District 52
Jessica Handy, Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children Illinois
Susan Harkin, Superintendent, CUSD 300
Dr. Rebecca Hinze-Pifer, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Kimberly A. Lightford, Senator, 4th District
Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Cameron Mock, Office of the Governor
Unique Morris, Educator, Dolton District 148
Gregg Murphy, Regional Superintendent of Schools, I-KAN Regional Office of Education
Dr. David Negron, Superintendent, Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89
Andrea Orteiz, Partnership for Resilience
Monica Rojas, Teacher, ACERO Marquez Charter School
Jane Russell, Secretary-Treasurer, Illinois Federation of Teachers
Robin Steans, President, Advance Illinois
Gary Tipsord, Superintendent, LeRoy CUSD 2
Tom Tully, Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois Education Association
Heather Wendell, Chief Budget and Grants Officer, Chicago Public Schools 299 (in 1:07)
Dr. Ann Williams, Chief Financial Officer, East Aurora School District 131

Members absent:

Terri Bryant, State Senator, 58th District
Quennetta Chambers, Asst. Director of Special Education, Cahokia Unit School District
William Davis, State Representative, 30th District
Gloria Trejo, Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, West Chicago ESD 33
Julie Wollerman, Regional Superintendent of Schools, ROE 3

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Belin made motion to approve the November 2, 2021 minutes. Ms. Cervantez seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Klaisner, Executive Director, West 40 Intermediate Service Center, spoke regarding Evidence-Based Funding and providing equitable education to all students in Illinois. Mr. Klaisner also spoke to Task G and would like to offer their assistance in further researching Task G.

Karen Tiemann, President of ICEARY, spoke regarding Task G and would like to offer their support in further researching at-risk education for all students.

REPORTING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Russell gave an update on the Reporting Committee's work by reviewing the updated timeline. They are currently performing district/principal interviews. Interview training was performed this fall for all those interviewing. Interviews will continue through January 2022. Research questions were revised with three questions in the qualitative data

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

analysis and two as quantitative data analysis. Qualitative interviews are going well, and we have many more to conduct. This information will be included in the 5-year study.

A draft of the report will be reviewed at the March 7, 2022 PRP meeting with a vote to approve to submit to the General Assembly at the June 7, 2022 meeting. August 30, 2022 is the due date for submission.

Ms. Russell reviewed the [Reporting Committee Update](#). We have 37 schools from 26 districts for our quantitative study. Sample size is approximately 21 percent of the student population.

Ms. Steans stated we are hoping to show that Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) is working and driving changes in education. The pandemic has derailed some of this work and we are doing our best. The qualitative aspect will help since we are missing data due to the pandemic.

Dr. Hinze-Pifer echoed sentiments that the pandemic will not allow for proper analysis. It would be nice to see the data with Chicago Public Schools removed from the analysis. Ms. Russell has taken note.

Dr. Ayala thanked all of the Ad-Hoc Committee members that have met bi-weekly for the past eight months to complete this work. We will hear about the results of their findings today. We will look at each one separately because we want to make sure everyone's voice is represented on each task. Each task is a different conversation.

Ms. Harkin reviewed the work of the Ad-Hoc Committee introducing Dr. Negron and Dr. Williams as leads in completing the review of the tasks assigned.

Task A

Dr. Negron gave an overview of task A noting that additional information is needed to determine overall impact, especially relating to licensure.

Leader Lightford thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for all of their work and for collaborating. The finding for Task A is to perform more research. Do you have a timeframe? Ms. Harkin stated the group needed more clarity on whether current staffing allocations included foreign language. This something that could be accomplished in the next few months. Dr. Negron agreed and would like the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to research further. Dr. Ayala stated we would need to look at licensure to see what it would take to provide language instruction to all students in Illinois. This would take a few months. Leader Lightford would like more clarification on what further research is needed with a timeframe stated in the finding.

Representative Bourne would like to reiterate her concern in recommending another grant program. We do not want to take away the integrity of the formula by supplementing with grants. Dr. Ayala clarified that this is stated in the finding. Dr. Hinze-Pifer stated there were conversations around this issue. We do not know how teachers are classified in the formula and we need clarity regarding that. Licensure, teacher staffing, and availability are concerns around training of teachers. If all students are receiving daily language instruction, we as a state do not have the capacity to do that. Making a policy recommendation on that front is not appropriate to this body. Ms. Harkin reiterated that we are just providing findings, not recommendations.

Ms. Steans made motion to approve the proposed language for task A as a representation of our findings. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task B

Dr. Negron reviewed summarized the findings related to task B. Ms. Harkin asked for any proposed changes with no responses. Ms. Steans stated the inclusion of trauma is a big deal. We do not have a way to understand all the implications of trauma. It is wonderful to have this work being done with the Whole Child Task Force.

Ms. Steans made motion to approve the proposed language for task B as a representation of our findings. Dr. Hinze-Pifer seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task C

Dr. Negron reviewed findings related to task C.

Ms. Rojas does not agree with allocating funds based on color of students. Many times, our most vulnerable students are in schools that have less minorities in their schools. All teachers throughout the state should be receiving thoughtful and authentic professional development that is focused on implicit bias, racial equity, and anti-racism. The kids that are most harmed in situations like this are more alone. I would like for this to be considered in the findings. As for finding 2, there is a Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards group coming forth and would like their recommendations added. Dr. Negron stated everyone would receive funds to support the professional development, but districts with larger populations that need support will receive more funds. The language is already in the report that addresses your concern. Ms. Steans agreed. Ms. Rojas appreciates the thoroughness and thoughtfulness.

Dr. Ayala clarified that the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards is for institutions of higher education and are intended for all teachers entering education. As those standards get implemented, we will see teachers being equipped accordingly. We need to start looking at what resources we currently utilize and see where we can shift accordingly. Dr. Negron agreed.

Mr. Martire is very supportive of this. We asked ISBE our first year to determine if there is a statistically meaningful correlation between race/ethnicity and expected academic outcome and the answer is yes. This tells you the existing demographic adjustments do not create a funding metric to cover the specific challenges our African American students face in a structurally racist environment. This is our responsibility to state that the current allocations will not cover this specific challenge. Finding researched based approaches is crucial. This is an important finding and one we should follow up on. Mr. Martire would like to engage in a full Panel meeting regarding addressing structural racism and whether or not there should be a funding mechanism that is more prescriptive to address the issue. Ms. Cervantez echoes Mr. Martire's comments. Without a mandate or incentive, some districts will not make the effort. This speaks to Title funds, too. Without more specific language that encourages them to report how they are addressing the issues, it may not be enough.

Ms. Morris stated the formula is not restricted and districts can use the money how they want. With a topic this important, this is where a grant program should be part of the findings. We should research districts that are already doing this work. Have ISBE look at districts doing this work and report on how they are doing it. This should be part of the findings. Dr. Ayala spoke regarding the Equity Journey Continuum that will be posted on the 2022 Illinois Report Card release in October. It will be at the district level in the three areas in the Strategic Plan. We are taking data we already collect and applying an equity lens. We are using the data to show districts where they are in their equity journey. We will be able to highlight districts that are closing the gaps and also highlight where we can have courageous conversations.

Representative Bourne asked if we have any numbers regarding how much this would increase our overall funding target. Ms. Steans stated ISBE has not been able to finish the cost modeling. Representative Bourne warned of the danger of prescribing funds and the legality of doing so. Recommending a new element could change the formula for some

districts and also drive out how long it takes us to get to full funding. Ms. Steans stated the formula has a lot of good research-based material, but it is also a balancing act. These are our findings. What to do next needs further conversation.

Mr. Martire stated that these findings state that each district would receive funds, but also be concentrated to those that have more minority students. The way this finding is drafted captures these ideas.

Ms. Cervantez made motion to approve the proposed language for task C as a representation of our findings. Mr. Martire seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task D

Dr. Williams reviewed task D findings.

Representative Bourne asked if there was conversation to change the minimum funding level to a dynamic percentage of adequacy instead of a number. Mr. Martire stated they did not. We only looked at what statute currently required and stayed within that matrix.

Leader Lightford stated when they drafted this law, \$500 million per year was the idea. We know that has not been realized. Could someone further explain what the last sentence in the second finding means? Mr. Martire stated the primary responsibility of the PRP is to ensure the formula accurately reflects the true Adequacy Target for school districts. The current formula needs to have new elements added to address structural racism. If we do that, there needs to be further allocations for the additional cost identified. We very much started out at \$500 million and settled on \$300 million. This was a political amount and not based on research. The General Assembly needs to find a way to supplement the further costs without reducing current funding allocations. Leader Lightford stated that maybe we need to create a separate class of elements. Leader Lightford thought the current elements would assist those students, especially students of color and she is not seeing that. Mr. Martire stated we realize that the research completed when creating EBF did not include systemic racism. Some of those practices are the same ones that will help address structural racism if districts choose to utilize them in that way.

Representative Bourne stated if we are looking towards equity, maintaining a minimum funding level at a level that is appropriate and attainable, to make sure that in the instance that we do not have enough money to fund schools, we are still driving dollars to tier 1 first. Ms. Steans stated this all makes more sense the closer you get to fully funding the model. We want to make this doable.

Mr. Martire made motion to approve the proposed language for task D as a representation of our findings. Ms. Steans seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task E

Dr. Williams reviewed task E findings.

Leader Lightford would like a timeline as to when this could be completed. Dr. Ayala stated the information would need to be requested and a timeline would be very difficult to set. Ms. Harkin stated there is no specific thing we are to do, but if the General Assembly would like analysis completed, they would need to specifically request the analysis. Ms. Handy asked since the General Assembly passed a bill tasking us this, doesn't it become part of our charge? Ms. Harkin stated from the beginning, the Ad-Hoc Committee has felt this is outside of our purview. If this is an ISBE responsibility, ISBE would have to respond to this piece. Dr. Ayala stated that requests that are made are very hard to put a time structure on it unless we have more details. Mr. Tipsord stated it is important to remember that asking ISBE as an agency to perform financial analysis may put the agency in an unfair position.

Leader Lightford stated the request was to provide alternative structures but not tell us where to get the funds. Can you help come up with suggestions for an alternative route? What would that structure look like? Ms. Steans stated Group 1 was going down that path and maybe some of that information could be added under Task E. Ms. Harkin reiterated that there is a chart in the report providing alternative dates to reach adequacy. Mr. Martire stated the alternatives are outlined in finding D (2). The additional language was added to the report.

Ms. Handy made motion to approve the amended proposed language for task E as a representation of our findings. Ms. Steans seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task F

Dr. Williams reviewed the finding for task F.

Ms. Harkin asked who will do this work and by what date. Dr. Ayala stated we would need to explore the mechanisms that we currently have in order to be able to determine those redundancies. Are we looking at budgets or how funding is allocated? Mr. Martire stated it was redundancies in funding structures. Mr. Tipsord stated it is where we are spending federal funds and state funds to do the same tasks. If we can find places where resources are stacked, we can then be more effective. Dr. Ayala stated that would need a study to identify those areas and where opportunities are within our systems. First is the identification, then there may be adjustments that would necessitate time, energy, and resources of where we need to go. Mr. Tipsord stated the pandemic has given us a glimpse of how things can be done differently and more efficiently. This will take time. Dr. Ayala agreed that this is a long-term project. The start would be to convene a group to start to take a look at this and start to identify the redundancies.

Ms. Harkin asked if we would like to identify a PRP committee or another task force to tackle this work, so we have something actionable. Dr. Ayala suggested an inclusive work group with PRP members that is diverse to tackle this task. This is not directly related to the role and function of the PRP but we can take a look at this. Clarifying language was added to task F to convene a workgroup to see if there would be potential savings by December 31, 2022.

This study may increase the amount of information we currently receive from districts. Representative Bourne referenced House Resolution 14 that asked ISBE to report on redundancies and asked if this is being completed. The end date for that report is December 31, 2021. Dr. Ayala will consult with staff to inquire if this is being completed.

Dr. Murphy made motion to approve the amended proposed language for task F as a representation of our findings. Dr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task G

Dr. Williams reviewed findings for task G.

Ms. Handy asked if there is a deadline for this work. The Panel has been wrestling with this topic for four years. A deadline of December 31, 2022 was added. Ms. Handy made motion to approve the amended proposed language for task G as a representation of our findings. Ms. Steans seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Task H

Dr. Negrón reviewed findings for task H.

There was no further discussion. Mr. Martire made motion to approve the proposed language for task H as a representation of our findings. Dr. Negron seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

**ACTION TO SUBMIT
FINAL REPORT**

Ms. Steans made motion to submit the final report of the Professional Review Panel's finding to the State Board of Education, General Assembly, and Governor pursuant to P.A. 101-0654. Mr. Martire seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martire made note that CTBA will be providing the Panel with a memo regarding evidence-based practices in education that have been shown to eliminate differentials in academic outcomes by race.

Future meetings will be March 7 and June 7, 2022.

ADJOURN

Ms. Steans thanked the Ad-Hoc Committee for the additional work and to Leader Lightford for pushing this work forward. Dr. Ayala appreciated everyone's work. Dr. Williams made motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Steans seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.