

MINUTES
Basic Education Program (BEP) Review Committee
October 21, 2015

Members Present: Lyle Ailshie, Rep. Harry Brooks, Melissa Brown (for Lynnissee Roehrich-Patrick) David Connor, Vincent Harvell, Chris Henson, Sara Heyburn, Lynn Johnson (for Dorsey Hopson), Karen King, Wayne Miller, Mitchell Moore, Rick Nicholson, Don Odom, Fielding Rolston, Mary Ann Sparks, Greg Turner (for Larry Martin) Ben Torres, Linda Wesson (for Justin Wilson), and Hunter Zanardi.

Others Present: Kathleen Airhart, Vicki Burger, Brad Davis, Maryanne Dirski, Laura Encalade, Sylvia Flowers, Joey Hassell, Amy Owens, and Nakia Towns

Dr. Sara Heyburn welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Rick Nicholson inquired about fiscal capacity. Who changed it? Nobody in the Department of Education knew. He might have been referring to the BEP Task Force Report.

Rep. Harry Brooks discussed funding per student. More money is needed – need recurring money. We need to know who the winners and losers are.

Dr. Sara Heyburn doesn't know what the recommendations will be. Need to talk to Stephen Smith regarding this.

Dr. Lyle Ailshie talked about salary disparity. Need information like last year. Salary only vs. salary and insurance. Brad Davis will get this information to Sara and she can get to the Committee members. Brad may not be able to get this information in time for the 2015 BEP Review Committee Report.

Dr. Nakia Towns did a presentation on Online Readiness and Online Assessment. Students need technology. We have been phasing in online assessment the last few years. The ELA, Math, and Social Studies Assessments are coming along. Almost all systems – 99% - are ready for online assessment. There have been no waivers for paper assessment. Network readiness is ½ of the equation and device readiness is the other ½. Currently striving for one computer per six students. One computer to three students is the goal and some schools are doing this. We are at about 90% device readiness.

Rep. Brooks stated that we need money or computers for the LEAs. We do need to look at money for technology.

Ms. Karen King wanted to know what the average cost per student would be for computers. Dr. Towns said that it could be anywhere from \$225 per student per year to lease a computer or anywhere from \$200-\$1500 to buy a computer per student. It was discussed that technology is more an operational cost like lights, water, etc.

Mr. Chris Henson – There is \$20 million for technology and that is the same as it has been since the 90s.

Ms. Melissa Brown wanted to know within a district are all schools at same readiness level. Dr. Towns said no.

Ms. Sylvia Flowers made a presentation on Differentiated Pay Plan Summary. Educator support – increase salary flexibility. 2013 Differentiated Pay Plan – teacher performance, teachers in high need schools or subjects. The Department of Education talked to stakeholders. All plans were submitted by June 30, 2015.

Dr. Sara Heyburn asked Dr. Ailshie to speak on what Kingsport did. The old scale front loaded experience – didn't do enough – they also increased starting pay by \$1,250. They now max out at about \$70,250. They removed the need for a Masters. There was almost no pushback from teachers since the teachers were really involved. The new system seems to be working. The State needs to continue to fund.

Dr. Heyburn also asked Ms. Mary Ann Sparks to speak on this matter. Their system went to performance. The teachers are doing well with the plan – so it's going well. Teachers like it because they are being rewarded for effectiveness.

Mr. Fielding Rolston stated that the systems need to share more of what they are doing. We need to continue to put more money in salary.

Mr. Chris Henson said Metro Nashville didn't have enough money; had to put this on hold – hope to do it at a later time.

Ms. Flowers said that some systems give additional pay for additional duties or hard to staff schools or subjects. Dr. Heyburn wanted to know why districts were not taking advantage of the flexibility. Ms. Flowers said it's easy to do what has always been done.

Mr. Joey Hassell and Ms. Amy Owens did a presentation on Special Education Funding in the BEP. There are ten different options. Most students fall under Option 2 or 3. There are an increasing number of students being placed in Options 3, 4, and 5.

Rep. Brooks wanted to know if Option 9 was the most expensive. It is funded outside the BEP. The state funds 100% to state schools, such as School for the Blind and School for the Deaf. He wanted to know if the LEAs put any money in Option 9? The LEAs are reimbursed by the state.

Option 10 is where the teacher goes to the child. Rep. Brooks thinks online would be cheaper. Not sure if we do any online for Option 10. Mr. Hassell will check to see if any systems are doing online school for Option 10.

Mr. Hassell stated that some students are put in more restrictive options because they get more money for that child. Dr. Heyburn would like to hear from district folks on this. Mr. Don Odom said the RTI model used a quicker universal screener. Ms. Karen King stated that we need to look at the cost carefully. Mr. Hassell stated that things have changed since 1992. The majority of children can succeed with proper support.

Ms. Kathleen Airhart did a presentation on TN At Risk Definition. Areas mentioned in TN Code. About 50% participating but probably about 70% could participate in free/reduced lunch. Community Eligibility Programs and non-Community Eligibility Programs were discussed. Ms. Karen King wanted to know if the Department used real numbers. They used last year's numbers because sometimes parents don't turn in the household survey form.

Dr. Heyburn thanked the presenters. She restated what she gathered as the four Improvement areas as:

Improvement 1 – 12 month insurance

Improvement 2 – Remove the early graduation penalty

Improvement 3 – Improving teacher compensation

Improvement 4 – Technology

The members agreed on these priorities.

Technology has not changed since 1992. \$20 million. We need to fund at a higher level. We need dollar amount for the report.

Mr. Nicholson wanted to know what the \$20 million was based on. Rep. Brooks thinks we need to plug in an additional \$10 million for technology if nothing else.

Dr. Heyburn stated that the special education funding formula hasn't been changed since 1992. We probably will try to do next year.

Ms. Melissa Brown asked about Improvement 1 and 2. Does that include LEA money? This is just increase to state. Ms. Maryanne Dirski stated there would be little impact to the districts.

Dr. Heyburn stated that the BEP Report is due November 1. This group will have a conference call meeting on October 28 from 8:30 to 9:30.

Dr. Heyburn adjourned the meeting.