

## Weighted Staffing Standards (WSS)/ School Funding Workgroup -- Meeting Notes

### 2021-22 School Year

Meeting Date: January 7, 2021 11:00 – 1:00 PM

Meeting via “Teams”

Attendees: JoLynn Berge, Linda Sebring, Shannon Conner, Erika Ayers, Jeff Clark, Clover Codd, Laura Davis Brown, Rina Geoghagan, Shelly Hurley, Stanley Jaskot, Debbie Nelson, Rainey Hartford Swan, Sheila Redick, Patricia Sander, Michael Stone, Farah Thaxton, Keven Wynkoop

- (1) **Survey results:** Conversations with building leaders, questions or feedback opened the discussion about the recent budget presentation.
  - Concern raised about budget reduction strategies and requested better communication going forward in what is sent out. Assistant Principals (AP) don't feel valued by their historical value.
  - Questions are AP possible cuts, raising class size vs. possible cut and how to manage it through attrition. A survey about curriculum adoption was sent.
  - It was suggested that best practices modeling urban districts should be looked at as well as strategic plans of bigger district models. Happy to see English Language Arts middle school adoption listed as a potential budget reduction. One student reduction will continue to reduce middle school funding's.
  - Question for those that are at contractual size; does that mean it becomes 29:1 or 28:1. 30:1 for grades six through twelve and 28:1 for grades four and five?
  - Request that all school level items that are not contractually mandated should be listed including principals.
- (2) Budget work session for 1.7.2021 presentation reviewed. Potential two-year options, including solutions, funds available FTE and other ideas.

Question of why we paid an outside contractor for Participatory Budgeting facilitation. JoLynn answered that he is qualified for these conversations and he is doing previous work. Restorative justice and equity departments are still growing.

Reviewed 2021-22 School level recommendation. Things to reduce and things to review with board directors. Enrollment and projection data. Additional recommendations of COVID including social distancing and possible schedule changes.

Discussion on additional suggestions for the presentation.

District positions that should be reviewed to be fair as they are listed. Possibly go through the racial equity tool publicly is suggested.

Discussion was held regarding if cutting curriculum should be considered before cuts to school staffing.

Request to mention at the budget work session that middle schools continue to receive the lowest school funding from the school formula on a per student basis.

When asked in the PASS survey, the majority of members wanted to not eliminate the strategic plan due to budget cuts, however, further discussion occurred that the answer related to all or nothing with the plan and there should be more discussion about sections of the plan that may not have as much support or be perceived as being impactful for students.

Additional discussion on McCleary shortfalls in compensation and staffing allocations.

After the work session directors will discuss more, and at the January 20<sup>th</sup> work session they will be asked to make a decision so that allocations to schools can be distributed at the end of February as currently planned.

JoLynn will organize a February PASS meeting.