

Education Cost Sharing Task Force
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 19, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

Co-Chair Barnes announced the agenda: review and adopt the interim report the task force had been working on.

Co-Chair Stillman briefly summarized the work of the task force so far and opened discussion on the interim report and whether or not the results were satisfactory to the task force's members.

Ted Sergi suggested moving the recommendation of student performance further up on the list in the interim report, as it was the primary goal of any education reform.

Co-Chair Stillman remarked that the numbering in the report wasn't necessarily a ranking of the recommendations.

Dudley Williams agreed with Sergi and added that he would like to include an opening statement in the report that specifically mentioned closing the achievement gap as a primary goal of the task force's recommended measures.

The task force agreed on adding the statement to the introduction.

Mark Benigni explained that before he agreed to a general statement about state funding for all Choice Program schools, he needed to know which schools exactly fell under that category.

Senator Toni Harp pointed out that a definition of the Choice Program and its schools was included in the report already.

Benigni remarked that the report was not entirely clear on whether the Vo-Tech schools were included under the Choice Programs.

Co-Chair Barnes explained that the language in the interim report was intentionally vague to state the task force's purpose of not excluding any school from their efforts to increase funding.

Elsa Nuñez expressed her wish to add a suggestion on collecting additional data into the report.

Co-Chair Barnes and Harp suggested small alterations regarding the language of the report and were met with agreement from the other members of the task force.

At the request of the task force Chairpersons Stillman and Barnes recapped the changes to the interim report that were discussed and agreed on in the meeting so far.

The task force then voted on passing the interim report as it stood on to the Governor and legislature. The vote was unanimous in favor of passing on the report.

Co-Chair Stillman recounted the dates of the future meetings and concluded the agenda for the meeting.

Len Miller suggested having smaller groups of staff research some of the more complex issues in the interim report and then report back to the task force.

Co-Chair Stillman supported the suggestion to work in smaller groups to widen an understanding for the issues being discussed in the task force's meetings.

Harp voiced her concern that the task force's work so far had been focused on the fiscal aspect very heavily and pointed out that despite increased funding over the years some of the problems in the Connecticut school system had gotten worse, not better.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.