

Governor's Education Excellence Commission
October 8, 2019
Capitol Boardroom
9:00 AM to 10:30 PM

Commission Members in Attendance: Governor Gary R. Herbert, Lt. Governor Spencer Cox, Kimberlee Carlile, Peter Reichard, Bill Crim, Tracy Gruber, Acting Commissioner Jared Haines, Acting Commissioner Dave Woolstenhulme, Brenda Voisard, President Ruth Watkins, Rick Ainge, Nina Barnes, Heidi Mathews, Kristin Elinkowski, Laney Benedict, Rick Nielsen, Pat Jones, Tami Pyfer, Pam Perlich, Clay Christensen, Harris Simmons, Karen Peterson, Superintendent Syd Dickson (Angie Stallings attended in her place), Sen. Jani Iwamoto, Rep. Steve Waldrip, and Rep. Melissa Ballard.

Commission Members Excused: Rep. Stephanie Pitcher, Sen. Lyle Hillyard, Steven Moore, Clint Betts, Dixie Garrison, Alex Hume, Mark Huntsman, Sen. Ann Millner, Michael Johnson

Commission Members Absent: Kellie Mae

Pat Jones chaired the meeting.

Welcome – Governor Herbert

A. Approval of Minutes from August 7th Meeting

Peter Reichard made a motion to approve the minutes. Dave Woolstenhulme seconded the motion, all approved.

B. Envision Utah: A Vision for Teacher Excellence Follow-up report - Jason Brown

Jason Brown from Envision Utah followed up the presentation he made at August's meeting and presented the official Envision Utah Report "A Vision for Teacher Excellence." He discussed teacher compensation, best practices and ways it could work in Utah.

D. FY2020 Budget and Legislative Priorities – Commission Discussion - Tami Pyfer

Tami Pyfer proposed October 2019 Budget and Policy Recommendations to Governor Herbert.

Heidi motioned to add \$500-\$600 million per year with asterisk for Envision Utah recommendations. Sen. Iwamoto seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed and amended the statement with the following changes:

October 2019 Budget and Policy Recommendations to Governor Herbert

Enhancing Access and Equity throughout the Education System

The Education Excellence Commission encourages the Governor and Legislature to prioritize legislation and funding to enhance access and equity in the early grades through extended time (OEK) for Kindergarten children at risk of academic failure, and quality numeracy and literacy instruction in grades PreK-3. In addition, the Commission recommends improved access to post-secondary education through expanding the College Access Advisor program. Finally, as noted in the Education Roadmap, "the heart of the equity and excellence conversation is at the teacher

level,” requiring a stable workforce of high quality educators who receive adequate compensation and ongoing support throughout their careers.

This emphasis of enhancing access and equity includes the following strategies, which are described in the Education Roadmap.

- Expand access to optional extended-day kindergarten (OEK) to all Utah students at risk of academic failure. \$20M ongoing
- Improve the quality of instruction and support teachers in PreK-3 by providing ongoing, job-embedded coaching and support. 18M ongoing
- Expand the College Access Advisor program. \$3M ongoing
- Invest in educators and support compensation and other measures aimed at recruiting and retaining high-quality educators while increasing systemic accountability within the K-12 system as contained in “A Vision for Teacher Excellence”. \$577-677M ongoing

As noted in the Roadmap, funding for these strategies is not intended to replace items such as annual investments to accommodate new student growth (including capacity and capital investments in higher education), increases to the WPU to cover basic operational costs, funding for existing unfunded mandates.

The final proposed recommendations were unanimously approved through email following the meeting.

E. Discussion and Concluding Remarks – Governor Herbert

Governor Herbert thanked the Commission for their work, he recognized that while the state is doing well in regard to education, there are additional opportunities to pursue for continued improvement particularly with teacher compensation and preparedness.

The Commission adjourned.

Tentatively:

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
10:00 AM – 11:15 PM
Capitol Board Room