

## Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2020

**Meeting Date:** Monday, February 10, 2020

**Committee Members Present:** Steve Clegg, Kelly Schmidt, Dale Wingerd, Superintendent Jim Cracraft

**Committee Members Not Present:** None

**Others in attendance:** None

Meeting started at 6:05 p.m.

**Purpose:** Establish current legislative priorities committee feels are important to our school district, review and assign legislative priorities/bills each committee member, each committee member will research, follow and provide updates on their assigned legislative priority/bill, and other.

Committee discussed the following topics:

1. Steve Clegg contacted De'Shondria at MASB to get information on what a MASB Grassroots Advocacy Workshop would provide this committee and Board. De'Shondria replied with some of the advocacy topics she would cover during a one-hour workshop:
  - How to build and maintaining relationships with legislators
  - How to contact legislators, schedule meetings and in-district visits with policymakers
  - How to establish grassroots networks in your district for coalition building
  - Quick tips for staying involved and up to date on legislation
  - How to increase advocacy efforts through various avenues – Community outreach, social media, and grassroots lobbyingShe hopes to work with our committee and board. To schedule our in-district advocacy workshop we need to submit a request form.
2. State Budget Director Chris Kolb presented the executive budget recommendations to the Legislature last week officially kicking off budget season. As stated in her press release, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's budget focuses on "increased funding for education and skill development, providing for the health and needs of working families, and protecting Michigan's water."

She proposed a per-pupil increase of \$150-225 distributed through a 1.5x formula. On top of that, there is additional funding for special education students,

economically disadvantaged students and English Language Learners. She also increases the per-slot amount for the Great Start Readiness Program by \$1,086 bringing it to the same as the minimum foundation allowance. This amount has not increased since 2014.

MASB provided the below breakdown of the School Aid Budget by section with a focus on what you need to know. This is the first step in a long process and no one knows what the Legislature will do with this budget.

- Sec. 20 – Per-Pupil Foundation (p. 31): increases the target (formerly known as basic) foundation by \$150 to \$8,679 and the minimum foundation allowance by \$225 to \$8,336. It also sets the cyberschool allowance at 80% of the per-pupil amount.
- Sec. 20m – Hold-Harmless Districts (p. 40): reinstates this section to ensure hold-harmless districts receive an increase in their per-pupil allowances. Creates a separate calculation because these districts are limited to increases at or lower than the rate of inflation.
- Sec. 21h – Partnership District Funding (p. 41): expands the uses of these funds for districts in financial distress as well as those determined by the Department of Treasury.
- Sec. 22p – Partnership Districts (p. 54): requires a district designated as a partnership district to complete a signed partnership district agreement within 90 days or funding can be withheld.
- Sec. 22q – Reorganization Grants (p. 55): similar to the old section on consolidation grants; creates \$5 million in competitive assistance grants for costs associated with reorganization and cooperative activities between districts and gives districts three years to spend the grant.
- Sec. 31a – At-Risk Funding (p. 63): increases funding by \$60 million and states the allocation for each district should be equal to 50% of the eligible amount before any proration occurs (current law is 30%). It also includes hold-harmless districts in the distribution. It maintains the weighted formula at 11.5% of the statewide average foundation allowance for each eligible pupil and includes \$2.2 million to make sure no district gets less funding this year than they received last year.
- Sec. 31k – School Lunch Debt (p. 72): creates a new section and allocates \$1 million for payments to districts to forgive all outstanding student meal debt.
- Sec. 31n – Mental Health Support Services (p. 73): adds language to allow districts to use funds received under this section in 2018-2019 through 2020-2021 for up to two fiscal years beyond when allocated.

- Sec. 32d & 39 – GSRP (pp. 80 & 98): increases funding for the program by \$35.5 million. It increases the amount per child in full-day programs to \$8,336 and \$4,168 per child in the part-day programs.
- Sec. 32s – Universal Pre-K (p. 89): creates a new section with \$42 million for eligible districts to provide pre-kindergarten education to four-year-olds within their district boundaries.
- Sec. 35a – Third Grade Reading (p. 91): reestablishes funding for the Michigan Education Corps; the rest of the section maintains current law.
- Sec. 41 – English Language Learners (p. 103): includes an additional \$50 per pupil for each English Language Arts learner.
- Sec. 51f – Special Education Funding (p. 113): increases funding for special education programs by \$60 million.
- Sec. 61d – CTE Per-Pupil (p. 123): maintains the additional funding per pupil for students enrolled in career and technical education programs but lowers it to \$25 from \$50.
- Sec. 74 – School Bus Safety/Inspections (p. 128): increases funding by \$41,600 for school bus inspections and school bus driver safety instruction.
- Sec. 81 – ISD Funding (p. 129): increases funding to ISDs by \$2 million for a 3% increase over last year.
- Sec. 97a – Infrastructure Funding (p. 134): creates a new section with \$40 million for grants to districts for infrastructure upgrades.
- Sec. 98a – Teacher Professional Development (p. 141): creates a new section with \$5 million for grants for districts for peer-to-peer learning networks or university-partnered professional development.
- Sec. 98b – Teacher Cadet Programs (p. 142): creates a new section with \$1.5 million for grants to districts to create or expand teacher cadet programs.
- Sec. 98c – Classroom Supply Reimbursement (p. 144): creates a new section with \$25 million for payments to districts to distribute to each classroom teacher to cover the cost of classroom supplies that the teacher paid for out of their own pocket.
- Sec. 99s – MiSTEM Programs (p. 140): changes all references to MiSTEM to MiSTEAM and maintains the MiSTEM Council under current law.
- Sec. 101 (9) – Days and Hours Waiver Length (p. 158): extends the length of a waiver for days and hours of instruction to three years from one year.
- Sec. 147 – MPSERS Rates (p. 173): makes adjustments to all of the rates.
- Sec. 147c – MPSERS Rate Cap (p. 176): increases the average rate cap per-pupil amount by \$134 and sets the rate cap per pupil for districts to a range of \$5 to \$4,000.

3. Committee selected following priorities/bills to research, follow and provide updates on and which committee member:

- (Kelly) - Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). There have been no changes with the status of any of the bills addressing changes to the MMC. All of the following bills passed the House Ways and Means Committee just before the holiday recess and are currently on the House floor for consideration:
  - HB 4269 (Griffin) – Modifies the current Visual/Performing/Applied Arts and foreign language requirements by requiring students to earn a total of three credits from various “21st Century Skills” categories.
  - HB 4271 (Howell) – Would allow a credit in Statistics or Personal Finance as a replacement for Algebra II as long as the replacement course aligned with the math content expectations developed by MDE.
  - HB 4282 (Hauck) – Allows the state-required Health Education course to be fulfilled by a thirty-hour OSHA training course for students in a CTE program.

Two other MMC bills (SB 600 & 601, introduced by Sen. Bumstead) passed the Senate Education Committee in December and remain on the Senate floor for consideration. These bills represent a much more extensive overhaul of the MMC by providing districts with much greater autonomy and flexibility over graduation requirements.

- (Steve) – Universal preschool for all 4-year-old children.  
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has said she wants Michigan to have universal pre-K for 4-year-olds by the end of her first term in office, in 2022. The state is already more than halfway there without any policy initiative.  
The total cost to the state for two years of kindergarten last school year was \$127 million. Michigan is spending an additional \$244 million in the 2019-20 budget year on the Great Start Readiness Program, which offers preschool for 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families. Gov. Whitmer’s proposed 2020-2021 budget increases GSRP funding by \$35.5 million and creates a new section for Universal Pre-K with \$42 million for eligible districts to provide pre-kindergarten education to four-year-olds within their district boundaries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.