

EDUCATION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD

September 11, 2014

9:25 am – 11:30 am

Vtel room

James R. Thompson Center, Chicago, IL and Alzina Building, Springfield, IL

Members Present

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

ISBE Staff

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

1. **ROLL CALL:** All Board members were present. Dr. Sheila Harrison-Williams joined at 9:55am.
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none
3. **Action Items:**
 - **Approval of April 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Cinda Klickna approved and Mr. Dan Montgomery second.
 - **Discuss Options for January 2015 Report:** Discussion stated that the model would be obsolete next year and maybe the board should just update the indexing.

ISBE staff provided a comparison of the duties of both organizations as envisioned in the current version of SB 16. Both bodies are charged with reviewing the adequate funding level for education, while the Primary State Aid Review Committee has a number of additional duties.

What models do other states look at and if a new model is needed to address changes in assessments, moving to the PARCC. EFAB members discussed whether both bodies were necessary, especially considering that the due date for their reports are the same date of January 31, 2017.

Dan noted there are a great many unknowns about the future. SB 16 is still a bill and not law. It provides a plan for going forward but its passage is not a certainty.

If the model is redone how much would it cost and could there be a line item added to ISBE's budget for this. Will the General Assembly (GA) listen to their recommendations, regardless of which model is used?

There was discussion among the members about indexing an earlier Foundation Level recommendation. Also about whether EFAB should recommend a change in their statutory charge to allow them greater flexibility in how they develop their recommendations.

ISBE staff noted that other states use multiple models to gauge adequate funding levels and use them all to create an average or blended recommended Foundation Level.

Cinda said she felt all EFAB members were saying the same things. EFAB should index an earlier Foundation Level recommendation because updating an outdated successful school district model is of limited value. A new model will require new funding. And a new model should measure student growth and incorporate the new student assessment tools.

Draft EFAB recommendation:

Generate a new Foundation Level recommendation by applying an inflation index to a prior recommendation.

State that after so many years the current successful schools model is outdated and should be revised.

In order to create a new adequate funding model, ISBE will need an appropriation to pay for this contractual work. EFAB would like staff to find out what this might cost.

State that while EFAB is encouraged that the GA is considering changes to how it distributes the current state grant funds they hope the GA will also look at need and consider what might constitute adequate funding amounts.

It was questioned of whether to recommend indexing the supplemental low-income grant parameters. Members want more information about what that might mean in terms of cost to the state. Also need to consider the proportion of GSA funding that goes to the low-income grant, which does not consider local resources in determining the grant award.

Include a history of the proportion of GSA going to the equalization formula grant and the supplemental low-income grant.

Include a reminder of why EFAB exists. Revising the distribution of the current pot of money does one thing, but Illinois also needs an increase in state education resources. The state needs to improve equity in funding and also consider adequate funding for all districts.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for December 9,2014, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT