

## EDUCATION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD

February 10, 2010  
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Room 16-503, 16th Floor  
James R. Thompson Center  
Chicago, Illinois

### Members Present

Ms. Sylvia Puente, Chair  
Mr. Dean Clark  
Mr. Ed Geppert  
Ken Swanson

### Members Absent

Mr. Art Culver

### ISBE Staff Present

Linda Riley Mitchell

1. **ROLL CALL:** All members were present except Mr. Art Culver.
2. **REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2010:** Mr. Dean Clark moved that the minutes of the December Education Funding Advisory Board meeting be accepted. Mr. Ed Geppert seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
3. **ISBE BUDGET UPDATE:** Ms. Linda Mitchell stated that ISBE had a Board meeting on January 16, 2009 to approve the FY 2011 budget. The foundation level reflected in the ISBE budget proposal to the General Assembly was to maintain the General State Aid foundation level at \$5,669, the same as in FY 2010. Funding a level foundation amount would still result in a \$74 million increase in the appropriation for General State Aid. This foundation level compares to the \$7,992 amount that ISBE staff had calculated using the adequacy model calculation developed by Augenblick and Myers and reviewed with the EFAB at its December 22, 2009 meeting. To fund GSA at the level from the adequacy model calculation would require an addition \$2.9 billion of appropriation. Given the state's financial condition, Ms Mitchell said that it was felt that even keeping the level flat would be difficult. The state has received \$1 billion in each of the last two fiscal years as American Recover Act State Fiscal Stabilization Funds to assist the state in the payment of General State Aid. In order to maintain GSA at the same level, the General Assembly and the Governor will need to fund an addition \$1 billion from the state General Revenue Fund. Mr. Clark asked again what was the amount that would be needed to fund at the EFAB level. Ms Mitchell replied \$2.9 billion. Mr. Geppert said that he would like to commend the State Board of Education for showing leadership and making this budget recommendation in the face of economic difficulty in the state. Mr. Clark said that he would like to echo that. Mr. Swanson said that the State Board had taken positive steps in bringing forward such a budget. He said that the onus was now on the General Assembly to find the revenue. The Governor's proposed FY 2011 budget will be presented next month.
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The Board heard five presentations from four advocacy groups as shown below:**

**Better Funding for Better Schools**—Arlene Zielke, a former member of the State Board of Education representing Better Funding said and that there was always a point of discussion around whether to present a full needs budget or a political budget under Governor Thompson. The Better Funding for Better Schools group includes the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. The Johnny Appleseed Fund for Justice the Chicago urban League, the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois PTA, League of Women Voters. Joseph Mantula also of Better Funding for Better Schools also spoke and reviewed the value of a \$1,000 increase in the per pupil and the impact that might have on an individual district.

**Illinois Association of School Business Officials--** Calvin Jackson, presented for this organization. Mr. Jackson said that there was a misconception that school districts actually received the entire amount of the current \$6,119 foundation level, but that the largest category of districts, 147, actually received alternate method amounts. He presented a table showing amounts received by various categories. No districts received more than \$5,500 per pupil in state funding. One hundred-twelve (112) districts across the state received between \$3,000 and \$3,500 and 99 districts receive between \$3,500 and \$4,000.

**Illinois Education Association--** Daryl Morrison, Education Policy and Relations Director, presented for this organization. Mr. Morrison stated that a sustainable and reliable funding resource for education is essential to adequately fund schools. He expressed concern over escalating school violence and mobility rates as impacting learning. He advocated for the hold harmless and described disparities in teacher pay. He reiterated that the state needs to find a source to restore the \$i billion loss with the end of the federal stimulus funding.

**Voices for Illinois Children--** Larry Joseph, Director of Budget and Tax Policy Initiatives, presented for this organization. Mr. Joseph stated that this initiative is funded by a national consortium that includes the Ford Foundation. He said that state funding per pupil for elementary and secondary education in Illinois is 32% below the national average. He said that although General State Aid (GSA) is designed to mitigate disparities across school districts the ranges in property wealth are so great that the overall impact is limited. He urged EFAB to recommend full funding for the poverty grants saying that in districts such as Carbondale and Chicago much of GSA comes from these grants. In Carbondale 68% of GSA is from poverty grants, as is 38% in Chicago. Current law requires that ISBE prorate poverty grants and pay the full amount of regular GSA in the event of a shortfall in the appropriation. Mr. Joseph said that he supports the ISBE recommendation of flat funding as it is unlikely that the GSA will increase given the state's fiscal crises. He stated that to effectively fund education would require raising more than just the foundation level and that there is a need for additional funding for those districts with the lowest property wealth.

5. **NEXT MEETING AGENDA:** Ms. Puente said that she would follow up with stakeholder groups and continue to garner information from other interested parties. Mr. Dean Clark suggested that the next meeting be held in Springfield to build additional participation from stakeholder groups. After some discussion, Ms. Puente stated that the Board would plan to hold the next meeting for April on either April 13, 2010 or April 28, 2010 at 1 p.m. Ms. Puente asked that the members hold those dates and plan to meet in Springfield at the ISBE offices. With the meeting planned in Springfield she said that it might enlist additional participants. Mr. Geppert stated that with session, the stakeholders would be more readily available for an April meeting in Springfield. Ms. Mitchell stated that she would have the staff present additional information on poverty as an element of the state aid formula in addition to more information on state funding in other states. Ms. Puente said that she would send out letters or emails should other suggestions be made by the EFAB members.
6. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm with Mr. Geppert motioning and Mr. Swanson seconding.