

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FUNDING
FORMULA AND DISTRIBUTION WORK GROUP
FEBRUARY 21, 2020
10:30 A.M.**

Meeting Location:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE WORK GROUP MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

In Carson City

Dr. David Jensen

In Las Vegas

Guy Hobbs

Paul Johnson

Mark Mathers

Punam Mathur

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

In Las Vegas

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Heidi Haartz, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Support Services

Jessica Todtman, Chief Strategy Officer

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT

Greg Ott, Chief Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS PRESENT

Amanda Brown, APA Consulting

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

In Las Vegas

Dr. R Karlene McCormick-Lee

Meredith Freeman, HOPE for Nevada

1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 11:18 A.M. by Member Paul Johnson, who served as Work Group Lead at Member David Jensen’s request. Quorum was established.

2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No public comment.

3: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Member Punam Mathur moved to approve the December 19, 2019, December 20, 2019, and January 10, 2020 Formula and Distribution Work Group meeting minutes. Member Guy Hobbs seconded. Motion passed.

4: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMPARABLE WAGE INDEX (CWI) AND OTHER COST ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

Amanda Brown, APA Consulting, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the [Regional Cost Adjustment](#).

Member Hobbs asked Ms. Brown to contrast the recommendations made during this presentation with the recommendations made in January, and why she would support the recommendations made today.

Ms. Brown noted that they were similar, and the changes largely impacted two districts. The recommendations made in January would have increased Washoe County and Clark County School Districts while creating a lower number in rural counties. The current recommendation considers the specific elements of a given county budget.

Member Jensen inquired about the adaptability of the recommended system. Ms. Brown noted that it was easily updated, as the cost of living component and the CWI were commonly updated data sources. Member Jensen inquired about the regional cost adjustment (RCA) comparison chart; Ms. Brown noted that the current chart reflected all industries and degree levels.

Due to technical difficulties, the Work Group took a short convenience break

5: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NECESSARILY SMALL SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT

Amanda Brown, APA Consulting, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the [Necessarily Small School Adjustment](#).

Member Johnson asked about the plan to address the fluctuation of student populations which qualify schools for the adjustment. Ms. Brown noted that they were using a smooth analysis and reviewing by averages over a number of years may reduce those fluctuations in eligibility. Member Johnson further asked if geographically isolated schools should be designated as necessarily small schools; Ms. Brown noted that this was reasonable, provided the list was regularly updated.

6: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SMALL DISTRICT EQUITY ADJUSTMENT

Amanda Brown, APA Consulting, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the [Small District Equity Adjustment](#).

Member Johnson asked for clarification regarding density factors and small school adjustments, as the formula may not consider the costs of decentralized communities. Ms. Brown noted that the regional cost adjustment addressed some of the density factors, but it does not currently account for a large district with multiple small attendance areas; the district may dictate its own policy to address that circumstance.

7: UPDATE ON WORK PLAN FOR DETERMINING THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY DEDUCT FOR ITS ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FROM THE ADJUSTED BASE PER PUPIL FUNDING

Amanda Brown, APA Consulting, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the maximum amount of money that each school district may deduct for its [Administrative Expenses](#) from the adjusted base per-pupil funding.

Member Mark Mathers asked for clarification regarding the legislative intent or the portion of Senate Bill 543 which this presentation was addressing. Deputy Superintendent Heidi Haartz suggested that having an administrative cap in place would reinforce the goal that as much money as possible was being invested in programs, services, and education for children. Member Johnson noted that the intent of the item could be contemplated further in future meetings.

8: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Work Group noted the need for further discussion on the cost of Special Education and how it effects weights.

9: PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comment.

10: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:12 P.M