

MINUTES OF THE SENATE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FINANCE
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Molly Baumgardner at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Amy Robinson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Eddie Penner, Legislative Research Department
J.G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
John Hess, Legislative Research Department
Lauren Mendoza, Legislative Research Department
Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jeff King, Senate Attorney, State of Kansas Legislature
Curt Tideman, House Attorney, State of Kansas Legislature

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

House Chairman Fred Patton called the meeting to order, noting this was a joint meeting of the House K-12 Education Budget Committee and the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance. He detailed how the meeting would proceed and reminded the Committees there would be another Joint meeting on the following Monday.

Curt Tideman, House Attorney, and Jeff King, Senate Attorney, presented an overview of the study by Dr. Lori Taylor. ([Attachment 1](#))

Curt Tideman discussed the cost study with the Committee. He stated that his goals are to help them put context to the report and to help them formulate questions for the authors for the Monday meeting. He discussed the weighting factors. Mr. Tideman stated Mr. King would be going over overall funding levels and application.

Mr. Tideman noted that the report does not separate the issues of adequacy and equity, and he stated equity is really only addressed as part of the weighting factors discussion. He also noted that on page 72 there is a suggestion to the legislature that perhaps the formula can be streamlined in some way. Mr. Tideman stated he spoke with Dr. Taylor and it is not necessarily a recommendation that you change

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

anything in particular but that there are probably ways to articulate an adequate formula with fewer factors and in a more simplistic manor. Mr. Tideman clarified a few other points before proceeding.

Mr. Tideman discussed page 7 of the report. He noted that the individual districts are addressed in appendix D and discussed the three weighing factors as outlined in the report.

Mr. King discussed the overall funding levels in detail. He went through appendix E and some of the weighting to show how the combination of those equals an overall recommended dollar amounts for each district and how those are added to aggregate the various overall recommendations that are set forth by the cost study.

Mr. King asked the Committee to look at the Technical Appendix E: School District Cost Estimates and Weights, on page 117 of the report. This section shows the findings discussed in chapter 5 of the report and lists each school district in Kansas and the associated estimated base cost per pupil, gap closure per pupil cost, and associated index values for regional cost variation, overall size, and student demographic composition. These tables would apply for the latest year of financial data available, which was the 2016-17 school year. He discussed this section in detail.

Mr. King discussed the maintenance level and page 65 where this is supplied. Mr. King discussed the graduation rates in detail. He noted that this report includes a substantial increase in graduation rates and that the highest graduation rates in the country are at about 91%.

Mr. King discussed in detail scenario A and B as outlined in the report, including calculations to get to the percentages listed.

Mr. King referenced page 69 where you have the overall calculations. He discussed the paragraph "Based on data provided for this study, Kansas spent approximately \$4.652 billion on its education system in the 2016-17 fiscal year serving 489,795 students (based upon headcount enrollment) or \$9,313 in actual expenditures per student. The total spending figure was calculated according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria detailed in Appendix D. Of those students, the table below offers some descriptive statistics on the proportion of those students in various need categories." Mr. King noted that appendix D should actually say C.

Mr. King discussed in detail each of the Findings #6-10 that starts on page 71.

Chairperson Fred Patton opened the meeting up for questions.

Senator Hensley asked for clarification on Findings #6, page 70, where the table referenced is. Mr. King responded that he looked for the table as well, and could not find it. Dr. Lori Taylor could respond next Monday when she is here.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

Senator Bollier asked with the cost study computed for K-6 is that an implication that we change our formula from one size fits all or to segregate it out. Curt Tideman responded that his sense is that specific of a recommendation will not be forthcoming.

Representative Trimmer asked about the inaccuracies, noting there are several, in reference to the regional index and base if would those be different if they are based on numbers that are incorrect and does this effect the whole model. Mr. King responded that the numbers for individual districts are correct that lead to a correct calculation. He noted that the district names don't always match the specific numbers. He stated this would be corrected and provided. Representative Trimmer commented that it could be understandable that they may have some doubt if the names and numbers are incorrect.

Senator Pettey followed up from Representative Trimmer's comments, and she noted the errors and asked about any other errors before they read it over the weekend. Mr. Tideman stated he would not be comfortable stating there are no other errors.

Representative Rooker asked clarifying questions about benchmarks used. Mr. King responded and clarified that the states ESSA plan was considered, but how they are different he stated they should ask Dr. Taylor on Monday. Representative Rooker asked if they have legal guidance how they should process this and factor this into their work. Mr. Tideman responded that between now and Monday they have more data and additional perspectives, but he will not tell anyone how to use that information. He noted that he believes it expands the number of choices the legislators have, and he thinks there are a number of different ways this report can be used.

Chair Baumgardner asked if they spent any time reviewing appendix B on teacher salary. Mr. King responded, no, they had not. She stated it was on page 90 and noted it was interesting how it was broken down. Chairperson Baumgardner asked that if they talk to Dr. Taylor to let her know they would like more information on this.

Representative Lusk asked clarifying questions on what the Court will be looking at. Mr. King responded that they would look at a number of factors. He noted when it gets to how the court will view this rationale he would like to hear more from Dr. Taylor and Mr. Willis.

Senator Bollier asked about the total amount with different scenarios, is there any guidance in the report for general funds verses federal funds. Mr. King responded in depth and noted that the courts are completely agnostic of sources of funding.

Representative Schwab asked for clarification of when they explained the way that Dr. Taylor did the base, he asked why the regional economy index are not included in the base. Mr. Tideman responded that the base fluctuates only based upon cost contributed to distribution of students between

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

elementary, middle, and high school. He stated there is a cost difference between school districts that run different grades, and that is the only difference that he understands it. Representative Schwab also stated that the enrollment numbers do not look correct. Mr. King responded that his understanding was that the numbers and calculations add up to everything.

Representative Helgerson referenced table 16, page 69, on current level of spending, and asked for clarification. Mr. Tideman clarified the information.

Senator Denning asked for clarification on their understanding of the cost function analysis. Mr. King responded, and he referred to page 61-62 that discuss a variety of factors. Mr. King responded that he knew the state standards were considered, and other external factors were considered. Mr. King noted that how those factors were amalgamated to get the recommendations of the various sources he did not know. Senator Denning also discussed if they are not sure if the Supreme Court considers local option budget money, and if the court does not recommend this would we have to come up with an additional million to satisfy the report. Mr. King responded that his understanding is that Dr. Taylor would say a dollar is a dollar is a dollar. Discussion ensued on what would count in the courts. Mr. King referred to page 69-70, and pointed out there are three different costs based on three different sets of standards.

Representative Crum asked for clarification about page 7-8 in reference to spending differences, and noted that the paragraphs under difference in needs he does not see where vocational students are included. He asked what she is suggesting. Mr. Tideman discussed this briefly, and noted that it could be under student needs or special education and should be asked of Dr. Taylor on Monday.

Representative Schwab questioned that if you were to aggregate the total it is correct, but because the numbers aren't right, the base for one school could actually be the base for a different school. Mr. King responded that it entirely depends if the lines are just not matched up correctly. Mr. King reminded the committee they will be provided the correct numbers. A discussion ensued on the correct numbers.

Representative Helgerson asked for clarification on the graduation rates and calculations. Mr. King responded.

Representative Winn stated as a result of this conversation she wanted to know what was correct in the study. She asked as a larger question, how are they supposed to believe the second set is correct, and how do they suggest to proceed. Mr. King responded that the total enrollment numbers can be verified, however, the numbers that Dr. Taylor produces would have to be verified through her. Senator McGinn commented that when looking at specific schools the numbers are incorrect.

On the following Saturday a corrected version of the study was presented to the Committee, including a separate corrected version of Technical Appendix D: School District Characteristics. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 16, 2018, in room 346-S of the Capitol.

With no further questions, Chairperson Patton adjourned the meeting.