

Senate Committee

COMMITTEE MINUTES for EDUCATION

Date: *January 18, 2017*

Location: *RM 22*

Convened: *3:00 PM*

Adjourned: *4:00 PM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Sinclair-CH, Edler-VC, Quirmbach-RM, Bowman, Chelgren, Dvorsky, Greene, Hart, Johnson, C., Kraayenbrink, Lofgren, Mathis, Rozenboom

Absent:

Excused: Senators Behn, Danielson

Senator Rozenboom moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

The minutes were approved.

Senator Sinclair gave welcoming remarks to the Iowa Association of Schools Boards presenter Shawn Snyder.

The Iowa Association of School Boards offered a proposal to address the transportation equity issue. The proposal provides supplementary weighting designated for transportation funding through the school aid formula. The presentation included information regarding transportation costs and funding. There would be a 5-year phase in that would increase funding over time for school districts to achieve full equity. The total cost for full equity is at \$150 million. This proposal includes state funding and local property tax dollars. The Iowa Association of School Boards is currently working with the DE to reduce total cost by potentially \$30-40 million.

Senator Bowman was recognized.

Senator Bowman asked if this proposal was run on a district by district basis.

Mr. Snyder offered to have the information sent to the committee.

Senator Quirmbach was recognized.

Senator Quirmbach spoke on concerns over the cost of the proposal and how it would affect other areas of education funding. He suggested scaling down the proposal to focus on the outlier districts to bring down the cost.

Mr. Snyder responded that they had considered Senator Quirmbach's proposal to bring down costs but felt the proposal being presented was the best option.

Senator Quirmbach responded that he felt it was much more doable to focus on the outliers.

Mr. Snyder began the district costs per pupil equity presentation.

This proposal would equalize the regular program DCPD through a nine year phase in. \$20 per

year would be added through FY 2018- FY 2025 and \$15 for FY 2025 to by FY 2026 every district in the state would have the same DCP. 7/8 of funding would be from state aid with 1/8 coming from property tax. The overall cost of the proposal would total at \$86 million.

Senator Quirnbach was recognized.

Senator Quirnbach brought up a concern over some districts being allowed to spend more than others, but welcomed the point brought up that the difference came from property taxes. He was also concerned about the cost and that the difference in spending came out in the form of property tax relief rather than additional funding for students.

Mrs. Piper responded with the view that these proposals were the ones that were gathering the most concern among members and tried to address the property tax issues and equity issues. They felt the proposals weren't perfect and were welcome to discussing potential changes to the proposal.

Senator Chelgren was recognized.

Senator Chelgren agreed with Senator Quirnbach's proposal for less spending and asked if there were any more information regarding the pending lawsuit and if this proposal would affect said lawsuit.

Mrs. Piper responded with a similar response to Senator Quirnbach's questions regarding openness to discussing changes to the proposal but did not feel they had enough information regarding the pending lawsuit to discuss.

Senator Sinclair gave thanks to the presenters for their time and presentation.

Senator Sinclair welcomed Julie Leeper who gave a presentation of behalf of the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

Mrs. Leeper gave opening remarks over the Iowa College Student Aid Commission organization and how the funding was allocated to post-secondary education and the 14 state funded programs available. She discussed the chart showing the 12 state funded programs they were looking at. There were three combinations recommended to streamline the process and allow for more eligibility to occur.

Senator Sinclair made the point to recognize that this was a policy discussion and a way to streamline the programs and make things easier and would in no way affect funding.

Senator Sinclair questioned the workload of the staff after these combinations of programs would be made.

Mrs. Leeper responded reassuring staff reductions would not occur and that it would be more likely that staff relocating within the organization would be a solution to improve efficiency within the organization.

Senator Sinclair questioned the number of duplications occurring within the programs.

Mrs. Leeper gave statistics over the number of duplications in the programs where duplications were currently occurring.

Senator Sinclair clarified that cosmetology funding would still be available even after the programs were combined.

Mrs. Leeper responded ensuring that they wanted language written that would make it so more people in the cosmetology would be eligible for the funding.

Mrs. Leeper than briefly described how the application for these programs was offered to students per Senator Sinclair's request.

Senator Bowman was recognized.

Senator Bowman questioned the administration costs for the 14 programs currently and how those administrative costs have changed in the previous years.

Mrs. Leeper informed the committee that \$1.9 million was used to administer programs and \$431,000 of that came from state funding. She clarified that there was no increased anticipated after the combinations would occur. She then confirmed the administrative costs have gone up in the past few years due to hiring more people, computer services, and salary increases.

Senator Bowman requested more information regarding costs be supplied.

Senator Chelgren was recognized

Senator Chelgren questioned the position loan repayment program and how the \$200,000 was being distributed.

Mrs. Leeper clarified that the money was split over a 5 year period when they work in rural Iowa.

Senator Chelgren questioned the nursing program combination and requested information regarding growth in costs.

Senator Quirnbach was recognized

Senator Quirnbach agreed with Senator Chelgren's statements regarding the healthcare programs and the combination of those programs. He also questioned the foster care program and making sure this program provided a vehicle for foster care participates to attend higher education.

Mrs. Leeper gave information regarding a website being created to have information showing which colleges have students applying for FASFA and in regards to foster care program, there is another program furthering opportunities for foster care that they worked closely with.

Senator Chelgren was recognized.

He made remarks regarding the funding for nurses.

Senator Quirnbach moved to arise.

Casey Nickel, Committee Secretary