

EDUCATION FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD

April 28, 2010
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Board Room, 4th Floor
100 North 1st Street
Springfield, Illinois

Members Present

Ms. Sylvia Puente, Chair
Mr. Dean Clark
Mr. Arthur Culver
Mr. Ed Geppert, Jr

Members Absent

Mr. Ken Swanson

ISBE Staff Present

Linda Riley Mitchell
Scott Taylor
Toni Waggoner
Jason Hall
Irma Snopek

ISBE Board Members

Joyce Karon

1. **ROLL CALL:** All members were present, with the exception of Mr. Ken Swanson.
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2010:** Approved
4. **FISCAL 2011 BUDGET UPDATE:** Ms. Linda Mitchell spoke about the Fiscal Year 2011 budget and provided an update. She stated that some members of the General Assembly are considering a six month budget or a lump sum budget similar to last year. This would make it more difficult for school districts to be able to plan for the full year. Ms. Mitchell spoke about what was proposed stating that the foundation level is expected to remain at \$6,119. Ms. Mitchell explained that the legislature agreed to make the last Mandated Categorical payment from the Educational Assistance Fund instead of the General Revenue Fund. General State Aid is projected at \$4.6 billion for FY 2011. Ms. Mitchell stated that in addition to the budget, the foundation level amount is set in statute. Toni Waggoner stated that statute says \$6,119 for FY10 and thereafter. If the statute is not changed for FY11, the foundation level will stay at \$6,119.
5. **GSA FOUNDATION LEVEL ELEMENTS OF THE POVERTY GRANT:** Scott Taylor, Linda Mitchell and Jason Hall spoke about the slide show that was given.

Dean Clark stated that the members need to know of the options that the EFAB board comes up with are the most viable politically and mechanically. Part of the recommendation could be that the board wants to take the poverty grant and have it treated exactly the same way GSA is treated, so that the poverty grant is not prorated first and GSA is prorated as a whole. In nine years, there has been an increase of almost 100% in the poverty grant. Now, nearly half of the school children in Illinois are being reflected as in poverty.

Mr. Arthur Culver stated that he would like to see an automatic increase tied to the CPI or some other kind of index. Ms. Puente asked if the board needs to consider that it has not changed since 2005 if there should be a bump. EFAB may choose to make a recommendation as to what would be a reasonable amount.

Ms. Sylvia Puente reiterated the three things they would like to look at further to consider on the poverty allocation. One would be decoupling it from the General State Aid level. Another is tying it so that there is an automatic index of increase. The third would be adjusting it from the 2005 index level.

6. **OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE GSA FUNDING FORMULA:** Ms. Puente stated that the EFAB should set out a number of items that would be considered as the report was being developed. She

read several questions she had received from Mr. Ken Swanson's as he was unable to attend the meeting. He asked: What does it truly cost to offset the impact poverty has on student achievement? Is our current model sufficient? What incentives could/should be offered to offer consolidation of administration and when is it appropriate to mandate attendance centers in ways to promote efficiency and enhance opportunity for students. Is it appropriate for EFAB to address the issue to consolidation? What cost factors should be given to RTI? Mr. Ed Geppert asked if the model really considers the impact of poverty. Mr. Culver expressed a concern about the impact of tax caps on the GSA formula. Ms. Puente asked what to do about districts with the least amount of property value and highest concentration of poverty students? She stated that EFAB should try to determine how do we know that districts are getting the adequate amount to effectively educate their children? There is also a question of ELL considerations in the formula.

7. PRESENTATIONS attachments:

- a. **Peg Agnos, Executive Director, Legislative Education Network of DuPage County (LEND)**
- b. **Erika Lindley, Executive Director, ED-RED (Education, Research, Development)**
- c. **Michelle Turner Mangan & Ted Purinton, Co-Principal Investigators, Illinois School Finance Adequacy Initiative at National-Louis University, Chicago, Illinois.**

Diane Rutledge, Executive Director, Large Unit School District Associations who had been scheduled to make a presentation was unable to attend.

8. **UPCOMING MEETINGS:** The EFAB discussed options as to future meeting dates. Linda Mitchell agreed to put together a calendar and distribute to members of EFAB so that dates could be established for the remainder of the year.
9. **OTHER:** Ms. Puente proposed that the EFAB establish subcommittees to meet to provide additional research and address the questions asked by the EFAB board members. The intent would be to give the pros and cons to various options for consideration of the EFAB Board later this summer. The EFAB would seek to include various stakeholders in these subcommittees such as representatives from IEA, IFT, Voices for Illinois Children, Center Budget and Tax Accountability, School Management Association, and LUDA. In addition, it was proposed that Toni Waggoner consider joining the subcommittee discussion as a retiree later this summer.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm with Mr. Geppert motioning and Mr. Clark seconding.