

Meeting Notes
LOCAL EFFORT ASSISTANCE TASK FORCE
Tuesday, August 20, 2002

Members Present

Glenn Anderson
Terry Bergeson
Mary Jo Durborow
Bill Fromhold, Co-Chair
Jerry Harding
Jim Kastama
Keith Lowry
Rosemary McAuliffe
Jim McIntire
Toby Nixon
Larry Sheahan, Co-Chair
Joseph Zarelli

Alternates Present

Sam Hunt
Mike Merlino (representing Richard Melching)
Neil Sullivan (representing Brian Benzel)
Ted Thomas (WSSDA alternate)

Staff Present

Ken Kanikeberg, OSPI
Bryon Moore, Senate Ways & Means
Bill Freund, Task Force Consultant

Others Present: Rick Peterson, Kelly Simpson, Barbara Mertens, Jack Daray, Mabel Edmonds, Leslie Goldstein, Kathleen Lawrence, Randy Parr, Mike Bigelow, Julie Salvi, Dan Steele, Carol Taylor Cann, Judy Hartmann.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., by Representative Fromhold, Task Force Co-Chair.

Meeting Notes. The July 16 meeting notes were approved as submitted.

Requests for Information. Representative Fromhold reviewed the status of requests for information from members during the last meeting. He noted that the information prepared by the consultant, to be presented later in the meeting, addressed many of these questions.

Co-Chairs common desire to focus the discussion. Representative Fromhold and Senator Sheahan spoke briefly of the need to narrow the discussion and to stay focused on the charge given to the task force. Senator McAuliffe commented that there appeared to be general agreement, given the questions and concerns expressed during LEA meetings, that the task force recommendations would be developed with the assumption that a full study of K-12 funding would be conducted.

Task Force Presentations. Bill Freund, consultant to the task force, reviewed the levy equalization formula; the levy base as a levy equalization factor; the assessed value as a levy equalization factor; attributes of levy equalization districts; levy equalization cost and components of change during the period 1995-2003; task force purposes under EHB 3011; and the statutory purpose of levy equalization.

Rick Peterson, of the House Office of Program Research, provided an overview of property tax valuation and equalization. His presentation included an explanation of assessed vs. market value; who determines value; the relationship between assessed value and market value; the process of equalizing property tax rates for differences in assessment levels; adjustments to school district value for differences in assessment levels; and the assessed value per student FTE.

During the course of the two presentations, a number of questions seeking clarification were asked of the staff and the consultant. These questions were addressed through further discussion and explanation of the materials.

Discussion: Next Steps

Representative Fromhold suggested discussion of two additional items before adjournment. First, he suggested that the Task Force consider as a whole all the issues raised, consider the findings and implications of the work provided by the staff and the consultant, and to be prepared to review possible recommendations or alternatives to current law as they pertain to the statutory charge to the Task Force.

Second, after all of the meetings and concerns surrounding the K-12 funding system, he thought the Task Force should consider making a recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature to establish a commission or task force to conduct a comprehensive review of school funding formulas.

After general discussion, there appeared to be consensus to recommend a funding study in the Task Force report. Staff was asked to develop broad study language for formal consideration at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date. After brief discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on September 25 in Olympia.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at Noon.