

Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence

Meeting #3

August 25, 2005, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
John Stanford Center Auditorium

Welcome

The committee is in the data gathering stage. People have opened their minds and are staying focused and excited.

Overview of State Funding System

Since the academic plan presentation was not ready, the committee heard a presentation on the State funding system. Presenting the information was Harvey Erickson, Assistant Superintendent over the Financial Services section of the Puget Sound Educational Service District. Mr. Erickson's PowerPoint presentation is attached. Since the Doran school funding decisions of 1977 and 1983, modification upon modification has been made to state funding formulas. The result is a very complex funding system because everything is run through different formulas. It is not a system which the taxpayer can easily understand.

Unfunded staff was a focus issue of the committee. Seattle has about 40% of its staff who are not funded through the State formula (instead they are paid by the levy, grants, etc.) The committee would like to see a matrix of large school districts' numbers on their staff who are unfunded through the State formula.

Mr. Erickson highly recommended reading the report, "Ample School Funding Project," endorsed by WASA (Washington Association of School Administrators). The Ample School Funding Project is designed to document the cost of providing to school districts the ample resources they will need to bring all students to state mandated standards by 2008. The goal of the project is to give policy makers, educators, budget analysts, and taxpayers a solid foundation of documented facts and figures that will be needed to establish sustainable, equitable and ample resources for our public schools as required by Washington State's Constitution and the 1977 and 1983 Doran school funding decisions. <http://www.wasa-oly.org/asfp.htm>

Subcommittee Report - Academic

The subcommittee reported on progress to date. Their notes are attached. The group stressed that in the end, the vision must mesh between the State, Superintendent, and Community.

Subcommittee Report – Communications

The subcommittee reported on progress to date. Their notes are attached.

Subcommittee Report – Finance

This subcommittee is doing deep diving now. They are looking at generating revenue or cutting costs. Ideas are being collected.

Adjournment

The committee was encouraged to write down any recommendations as they think of them to share with the group later since the committee is not ready for recommendations now.