

From: Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 10/19/2021 9:08:26 AM
To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: TDOE Announces 12 Members of Steering Committee to Discuss Student-Focused Funding Strategy for Public Education

Jason,

Some random thoughts about the Governor's Steering Committee that personally I think is nothing more than him being able to say that he did something and listened to the public before he does what he wants to do.

Since the State has always indicated that the BEP is a "funding formula, not a spending plan" the formula is irrelevant if there are not additional funds made available with any changes made in the formula. The little known aspects about the BEP that the general public and many school districts do not even know about impact local funding bodies beyond what most people know. Things like:

- Delaying funding new school personnel except for teaching staff for the first year when a new school is opening up. No principal, Asst. Principal, etc. Funding only comes if the district has an increase in student enrollment therefore the current model does not allow any funding when a school becomes overcrowded and a new one must open up to relieve the capacity pressures.
- No funding for the two departments that are required to run a school system: Human Resources and Finance Departments are totally locally funded.
- Grade level PTR ratios that are nothing more than dividing the total number of students by the state ratio (20:1 K-3, 25:1 4th – 8th, etc.) No allowance for schools that might have uneven splits of less than the stated ratios.
- No funding for academic coaches.
- Nursing to student ratios are totally out of line with real world student needs.
- Transportation of students less than 1.5 miles from schools receive zero funding and with the dangers of crossing major roads, etc. not even considered, that becomes a direct cost on the district and local funding.
- No allowance/funding for spare buses in case of breakdowns.
- Using the state average salary for all teachers in the formula instead looking at a particular districts need to pay a higher pay schedule due to locality.
- When they give teacher raises it is not on the total number of teachers actually hired, it is based on the BEP formula of what they determine is needed to minimally run the district and it is only on the portion of the salary that the state funds.
- No raises built in for support staff when they give a teacher raise.
- Districts that grow only receive growth money, which is unknown until it is received after half of the year is done and the other half after school is out. Local funds have to cover any increases in staff and students until the growth money split is determined.
- Since districts depend so heavily on sales tax which really does not get strong until after the holiday season and property taxes which are not due until mid-way though the fiscal year, some school districts are forced to borrow money or experience cash flow issues. The State is sitting on over \$2 Billion dollars that could really help out cash flow issues for school districts by adjusting some of their funding practices.

I can go on with BEP issues, but once again, if more funds are not put in the pool, districts will continue to swim in the shallow end of the funding pool.

Gary Anderson
Executive Director Health and Safety
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

From: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:51 PM
To: CO Superintendent Group <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: RELEASE: TDOE Announces 12 Members of Steering Committee to Discuss Student-Focused Funding Strategy for Public Education

FYI.

Jason Golden

Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
(615) 472-4009

From: Jason Golden
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:50 PM
To: CO Schoolboard Group <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: RELEASE: TDOE Announces 12 Members of Steering Committee to Discuss Student-Focused Funding Strategy for Public Education

Board Members,

FYI, here's the list of the State's steering committee to oversee review of BEP/state funding of schools. There are also 18 subcommittees being formed. Last week, the TSBA newsletter included a link to a TDOE announcement about those subcommittees, at <https://www.tn.gov/education/news/2021/10/12/tdoe-announces-central-steering-committee--18-subcommittees-focused-on-exploring-student-centered-funding-strategy-.html>. The Commissioner has told us that they're hoping to finalize those subcommittees over the next few days.

Jason Golden
Superintendent
Williamson County Schools
[REDACTED]

From: Suptonly <[REDACTED]> **On Behalf Of** EDU MediaInquiries
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RELEASE: TDOE Announces 12 Members of Steering Committee to Discuss Student-Focused Funding Strategy for Public Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 18, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Blackley
EMAIL: [REDACTED]

TDOE Announces 12 Members of Steering Committee to Discuss Student-Focused Funding Strategy for Public Education

Policymakers Focused on Investment Strategy Representative of Tennessee Values

Nashville, TN - Today, the Tennessee Department of Education announced the members of the central steering committee to look at a student-focused funding strategy for K-12 education, comprised of 12 leaders representing the state's elected officials and agencies directly connected with K-12 public education in Tennessee. The members of the central steering committee will review input and feedback from the 18 subcommittees and the general public on how to create a student-focused investment strategy reflective of Tennessee's values to best support students.

On Friday, October 8, Governor Lee [called for](#) a full review of the state's funding formula for public education to focus on a student investment strategy that emphasizes all students rather than systems, empowers parents to engage in their child's education and outcomes, ensures all students are prepared for postsecondary success, and reflects Tennesseans' values.

"I am thankful for our state's strong leadership among policymakers in exploring a student-focused funding strategy to emphasize the needs of all Tennessee students over systems," **said Commissioner Penny Schwinn**. "We are grateful for this opportunity to have open conversations with all stakeholders connected to education in our state and welcome all Tennesseans to join the conversation."

The 12 members of the funding review central steering committee are:

- Tennessee Governor Bill Lee
- Commissioner Penny Schwinn, Tennessee Department of Education
- Commissioner Butch Eley, Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration
- Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson
- House Majority Leader William Lamberth

- Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile
- Senate Education Chairman Brian Kelsey
- House Education Administration Chairman Mark White
- House Education Instruction Chairlady Debra Moody
- House Education Administration K-12 Subcommittee Chairman Kirk Haston
- Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Chairman Bo Watson
- House Finance, Ways, and Means Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood

“It is critical that we are thoughtful, intentional, and focused on our students as we consider how to best invest in education,” said **Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson**. “These critical decisions call for Tennesseans across the state to get involved and have their voice heard. These committees are an important part of this initiative, and I am excited to learn from their work.”

“Investing in public education excellence builds thriving communities, a prosperous economy and a successful workforce,” said **House Majority Leader William Lamberth**. “These committees will provide a platform for all Tennesseans to engage and make their voices heard on this significant investment. I am eager to learn more from those who know our education system the best: parents, students, teachers, local leaders, and community advocates.”

“I am eager to join with leaders, educators, parents, and students from across the state to explore strategies for increasing transparency and our focus on individual students in our education funding strategies,” said **Senate Education Chairman Brian Kelsey**. “This is an important conversation for our state, and I want to encourage all Tennesseans to get involved and make their voice heard.”

“The work of examining our state’s education funding strategy is a thing of great importance that requires the involvement of parents, educators, and leaders from across the state,” said **House Education Administration Chairman Mark White**. “I believe that the work of these committees will greatly inform our efforts in the Tennessee General Assembly, and I am excited to partner with my fellow Tennesseans in this critical conversation.”

“State education funding is complex and challenging. We need to examine all the possibilities, look at ways in which we can improve the use of taxpayer dollars, involve and listen to stakeholders, and strengthen our funding mechanism statewide so that tax dollars reach the classroom,” said **House Education Instruction Chairlady Debra Moody**. “I look forward to hearing the discussion, understanding that difficult conversations come with divergent opinions. In the end, we must get education funding right.”

“Our schools and districts vary greatly across the state, just like each student’s unique talents and needs,” said **House Education K-12 Subcommittee Chairman Kirk Haston**. “The work of the committees announced today will encompass the diversity of this great state and the communities that come together in support of our students. As we think about new ways to invest in our students, I am excited for our neighbors, educators, students, families, and leaders to have their voice heard on this important issue.”

“This conversation is timely as we think about how to innovate on behalf of our students,” said **Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Chairman Bo Watson**. “Everything we do in education and workforce development starts with the investments that we make in our students. I am excited for the work of the steering committee and subcommittees to commence, and I am excited for Tennesseans across the state to be involved in this important work.”

“Our future workforce starts with our investment in today’s students. I am eager to join with Tennesseans from across the state as we consider funding strategies that will drive academic success for all Tennessee students,” said **House Finance, Ways, and Means Chairlady Patsy Hazlewood**.

The state’s engagement includes the central steering committee and 18 subcommittees, in addition to a committee of national experts, regional meetings of county commissioners and school board members, public engagement representatives, and an opportunity for public comment through a formal survey later in the fall. Each of the 18 subcommittees, composed of 8-10 members, will be led by a chair who is tasked with capturing ideas and feedback based in the unique perspective of the stakeholder group or respective topic area they serve. Each chair is a trusted advocate to responsibly collect and share feedback and suggestions for a student-based funding approach.

Over the next three months, the subcommittees will meet twice a month, either in person or virtually. The central steering committee will convene monthly and review finalized feedback provided by the subcommittees. All associated committee meeting materials, including recordings, transcripts, and minutes, will be posted [here](#). Subcommittee members will be released in the coming days.

Nearly 1,000 Tennesseans have already submitted their interest in engaging in discussions and receiving updates related to a student-centered investment strategy. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to submit their interest via [this form](#).

Visit this webpage for more information and learn how to get involved: <https://www.tn.gov/education/tnedufunding>.

For Tennessee Department of Education media inquiries, contact [REDACTED].

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