**SJR 4 – Education Funding Improvement Commission Meeting #2**

**December 9, 2015**

**Townsend Building, Cabinet Room, Dover**

**MINUTES**

**Member Attendees:**

Madeleine Bayard Representative Earl Jaques

Ray Jones Avery Jill Floore

Brian Maxwell Claudia Porretti

Lindsay O’Mara Ed Ratledge

Kevin Carson Darryl Scott

Heath Chasanov Rod Ward

Ashley Dalzell-Gray Kristin Dwyer

Mike Jackson Kim Wheatley for David Blowman

**Non-Member Attendees:**  **Members on Via Conference Line:**

Tina Shockley David Blowman

Bill Doolittle Mark Stellini

Wendy Strauss Sally Maldonado

Tanner Polce Barbara Rutt

Representative Ruth Briggs King

**Members Not In Attendance:**

Senator David Sokola

Senator Gary Simpson

Walter Gilefski

Vicki Gehrt

Robert Overmiller

The second meeting of the Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 4 Education Funding Improvement Commission was held on December 9, 2015 in the Townsend Building, Cabinet Room, Dover. Chairman of the Commission, Darryl Scott called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

Everyone introduced themselves, including those who were joining by phone. The Chair noted that if members are not present, they cannot be considered for the quorum and cannot vote on minutes or other matters.

There was one wording change to the minutes of the first meeting and one member was added to the attendee list. The minutes were reviewed by the group and a motion was made by Representative Earl Jaques to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ed Ratledge. The minutes will be posted on the website.

It was noted that the SJR 4 Education Funding Improvement Commission page was created and several items are posted. The group was advised on where to find it on the DOE website. Items will be added as we move forward with our meetings. It was also noted that there is an email address at the top of the webpage for anyone to send questions or comments to the committee.

The group reviewed the agenda for the meeting and talked about future meeting dates, topics and the overall timeline for the Commission. The Chair encouraged anyone with specific questions or comments for Meeting #3 to submit them to Donna Johnson, Tina Shockley or himself. Members are interested in knowing:

* the breadth of the committee’s review
* funding pre K to college education
* long-term education funding
* what is currently funded and how is it funded in Delaware
* equity of funding

A presentation was provided by Mike Griffith, who is a School Finance Consultant with the Education Commission of the States. His presentation is attached to these minutes. It gave general guidance on:

* the components of a high quality funding system
* looking at how the state currently funds schools
* why should the state change its funding formula
* how do other states fund schools
* what would it take to transition to a high quality school funding formula

Following the presentation there was discussion regarding the existing position allocation system used in Delaware, specifically how various districts handle funding. It was noted that larger districts have more funding flexibility, that there are many different funding systems available and that property reassessment is difficult from a political standpoint.

The Chair thanked Mr. Griffith for his presentation and encouraged anyone with questions to send them to Mr. Griffith or himself, or to bring any questions to the next meeting.

The Chairman Scott noted that the next meeting will be held either January 5, 2016 or January 7, 2016, and that it will likely be in New Castle County as we work to ensure the meetings are held throughout the state.

Chairman Scott then opened it up to public comment. There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved 01.07.16