

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

Fiscal Impact Ad-Hoc Committee

DSEA Newark Offices

Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2017

Dr. Joe Pika, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08am.

J. Pika thanked the committee members for their commitment and asked committee members to introduce themselves since there were some new faces at the meeting.

Meeting Overview

J. Pika mentioned that the goal of the meeting was to identify where there are still issues in the report to be resolved and where there are gaps in the data that also need to be resolved.

J. Pika asked the group if they approved of the minutes from the last committee meeting. There were no objections or issues raised with the minutes.

J. Pika asked Chris Kelly to go over the meeting agenda with the committee members. C. Kelly proceeded to provide updates for the working groups.

Working Group Updates

Capital Working Group

C. Kelly said the facilities assessment is in good shape. He asked the group if they had any questions or concerns about the assessment. There were none.

Federal Working Group

C. Kelly referenced page 12 of the report when he discussed updates from the federal working group. He mentioned the federal grants that would be impacted by redistricting and noted there were summaries of each grant in the report.

Karen Field Rogers said the group needs to make sure to note in the report how the federal grants would be impacted.

Robert Silber said the report should include footnotes on the transition periods.

C. Kelly asked the group if they had any comments or concerns. There were none. He transitioned the discussion to the state working group update.

State Working Group

C. Kelly asked K. Field Rogers if driver's education teachers would be impacted by the redistricting and K. Field Rogers said yes.

R. Silber reiterated the importance of understanding the monetary value of state funds and units.

C. Kelly asked the group if there were any other items to be discussed. There were none raised.

C. Kelly transitioned the discussion to the local working group update.

Local Working Group

C. Kelly initiated the discussion about the local working group when he reviewed new data with the group.

R. Silber mentioned putting the same kind of footnote that was mentioned for federal funds into the report for local data.

K. Field Rogers said she needs to check and review how the students who have “choiced” out of RCCSD and into charter schools were counted in the RCCSD data.

Margie Lopez-Waite said that the group cannot predict what students would or would not choice out of RCCSD, so therefore the fiscal impact report data needs to be based on the students who currently have not “choiced” out of and remain in RCCSD or Christina School District (CSD).

John Marinucci said the group should include the possible impacts of students “choicing out” along with other key assumptions made in the report.

C. Kelly said the plan for this report is to make a list of all the assumptions to be included. He mentioned that a list of the impacts of choice will be added as well.

C. Kelly asked the group if there were any other points to bring up.

K. Field Rogers reiterated that she is going to look into the local funding and student data to ensure that all the numbers add up before the next committee meeting.

C. Kelly transitioned the discussion to the report review.

Report Review

C. Kelly suggested that the group should add a key for all the tax rates mentioned in the report to detail who is responsible for setting the rate.

Additional Local Revenue

C. Kelly asked the group to clarify that the tax pool rate is the money that school districts put into it.

J. Pika transitioned the discussion to local per pupil expenditures in the Christina School District.

Local per Pupil Expenditures in the Christina School District

C. Kelly said the local per pupil expenditures are based on the number of students in the CSD who live in the City of Wilmington, as of September 30th, 2016.

C. Kelly reviewed the September 30th student unit count in the report with the committee members.

R. Silber said the purpose of the September 30th unit count is to identify the number of students in the district and their financial needs.

J. Floore raised a concern about the accuracy of the unit count data.

J. Pika asked R. Silber if he has recent data to look at to verify the unit count data.

R. Silber said he will have the student numbers re-run and looked at.

Local per Pupil Expenditures in the Red Clay Consolidated School District

C. Kelly reviewed the local per pupil expenditures for RCCSD students with the group.

C. Kelly and J. Floore exchanged comments about the student expenditure data regarding how to calculate if additional funding is needed to support students transitioning from CSD to RCCSD.

J. Pika asked the group if there are any concerns to be shared.

J. Floore raised a point about how in the last three years, local per pupil expenditures in CSD have changed due to redistricting.

Match Tax

C. Kelly transitioned the conversation to the match tax.

J. Floore and R. Silber will work on determining redistricting's impact on the match tax.

Tuition Tax

C. Kelly transitioned the discussion to the tuition tax.

J. Marinucci said that the tuition expenses charged to tuition tax revenues can change drastically each year.

Capital Funding

C. Kelly transitioned the conversation to capital funding.

Ted Ammann said that the group needs to make sure they are not double-counting in the report, specifically with regards to school supplies, materials, and technology.

Discussion was had regarding debt service payments.

J. Pika asked the group if there were any final questions or concerns. None were raised.

J. Pika ended the meeting at 10:59am.