

## EDUCATION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Room Vtel, 14th Floor

James R. Thompson Center

Chicago, Illinois

&

Room Vtel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Alzina Building

Springfield, Illinois

### Members Present

Ms. Sylvia Puente, Chair  
Mr. Dean Clark  
Ms. Cinda Klickna  
Mr. Dan Montgomery  
Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams

### Members Absent

### ISBE Staff Present

Mr. Robert Wolfe  
Mr. Jason Hall  
Ms. Tami Pascoe  
Ms. Mary Fergus

1. **ROLL CALL:** All Board members were present.
2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approved by Dan Montgomery and seconded by Dean Clark.
3. **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**
  - 1.) Ensure the foundation level is sufficient to provide a comprehensive, high-quality education that prepares every student in Illinois to flourish in a global society.
  - 2.) Guarantee that the state share of public school funding provides a reliable, predictable, timely, and adequate funding stream.
  - 3.) Ensure that categorical and other targeted funds (including, but not limited to poverty grants, special education, transportation, English language learning, and Early Childhood Education) are sustained year to year and are sufficient to meet the needs of students.
  - 4.) Eliminate the gap of real educational opportunities for all students in Illinois by reducing funding disparities to establish functional equity.

Approved by the board members.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE CALCULATION METHODOLOGY FOR THE RECOMMENDED FOUNDATION LEVEL:** Mr. Jason Hall explained the Employment Cost Index (ECI). Indexing the FY 12 EFAB-recommended Foundation Level of \$8,360 by 2 years of the ECI resulted in a Foundation Level in the amount of \$8,672, which would require \$8.775 billion in General Funds appropriations in comparison to the current appropriation of \$4.286 billion. The board approved a new updated chart showing the difference between EFAB recommended Foundation Levels and the Foundation Level set in statute over the past several years. Members requested an additional chart that compares the difference between appropriated amounts and the amount needed to fully fund the GSA claim in recent years.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Testimony was provided by Ben Boer from Advance Illinois; Cynthia Woods from the Illinois Association of School Boards; Ralph Martire from the Center for Tax & Budget Accountability and Larry Frank from the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers. Printed copies of the testimony were either passed out during the meeting or forwarded by email at a later date.

## 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **GENERAL STATE AID STATISTICAL DATA:** The board agreed to the following charts: an updated chart that shows the number of districts at various levels of Foundation Level funding from the state and some narrative around that; an updated chart of the history of the statutory Foundation Level compared to EFAB-recommended Foundation Levels; a comparison of recent insufficient appropriations compared to GSA claim amounts; and a listing of low-income populations by geographic region. The board agreed to add a statement about the additional expenditure required to properly educate a low-income student. Members cited the work of Voices for Illinois Children in an appendix to the 2012 EFAB report as a source for this information.
- b. **REVIEW OF 2011 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 2013 RECOMMENDATIONS:** The board would like a recommendation on Foundation Level based on the 2012 recommendation indexed by two years of the ECI & updated components of the Poverty Grant formula, also indexed by ECI. The Board also agreed to reiterate previous recommendations on the need for further study of elements of the GSA formulas and of potential models to inform EFAB and policy makers about adequate levels of state education funding.
- c. **CONTENTS OF 2013 REPORTS:** The board would like to address with a bold statement the need for greater ISBE resources. The conclusion should include a statement about the board's moral indignation about current funding levels and policies and a stronger closing than was included in the 2012 report.
- d. **NEXT STEPS:** ISBE will give a first draft and there will be a vote by conference call. Members can expect to have a draft in hand the first week of January and changes back the following week.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT