

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS IX MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Board Conference Room**

Members: Suzanne Mulcahy (Chair), Audra Chang, Paul Daugherty, Brandon Gallagher, Jan Iwase, Elton Kinoshita, Roxane Martinez, Glen Miyasato, Cary Miyashiro, Sharlene Morimoto, Fred Murphy, Bruce Naguwa, Gail Nakaahiki, Chad Okamoto Mitch Otani, and Bill Taylor

Staff: Kimberly Chee, Brian Hallett, Ken Kuraya, Eric Nouchi and Wendy Sekiya

Topic	Who	Discussion
Opening – 9:00 a.m.	Suzanne Mulcahy	Welcomed Committee members. Informed the committee members that the work group (PIG) reports will need to be acted upon by the full Committee. Even though preliminary thoughts that the four work group topics will not be added to WSF, please still keep an open mind before finalizing decision. The Committee will also be discussing the possibility of funds for substitutes being added to WSF.
Review and approval of March 6, 2015 meeting minutes	Committee	Members reviewed minutes. Fred Murphy moved to approve minutes with corrections. Cary Miyashiro second. Approved unanimously
Public Testimony	Suzanne Mulcahy	Asked members to review the written testimony from Rick Paul that request adjustment to WSF formula to address small school complexes and factor in the range of service that the school must provide. After review, informed the Committee that a large portion of the WSF Reserve Fund has been awarded to Hana High the past two years. WSF Reserve Fund is through an application process, not a given.
	Kimberly Chee	Senate Resolution (SR) No. 48 asks the COW to consider the unique needs of remote schools.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Act 51 says to level the playing field for all schools.
	Fred Murphy	Base funding incentivize for small schools to occur. Combination school base funding could be adjusted to address the challenges of small combo schools. i.e. Combo middle/high school would receive both the base funding for a middle school and high school.
	Glen Miyasato	Informed the Committee that his school is a K-12 school and that it does cost more funds to run a combo school.
	Paul Daugherty	During BU05 negotiation, incentivizing teachers to work in hard to fill areas was an issue put on the table.
	Kimberly Chee	The Department does have a program that pays teacher bonuses for hard to fill areas.

Topic	Who	Discussion
	Bruce Naguwa	Expressed that he can see Hana having difficulties meeting high school requirements, but not elementary schools. i.e. Take a look at Makalapa with Radford High next door.
	Elton Kinoshita	Lanai has about 22 students per class in elementary, but high school has about 15 students per class – that is lower than Punahou. As principal, I constantly ask myself if Lanai needs to add staff to offer additional classes, but can't see justifying buying more positions.
	Mitch Otani	Has the Department discussed in the past the option of “unbuckling” (splitting into separate schools) the secondary and elementary schools combo?
	Gail Nakaahiki	An option would be to increase the base funding for combo schools but not to the point of total separate base amount for each level of schools.
	Fred Murphy	Request to see the data before supporting change in base funding.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	No decision will be made before the scenarios are run.
English Language Learners	Leila Hayashida	Presentation on ELL and posed two questions to the Committee: Should ELL have a transient weight? Should ELL be allocated as a categorical program again?
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Inquired if any Committee member was serving on the previous COW that moved ELL into WSF. Previously, schools were allocated positions specifically for ELL.
	Cary Miyashiro	Recalled that ELL had a reporting requirement, so the total funds for ELL were kept static.
	Sharlene Morimoto	Waimea Canyon Middle currently spends more funds for ELL than what is allocated through WSF.
	Gail Nakaahiki	On Kauai, based on ELL population size, schools are required to hire at least a .50 FTE position to address ELL
	Bill Taylor	Inquired if funds follow ELL students when they move school midyear.
	Kimberly Chee	Recalled that there is no definitive federal maintenance of effort for ELL, so the first COW added it to WSF
	Brandon Gallagher	If ELL is moved out of WSF, how much will that be per student?
	Leila Hayashida	There may be higher identification of ELL students if moved out of WSF.
Student Based Behavioral Health	Leila Hayashida	Concerned of the potential liability to the Department if SBBH funding was moved into WSF. Small school may not be able to afford SBBH personnel. Hawaii leads the nation in juvenile arrest rate. Parents of students receiving accommodations and/or modifications per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may refuse to take their child to services.

	Suzanne Mulcahy	Schools may want SBBH in WSF so they can have supervisory authority over SBBH personnel
	Leila Hayashida	SBBH may appear not to be busy during summer months, but these are human resource issues, not COW issue. SBBH personnel have direct access to support systems – such as psychologist, DES, etc. Regular counselors do not have access to these support staff.
	Cary Miyashiro	Inquired if SBBH program has a large number of vacancies.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Vacant SBBH position funds are converted to “B” funds for contract services. Contract services are more expensive than in house services.
	Fred Murphy	Experience difficulties sometimes for getting SBBH services due to personnel in “transit.”
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Windward district schools do not experience what Mililani schools are experiencing with SBBH staff availability.
Break 10:16 AM – 10:24 AM		
Substitutes	Ken Kuraya	Presented on the possibility of funding of substitutes be included into WSF. Total amount centrally paid for substitutes (teacher and classified staff) for FY12: \$34 million, FY13: \$36 million, FY14: \$38.5 million. Impact Aid funds are used for centrally paid substitute costs, however, expected total Impact Aid funds for FY15 is \$33 million and expected to decrease in the future. Schools also pay for non-central salary substitutes cost for about \$10.5 to \$11 million per year.
	Mitch Otani	Can federal survey cards have pre-printed information before sent home for signature? For the standard 4 questions if funds should be added to WSF – the answers are “No.”
	Ken Kuraya	Because previously used federal survey cards were rejected by the feds, the Department had to re-survey causing a major drop in responses. If substitute funding is placed into WSF, than there might be incentives for schools to reduce substitutes, but there are union issues that need to be considered.
	Paul Daugherty	Substitute expenditure is increasing, but Impact Aid funds are decreasing, than this will always be in the red.
	Jan Iwase	At Hale Kula, a lot of students left already when the 2 nd round of survey cards were sent home. Some military parents don’t want to fill out the survey cards because the money does not go directly to the school.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Impact Aid funds are reimbursement for state expenditures already spent to educate a federally connected student.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Does the Department conduct any public information campaign to complete the federal survey cards?
	Brian Hallett	There are efforts made to get the word out about the importance of the survey cards via a letter sent to parents, Department communication directly with military leadership,

		and Department participation with the Joint Ventures Education Forum (JVEF).
Athletics	Karen Iha and Lyndia Uchimura	Open to any questions about athletics.
	Paul Daugherty	Big Island schools seem to always be fundraising for transportation, any idea how additional funds can be allocated for transportation? Can funds be used to purchase vans to transport small athletic teams?
	Karen Iha	If the school has their own van, it is permissible to use athletic funds to maintain vans, but not to purchase.
	Mitch Otani	In the past, liability was cost prohibitive for schools to own their own vans.
	Gail Nakaahiki	In the athletic focus group report, there is mention of a tiered allocation method. Would the tiered allocation be based on division?
	Mitch Otani	Current allocation is based on number of teams at a school. D2 teams seem to have to travel more than D1 due to distance between schools.
	Karen Iha	One school could participate in D1 and D2 conference for different sports.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Page 10 of Athletic focus group report, recommends athletics director be pulled out of WSF, because small secondary school like Hana did not get enough funds for an Athletic Director.
	Paul Daugherty	How does Kauai handle support for private schools?
	Gail Nakaahiki	Kauai athletic association assists in transportation, but if a private school goes to a state tournament there is no support.
	Lyndia Uchimura	Request that athletic health care trainers funding be kept out of WSF. Small schools do not receive enough funds for supplies, and if the funds are placed in the weights, they will receive even less.
Lunch 11:49 AM – 12:33 PM		
School Food Service	Cary Miyashiro	If school food service goes into WSF, would this effect Title I.
	Glenna Owens	Free and reduced lunch data is collected by the state office. Title I eligibility is based on the same data, so it might affect Title I funding
	Brandon Gallagher	The \$15 million general fund amount the focus group is considering is only a small part of School Food Service \$108 million total budget. The general funds pay for School Food Service managers and elementary school cafeteria helpers, so it would be difficult to place into WSF and allocate via a formula.
	Mitch Otani	Can new cafeteria worker be made 10 month employees instead of 12 month employees?
	Jan Iwase	Is the mass kitchen idea still being pursued?

	Glenna Owens	This was an initiative from past budget restriction period. As cafeteria managers retire, a consult and confer process with the unions can be started to close a cooking café.
Student Transportation	James Kauhi and Bruce Hellerman	In the past, some counties would help out with bus cost, but slowly each county cut their support of student transportation. STSB section can start conversation with counties, but highly doubtful counties are willing to provide funding again. On the mainland, they are aware that municipalities have a one-time assessment fee, but not a reoccurring operational fee for student bus transportation.
	Fred Murphy	There is a bus hub across the street from Mililani High; could Mililani students receive bus passes like Honolulu schools?
	Jan Iwase	Has ridership decreased?
	James Kauhi	We are open to discuss Mililani High situation. Bus ridership has actually increased since 2012 due to re-establishment of routes.
	Mitch Otani	There are currently difficulties with chartering buses for field trips and sport teams.
	James Kauhi and Bruce Hellerman	With bus route efficiencies, there are fewer bus transportation companies. Student transportation main goal is to provide compulsory service for student to attend school.
	Paul Daugherty	What is the “Get on Board Initiative”? Why can’t students living within a mile of their school receive service?
	James Kauhi	Past contracts, the Department paid for bus routes, but now we pay for time blocks. Administrative rules allow students living within a mile of school to ride the bus if space is available.
	Fred Murphy	Why is special education bus service more expensive?
	James Kauhi	Special education buses have an adult supervisor on board and are door to door.
Utilities	Gilbert Chun	Currently working with HEI companies to install a power scope that warns schools if they are exceeding normal use in 15 minutes intervals. An agreement with KIUC still needs to be negotiated. Copies of electricity bills are being sent to each school now per Superintendent directive.
	Fred Murphy	How much is this new initiative costing the Department? This initiative does not provide any incentive for schools to save electricity. Feels this will put principals in the crosshair.
	Gilbert Chun	Not sure the cost of this new initiative.
	Brian Hallett	Using the Utilities budget to incentivize schools assumes the Legislature will let the Department keep energy efficiency savings, but recently the legislature has not let us keep the savings, in fact they have cut appropriation based on projected savings.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Request a spreadsheet to track usage.

	Gilbert Chun	The electricity bill provides all the information already and shows a usage graphically. Auxiliary Service Branch can send the spread sheets to CABMs.
	Sharlene Morimoto	Suggest implementing a conservation program.
	Paul Daugherty	What is the Ka Hei program? How will NextEra impact the Department?
	Gilbert Chun	The Ka Hei program is an electricity, water and gas conservation, efficiency, and education program. NextEra on the mainland tends to build solar farms versus allowing homeowners to build rooftop solar system.
	Jan Iwase	Expressed concerns that schools with new facilities and new programs like aquaponics use more electricity, so how are school supposed to save electricity in these situations.
Break 1:53 PM – 2:00 PM		
Budget Update	Brian Hallett	The Department has been notified by B&F that a 10% restriction on non-WSF discretionary funds will be implemented for FY16. This equates to \$26.9 million for the department. The Department is requesting that EDN400 programs be excluded from restriction because they support schools directly: i.e. utilities, student transportation, and safety and security.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Ask Committee to vote on accepting focus group (PIG) reports.
	Sharlene Morimoto	Move to accept all program reports. Athletics with modifications, Food Service, Utilities, and Student Transportation.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Second. Passed unanimously.
Next Steps	Suzanne Mulcahy	Next meeting is July 13, 2015. Topics to continue discussion and decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substitute • ELL - transiency, increase in base • Recommendation to change statue to include “expended by and or on behalf of principal” • Combo school base funding • Splitting (“Unbuckling”) elementary combo schools • Remote schools (Senate Resolution 48)
Adjourned at 2:35 PM.		