

**Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
Settlement Work Group
November 22, 2021 5:00–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

I. Welcome

Aaron Bass, Co-Chair of the Settlement Work Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the meeting agenda.

Tika Hartsock, Work Group Member, moved to approve the September minutes. Sarah Stowens, Work Group Member, seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Sarah Stowens moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair, seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Ombudsperson Update – Shannon Griffin

Shannon Griffin, Work Group Member, provided an update on the plan to put forward a resolution to make the Ombudsperson a permanent office. She provided a draft resolution providing the framework, governance structure, and scope of the new office, as well as research about the best practices around the country. The group will discuss the resolution at the next meeting.

III. Independent Funding Assessment

Aaron shared an update on the Independent Funding Assessment RFP. The Department of Education published a draft scope of work for the assessment that is open ended and uses the language of the settlement. The draft scope of work is open for public comment until December 10, 2021.

Chuck reviewed five considerations for the assessment that the group broadly agreed upon at the previous meeting. These considerations would be put forward as the group's recommendations for the Consortium to put forward.

Gary Henry, Work Group Member, said that he does not expect a bidder to detail specific actions for the state to take with the results of the assessment. Their focus should be on providing legislators with the information rather than making recommendations. Additionally, he thinks the assessment should focus on what level of per-pupil funding is needed to achieve equitable outcomes, rather than an adequacy study. He also provided the group with a list of potential draft research questions for the group to consider.

Laurisa Schutt, Work Group Member, asked if the study precludes the legislature from making changes to the system while it is going on. Aaron said that it does not; the legislature can make changes at any time, but likely will not until the assessment has concluded.

Kristin Dwyer, Work Group Member, said that the language of the research questions and scope of work should leave all options on the table and not imply that the weighted-student funding model is being endorsed or expected. Shannon agreed. Sarah said her understanding of Gary's research questions is that they are meant to explore the advantages and disadvantages of the current system and potential changes to the system. Aaron said that the language could be broadened. Gary said that the weighted-student funding model should still be considered since it is the dominant system in the country. Laurisa said that she shares Kristin's concern but also agrees with Gary that being specific in the scope of work is necessary to get specific information about the weighted funding model.

The group agreed to broaden the language so that weighted-funding is not implied to be the expected outcome, but also recommend that the weighted-student funding model be specifically considered in the assessment.

Sarah asked if the lawsuit or settlement gives a specific definition for equity. Gary said that achieving equity is usually defined as having adequate outcomes for students regardless of their race or status as a disadvantaged student. He said that the bidder could be asked to define equity for the purposes of the study.

Regarding questions about the shared local and state funding responsibility, Laurisa said that the researchers should be asked to empirically determine how much responsibility each body needs to bear, instead of asking how much they "should" bear. Sarah said that a question should be included to gather information about how other states administer the shared local and state responsibility.

Chuck said that there needs to be consideration of the capital funding system in addition to the operating funding system.

Monique Martin said that in defining equity, the need for academic rigor should be included. In addition, the word "justice" should be included to imply the need for a system where there is full and equal participation of all groups and all members feel psychologically and physically safe and secure.

Gary presented recommended language for what "independent" should be defined as for the study. The group accepted this language.

Tika moved for the group to submit a memo with the ten research questions and the independence statement to the full Consortium. Shannon seconded. **The recommendations will be submitted to the Consortium.**

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The Settlement Work Group will be meeting on January 24, at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Work Group Members

Aaron Bass, Co-Chair
Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair
Kristin Dwyer
Shannon Griffin
Tika Hartsock
Gary Henry
Monique Martin
Laurisa Schutt
Sarah Stowens

Members of the Public

Susan Bunting, DE Secretary of Education
Matt Denn, Co-chair Redding Consortium
Brendan Laux
Kecia Nesmith
Haley Qaissaunee
Jon Sheehan
Kelly Sherretz