

**Professional Review Panel**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**June 9, 2020**

**Via Webinar**

**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 10:04 a.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present by Phone:**

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent of Education  
Avery Bourne, State Representative, 95<sup>th</sup> District  
Heather Calomese, Executive Director of Special Education, ISBE  
Bill Curtin, Educator, Carbondale Community High School  
William Davis, State Representative, 30<sup>th</sup> District  
Kathi Griffin, President, Illinois Education Association  
Dr. Nakia Hall, Member, Crete-Monee School District 201-U Board of Education  
Jessica Handy, Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children Illinois  
Susan Harkin, Chief School Business Official, CUSD 300  
Dr. Michelle Turner Mangan, Professor of Research, Concordia University Chicago  
Andy Manar, State Senator, 48<sup>th</sup> District  
Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability  
Brian Minsker, Illinois Parent Teacher Association  
Cameron Mock, Office of the Governor  
Unique Morris, Educator, Dolton District 148  
Gregg Murphy, Regional Superintendent of Schools, I-KAN Regional Office of Education  
David Negron, Superintendent, Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89  
Jane Russell, Secretary-Treasurer, Illinois Federation of Teachers (12:05)  
Robin Steans, President, Advance Illinois  
Gary Tipsord, Superintendent, LeRoy CUSD 2  
Dr. Vicki Van Tuyle, Associate Professor, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
Chuck Weaver, State Senator, 37<sup>th</sup> District  
Julie Wollerman, Regional Superintendent of Schools, ROE 3  
Dr. Tron Young, Principal, Central School District 104

**Members absent:**

Rhys Fullerlove, President, Sherrard CUSD 200 Board of Education  
Justin Miller, Chief School Business Official  
Cameron Mock, Office of the Governor  
Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, West Chicago Elementary School District 33  
Heather Wendell, Senior Policy Advisor, Chicago Public Schools 299

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Hall made motion to approve the May 8, 2020 minutes as presented. Ms. Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Valerie Groth, Ryan Banks Academy, gave an overview of the Ryan Banks Academy and asked for the Panel to consider adding programs like this to the Evidence-Based Funding Model.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Amanda Elliott, Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, gave a legislative update. SB 1569 is the education omnibus bill passes during special session. There were many K-12 education provisions including remote and blended remote learning days. Licensure, graduation requirements, evaluations were also addressed. SB 264 was the budget bill that includes flat funding for schools, including Evidence-Based Funding and mandated categoricals. Budget included appropriation authority for the federal CARES Act. SB 1937 amends the School Code to allow certain school districts to issue bonds after getting

referendum approval. SB 1863 mandates November 3 as a state holiday and therefore schools shall be closed. SB 1857 extends the sunset for retired personnel employed by a school district to June 30, 2021. HB 2096 makes changes regarding the remote operating of townships during a public health emergency as well as language allowing bids for school construction purposes to be opened electronically.

Dr. Ayala stated many bills that went through were directly related to the Emergency Orders. Many of the bills are awaiting signature.

**RECALIBRATION  
UPDATE**

Robert Wolfe, Financial Officer, gave a recalibration update. Recalibration of cost factors via statutory requirements has been completed. Deb Vespa, School Business Services, reviewed *Cost Factor Recommendations*.

The Recommended FY 2021 Cost Factors are:

Cost Factor	FY 2020 EBF Cost Factor Costs	FY 2021 EBF Recommended Cost Factor Costs	Comment
Gifted Expenditure	\$90	\$90	Maintain 2020 EBF Funding Level of \$90
Instructional Materials	\$233	\$247	Increase to FY 2019, 90-110% Adequacy Districts
Assessments	\$25	\$27	Increase to FY 2019, 90-110% Adequacy Districts
Student Activities - Elementary	\$104	\$110	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Student Activities – Middle School	\$208	\$219	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Student Activities – High School	\$717	\$755	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Maintenance & Operations – Total Costs Minus Benefits	\$1,038	\$1,072	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Maintenance & Operations – Salary Costs	\$365.54	\$366.96	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Central Office – Total Costs Minus Benefits	\$786	\$856	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration
Central Office – Salary Costs	\$418.59	\$445.73	Increase to FY 2019 AFR Recalibration

Dr. Ayala asked how flat funding will affect these figures. Mr. Wolfe stated that ISBE must calculate adequacy targets annually regardless of funding levels. One of the processes is to recalibrate these cost factors. It is imperative to demonstrate where we Dr. are in our progress toward adequacy in recalibrating these factors. It is important to realize, in FY 21, we may not be able to accurately identify Tier 1 districts. With no Tier funding in FY 21, we will not be able to set the Tier 1 target ratio, which is the cut-off point between a Tier 1 and Tier 2 district. What we can do is estimate what a Tier 1 and Tier 2 district is using the minimum statutory funding level of \$300 million and this will allow us to

mechanically set a Tier 1 target ratio. Without new Tier funding, there will not be an accurate Tier 1 target ratio. Mr. Martire stated recalibrating the factors will show that we moved a little further away from adequacy as a state this year. Adding flat funding to inflation, we actually take a step back as a state towards adequate funding. Flat funding does not mean status quo; it means a step back.

Dr. Ayala stated our messaging to districts will need to make sure they understand flat funding. Mr. Wolfe stated changes will be in percentages of adequacy. Dr. Mangan stated it is a great point about the messaging to districts. We had discussed having more of messaging approach. Is there a way to translate this into a message about people and not about dollars such as one less aid or nurse? It could look like a state average. It is also pertinent when we get to our equity discussion. We do not have school resource officers in the model, yet districts are using funds for that. This messaging could bring more people into the conversations.

Dr. Negron stated the flat funding messaging is going to be important to get out to superintendents because we are working on our budgets. When do you anticipate having the EBF calculations completed? Mr. Wolfe stated we hope to have this around the end of August.

Ms. Harkin is thankful that districts have flat funding versus a direr situation. Having the assurance knowing my funding is flat for next year is peace of mind. ISBE is working on a lot at the State level and our legislators are working very hard also. Dr. Negron agrees. This was the best-case scenario under the worst-case circumstances. Ms. Griffin thanked the General Assembly for putting students first. Their focus on taking care of our kids needs to be commended.

#### **EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING SPENDING PLAN UPDATE**

Sara Shaw, Senior Manager, Fiscal and Academic Solvency, reviewed *EBF Spending Plan*. The reporting window will open August 1, 2020 and close September 30, 2020. District will have two months to complete the plan versus one-month last fiscal year.

Dr. Ayala asked for an overview of stakeholder engagement to this point on the plan. ISBE received over 600 responses to condense and consolidate questions on the plan, noting the time dedication it took to complete the plan. Mr. Wolfe added that they are not as far along as they would have liked to be at this point. Dr. Ayala stated this is an example of the impact of Covid-19 has had on us all and the shift in attention the Agency had to take. There have been good enhancements based on the feedback received.

Mr. Martire thanked Ms. Shaw for her hard work on this plan. Dr. Mangan thanked Ms. Shaw for making the data public. Mr. Tipsord stated there are some districts that do not get a great amount of new money. Be aware that new EBF money does not necessarily make substantial changes in what districts can offer. Dr. Ayala agreed and wondered how we can build bridges, so things are more transparent. How can we collect data and information to show statewide the wonderful work that is being done with regard to these issues? When we will get to the point where we consolidate these data entry points?

Ms. Harkin stated this should not be a stand-alone document and look forward to when these are consolidated. The most important part of the process that is most valuable to districts is the conversations within districts and their spending and resources. There is a lot of work ahead of us and we continue to move forward for long-term improvement.

Dr. Ayala thanked Ms. Shaw and Mr. Wolfe for their hard work.

#### **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Dr. Ayala reviewed the new committee structure:

All committee study topics will be viewed through the Equity Lens and all committee reports will have an Equity Impact Analysis.

**Distribution Impact Monitoring Committee** – Gary Tipsord, Chair

This committee will review and study issues regarding the distribution of Evidence-Based Funding as directed by 105 ILCS 5/18-8.15(i). Examples include evaluation of the hold harmless provision and local capacity target.

**Programs Committee** – David Negron, Chair

This committee will review and study issues regarding programmatic changes to Evidence-Based Funding as directed by 105 ILCS 5/18-8.15(i). Examples include college and career acceleration strategies, special education, alternative education funding, and early childhood.

**Recalibrate Committee** – Ralph Martire, Chair

This committee will review and study issues regarding recalibration of Evidence-Based Funding as directed by 105 ILCS 5/18-8.15(i). Examples include benefits, technology, comparable wage index, and maintenance and operations.

**Reporting Committee** – Jane Russell, Chair

This committee will review and study issues regarding reporting and transparency related to Evidence-Based Funding as directed by 105 ILCS 5/18-8.15(i). Examples include the evaluative study, strategic plan, and the annual spending plan.

All PRP members will be invited to state what committee they would like to be a part of. Before we meet next, I will meet with the chairs and decide what work will be moving forward. I am also looking at connecting an Agency lead staff member for each committee. In addition to myself, Officers will be available to support the committees moving forward.

Ms. Griffin asked if the four committees will be meeting simultaneously. Dr. Ayala stated realistically, items will be broken up and some committees may be working more than others. We really need to look at the big picture of what the PRP will be engaging in for the year and delegate accordingly. Ms. Harkin stated we need to be open to what is in front of us. It is wonderful when the legislators are comfortable with this group to assign tasks. This structure allows for a more streamlined approach moving forward.

Dr. Ayala stated the Equity Impact Analysis will need to be reviewed. Dr. Mangan stated the work of the Equity Committee did identify race as a factor and would like to see this reinstated as part of the analysis. Dr. Ayala stated race is one dimension and there are many others. This is part of the equity work that needs to be done.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Ayala reviewed future meeting dates:

September 21, 2020 from 1-4 p.m.

December 15, 2020 from 1-4 p.m.

March 8, 2021 from 1-4 p.m.

June 7, 2021 from 1-4 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Martire made motion to adjourn. Ms. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.