

Department of Education  
 Committee on Weights X Meeting Minutes  
 Meeting 2  
 Thursday, February 23, 2017  
 OCISS Annex

Members: Mitchell Otani (Chair), Chad “Keoni” Farias (Vice Chair), Daniel Hamada, Justin Hughey, Jan Iwase, Elton Kinoshita, Roxane Martinez, Wendy Matsuzaki, Glen Miyasato, Cary Miyashiro, Bruce Naguwa, Gail Nakaahiki, Ann Paulino, Bill Taylor, Osa Tui

Staff: Kimberly Chee, Brian Hallett, Ken Kuraya, Gary Zane, Lizabeth Guadiz

Guest Speakers: Senior Assistant Superintendent Amy Kunz, Assistant Superintendent Suzanne Mulcahy, Assistant Superintendent Tammi Chun, Debbie Farmer, Andreas Wiegand

Topic	Speaker	Discussion
Opening - Start Time: 9:06 AM	Mitchell Otani	Welcomed members, and informed them that there will be an adjustment to the agenda because AS Suzanne Mulcahy and Andy Wiegand are calling from New Orleans and already on the line. Approval of minutes will be after Special Education and ELL presentations.
Public Testimony		No public Testimony received.
Special Education	Suzanne Mulcahy	Presented on the funding and staffing methodology for special education. The Department used a weighted staffing methodology until SY 2009-10. However due to IDEA requirements, it switch to a proportional methodology in SY 2010-11. Proportional methodology is fair, objective, easily understandable, allows conversion of Article VI to SPED as needed, and promotes inclusion. OCISS is working with Complex Area Superintendents to be more transparent on distribution of positions to schools.
	Debbie Farmer	Covered the district/complex area distribution to school. The three methods are proportional, off the top for special classes/services than proportional, and ratio allocation.
	Justin Hughey	Inquired about details of weights for SPED students.
	Debbie Farmer	Stated, SPED allocation is proportional and not weighted anymore.
	Justin Hughey	Asked how much has the DOE allocated in weighted methodology versus proportional?
	Debbie Farmer	Funding for SPED has not changed unless the Governor reduced statewide funding; just the distribution methodology has changed from weighted staffing to proportional in 2010.
	Justin Hughey	Stated that West Hawaii had a reduction when the change happened. Proposed a weighted staffing methodology because schools in West Hawaii may have higher IEP requirement.

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	Suzanne Mulcahy	Stated that this is not the correct venue to propose changes to SPED staffing and funding methodology, it is an informational presentation for the COW for WSF. Staffing formula needs to be discussed in another venue.
	Justin Hughey	Asked how the department is rolling out inclusionary practices? There are 250 less positions in SPED.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Inclusionary practices were rolled out some 25 years ago. There are enough inclusion classrooms, but not enough positions. There is currently an RFP for all teachers to receive intensive training for SPED inclusion, modeling and scheduling to improve services to our students.
	Mitchell Otani	Speaking as a principal, we must make tough decisions on Buy/Sell positions, inclusion and how to best utilize positions for all kids. There are just not adequate funds for all of our students.
	Jan Iwase	Inquired where autism funds come from?
	Debbie Farmer	Comes out of PID 15179, which includes special placements.
	Jan Iwase	Is there something the Department can do to keep students in Hawaii versus sending them away to the mainland – applies not just for autism?
	Debbie Farmer	Not all students need one on one. Private providers pay educational assistant (EA) at a higher pay rate than the Department. We currently have a shortage of EA's and need to discuss competitive pay issues for EA's
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Student base models show some schools spend less. Some parents are less demanding. Lack of capacity can be due to giving more to higher demanding parents.
	Justin Hughey	Asked where attorney fee and settlements are paid from? What was the dollar amount paid for settlements in the past 5 to 10 years?
	Debbie Farmer	Attorney fee are paid out her office, but settlements come from district funds.
English Language Learner	Andreas Wiegand	Presented on English Language Learners (ELL) funding methodology and legal obligation under EEOA and Title VI. ELL was funded categorically until SY2005-06. Starting SY2006-07, ELL funding was put into WSF, and have remained constant. Schools have relied on PTTs to meet ELL requirements, but might not be the best resources for meeting needs. Almost half of ELL students do not graduate, but 9 <sup>th</sup> grade retention rate for active ELL student is double that of non-ELL students. Upon exit, ELL students do as well or better than their counterparts. ELL will carry a greater weight under ESSA subgroups.
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Stated that COW IX discussed increasing the weights for ELL students in WSF, which lead to a request to the legislature for increase funding for ELL.
	Mitchell Otani	Previous COW requested \$10 million additional funds for ELL in WSF. The legislature did not appropriate the funds. Thanked

		AS Mulcahy and Andy Wiegand for presenting from New Orleans.
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	AS Tammi Chun	<p>Provided an overview of the Strategic Plan. About a year ago, the Department proposed to update and review the current strategic plan that was in effect to 2018. In the middle of the review, the ESSA act was passed. ESSA provided more flexibility to States. SPED student have increased, while ELL students have been declining.</p> <p>Many students have high needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52% economically disadvantaged;</li> <li>• 12% SPED</li> <li>• 7% ELL</li> </ul> <p>From 2016 - 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 74,561 - 42% No Needs Students</li> <li>• 103,993 - 58% High Needs Students</li> </ul> <p>Numbers went up during the recession, but didn't drop after.</p>
	Mitchell Otani	Stated that SPED increase could be due to increase in age limit to receive services.
	Jan Iwase	Requested information on the numbers of pre-K students.
	Tammi Chun	More positions are being requested for preschoolers.
	Wendy Matsuzaki	Believes the actual numbers for economic disadvantage are higher than 52%, because a lot of her students don't apply.
	Tammi Chun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 30 high-needs schools (schools with a high number of free or reduced lunch students) that are receiving free lunches for all students.</li> <li>• High schools have less students qualified for free and reduced lunch than lower grades.</li> <li>• Student aspirations to attend college are higher than the rate of students enrolling in college.</li> </ul> <p>This study includes students who have exited within the past two years.</p>
	Justin Hughey	Why are we subjecting students to tests and assessments?
	Tammi Chun	Some tests are optional, such as the ACT. There's a federal minimum for high school students under ESSA. Starting SY2019-20, schools will decide on resources for student and staff success.
	Justin Hughey	Is there any information on what positions are being filled?
	Tammi Chun	There's a focused set of indicators.
<b>Break 10:33 – 10:57</b>		
ESSA Fiscal Reporting Impact	Amy Kunz	<p>Presented that there's a new federal requirement for per pupil expenditure reporting by federal and state/local sources. Expenditures will exclude A+ and the Community Schools for Adults.</p> <p>ESSA reports are not due for FY2017-18 until December 2018, but the Department needs to start planning now.</p> <p>Hawaii reports will reflect actual salaries, unlike some other</p>

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		states. WSF vs Categorical (athletics, special and vocational). The Department will need community and Principal feedback
	Wendy Matsuzaki	Asked if \$1.8 billion is the total the DOE gets. What percent of school funds are spent on personnel? 90% goes to personnel at King Intermediate.
	Mitchell Otani	A large percent of school funds goes to personnel.
	Glen Miyasato	Agrees with Mitch. He stated that 96% goes to personnel at his school. But hard to explain where the rest of the money is going.
	Amy Kunz	Agreed that where school funds are going and what they are being spent on are challenging questions.
Approval of 2/3/17 Minutes	Mitchell Otani	COW X, 2/3/2017 meeting minutes passed unanimously.
Budget Update	Brian Hallett	The BOE had asked for \$50 million, but the Governor submitted \$10 million increase to WSF. We should know the final outcome by late April.
	Bruce Naguwa	Asked if the \$10 million is in addition to current funds?
	Brian Hallett	Yes, request schools to think where they would allocate the funds if we get it.
	Gail Nakaahiki	There's a misconception of cutbacks from what we already have.
	Brian Hallett	What would we do if we get additional funds? Hope it's not below \$10,000,000.
	Wendy Matsuzaki	Inquired if schools will receive Impact Aid funds this year?
	Ken Kuraya	We're still waiting to hear. Hopefully by the end of February. Waiting until federal budget is finalized.
	Brian Hallett	Congress funded fiscal year until April. The Department is expecting about \$40 million in Impact Aid funds.
	Ken Kuraya	If we get additional funds, we will provide it to schools. Prioritize so if and when we get it, we know what to do with it.
	Mitchell Otani	Confirmed that WSF funds will not be affected.
	Brian Hallett	SB 0553 - proposes to categorically fund "remote" high schools, which includes Hana. Department suggested legislature can add categorical funding to provide supplemental funds on top of WSF funds for remote schools, rather than removing the schools from WSF funding.
Lunch Break 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm		
	Mitchell Otani	Asked members regarding review of non-WSF programs, any suggestions for guest speakers for this and future COWS?
Review of Non-WSF Programs	Ken Kuraya	Review a list of categorical programs that could be included into WSF. Request members to think about which programs can be placed in WSF. Provided an example of Athletic Directors funding was one of the last categorical but placed into the weights. "Big Ticket" programs that were discussed during COW IX will be covered separately later: 1. Athletics

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Food Service</li> <li>3. Transportation</li> <li>4. Utilities</li> </ul>
	Mitchell Otani	Inquired how many learning centers there are? There are learning centers doing a better job of allowing other schools students to participate, but there may be schools with learning centers not receiving funding.
	Ken Kuraya	Currently there are 29 Learning Centers
	Gail Nakaahiki	Kauai District has been supplementing the learning center by funding an additional half a position to make a full time position. Schools have been supplementing operational cost at district. \$5,000 to ICAA
	Glen Miyasato	Interested in gathering more information about weighting factors that AS Chun presented, such as foster and homeless children.
	Mitchell Otani	Learning centers can submit their outreach plans. Shared that Kalani students participate at Castle and Kaimuki learning centers.
	Bill Taylor	Inquired - does High Core services multiple districts?
	Kimberly Chee	High Core is located in central district, but will take students from all areas.
	Cary Miyashiro	Suggested moving vacant SBBH positions into WSF? Asked if SBBH funds cCan money not used be put to better use?
	Chad Farias	Expressed concerns if moving SBBH position funds into WSF. Funds not spent on personnel are usually moved to current expense for contracted services.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Shared that Kauai is using vacant personnel funds for contracted services.
	Ann Paulino	Inquired if Hawaii School for the Death Deaf and the Blind (HSDB) can send students back to their home schools?
	Ken Kuraya	Shared that HSDB's new principal has express a desire to expanding the number of students receiving services at HSDB.
	Chad Farias	Express Raised concerns about costly transportation for HSDB students.
	Ann Paulino	Inquired if there are any ideas of which model works best? Servicing students at home school versus at HSDB?
	Brian Hallett	Stated that we could invite OCISS for discussion. The committee could discuss the possibility of adding HSDB into WSF.
	Mitchell Otani	HSDB currently is classified as a school within Kalani Complex.
	Justin Hughey	Inquired if program titled Attorney Fee is for SPED attorneys?
	Mitchell Otani	DOE normally uses the Attorney General Office for legal representation.
	Chad Farias	The Department has hired outside attorneys to assist in defense in certain circumstances.

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	Bruce Naguwa	Inquired if the Department put PV in every school to reduce utility cost.
	Brian Hallett	Informed the committee that the Department has contracted Op Terra to administer our energy efficiency program, we could ask for an update of the program.
	Roxane Martinez	Asked if the intent of this committee is to look into putting utilities into WSF, and if not then focus elsewhere.
	Mitchell Otani	Stated the previous COW IX overwhelming said no to placing the four large funded programs into the weights.
	Ken Kuraya	Asked if there are any other suggestions? Athletics – small high schools will get less distribution.
	Mitchell Otani	When Athletic Directors funding was moved into the weights, small schools were grossly underfunded. Hana and Anuenue School did not receive enough funds for an athletic director, while large schools receive enough funds for two athletic directors. If there is not enough athletic funding, small school may need to cut sports.
	Elton Kinoshita	Shared that the Lt. Governor is promoting middle school athletics so there could be a need for additional funding for athletics program.
	Bill Taylor	Food Service program is funded from many different sources. It would be difficult to move into WSF.
	Mitchell Otani	If there was any cost savings, federal law requires that funds be deposited back into the food service programs.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Federal funds could be jeopardized if we don't meet federal requirements.
	Cary Miyashiro	Student Transportation funding is not evenly distributed; some Honolulu schools do not have busing services. If funds were moved into the weights, some schools receiving service would not get enough in WSF to fund program, while schools not receiving service will get funds.
	Bruce Naguwa	Difficult for schools in terms of liability. If Department provided city bus passes to all students, elementary and middle students might not ride city buses.
	Daniel Hamada	Shared that special education busing services is very expensive.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Schools do not want a return of paying utility bills at school level. If there was a shortage, schools would have to supplement utilities with WSF funds.
	Roxane Martinez	Expressed concern that this could causes schools pitting against schools for more funding. Stated principals are not entrepreneurs, they're educators.
	Mitchell Otani	Secured next meeting date for 03/10/2017 at the Liliuokalani Building BOE Conference Room. Per suggestions from several Cow participants, listing Anna Viggiano as possible speaker for next meeting.
	Cary Miyashiro	If moving funds into WSF would not help schools, then they shouldn't be added.

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	Jan Iwase	Suggest a possible weight for Mentoring.
	Bruce Naguwa	Shared experience as former Makaha vice-principal, there are additional challenges for teachers working with leeward students and parents. Makaha School provided additional benefit and support, short of increasing teacher salary, to try to increase retention rate, but nothing seem to work.
	Roxane Martinez	What can the DOE do to promote teachers working in the community they live in, promote bringing back teachers to Hawaii.
	Bruce Naguwa	Currently, there is a teacher shortage state wide, Kapolei Middle is experiencing teacher hiring difficulties.
	Cary Miyashiro	Hope to look more into homeless, foster care, and economic disadvantage concerns.
	Mitch Otani	Next meeting will be Friday 3/10/17 at Liliuokalani Bldg.
Meeting adjourned at 2:02		