

FSF Working Group: Meeting #5 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 15th, 2022

Meeting Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30PM

Members Present: Alan Ong, Dr. Angela Green, Chris Caruso, Dia Bryant (Co-Chair), Elizabeth (Liz) Haela, Elizabeth Kennedy, Ellen McHugh, Geneal Chacon, Jan Atwell, Jasmine Gripper (Co-Chair), Juvanie Piquant, Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Kana Ervin, Lara Lai, Lily Chan Diez, Maria Villalobos, Mary Vaccaro, Masis Sarkissian, Michael Athy, Poullette Ha-Healy, Randi Levine, Santa Soriano, Sarita Subramanian, Sheree Gibson, Tazin Azad, Ted Leather, Tom Sheppard, Chair Rita Joseph

NYC Department of Education Staff Present: Emma Vadehra, Kenita Lloyd, Benjamin Schanback, Erin Gehant, Katherine Maro, Rana Khan, Xavier Edwards, Elizabeth Hoffman, Jenna Lyle, Nathaniel Styer, Katherine Jedrlnic, Tatiana Tresca

All presentations from the meeting are available on the NYC Public Schools website at:

<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/financial/financial-data-and-reports>

1. Welcome

Co-Chair Jasmine Gripper convened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Facilitator Erin Gehant reviewed the norms.

2. Member Report Discussion

COO Emma Vadehra noted that WG member, Michael Athy, shared a draft report with potential recommendations with the group prior to the meeting. Jasmine provided opportunity for the group to ask questions about the report and Michael asked that the report be included on the website as part of the meeting materials.

3. Community Engagement

Facilitator Erin Gehant noted that there would be a follow-up communication to the group on the Community Engagement plan.

4. Modeling of Potential Proposals

COO Emma Vadehra shared the context of the modeling, including that areas were selected to be modeled based on some of the challenges and priorities that have come up in group discussions; and that specific policy proposals to address these challenges are just one way, which the group could choose to include or tweak in their recommendations.

Emma previewed the scenarios modeled in this first round for the Working Group, including – 1) Increase the Per School Base Foundation Funding (two options); 2) Replace the Incoming Test Scores weight with a Poverty weight; and Add a New Weight for Students in Temporary Housing.

To give context for the models, Rana Khan from the NYC Public Schools Division of Finance presented an overview of the existing weights and the FY2023 per capita dollar value of each weight.

Interim CFO Ben Schanback provided a detailed description of each of the potential models considered, starting with the Base Foundation Funding modeling, noting that the team provided two models,

including the impact of adding a dollar value equivalent one Social Worker and then adding a dollar value equivalent to one Social Worker, one Assistant Principal and one Guidance Counselor. Ben shared the impact across different sized schools (larger schools would lose significant funding, smaller schools would gain) and the impact across all NYC School Districts in this scenario (16, 23, 5 and 18 would gain the most per pupil funding, while 20, 24, 26 and 21 would lose the most per pupil funding).

Participants engaged in discussion and surfaced questions and concerns, including the concern that the modeling utilized a fixed pot of funding and raised the idea of additional funding being directed from outside the current Fair Student Funding allocation.

Ben then reviewed a model which would replace Incoming Test Scores (AIS Weights) with a Poverty weight. Ben noted that this model would transfer funding from higher poverty schools to lower poverty schools because poverty is more widely distributed across the city than low test scores. Ben noted that schools in Districts 4, 20, 13, 22, 26 and 25 would have the largest per capita gain, while schools in districts 18, 12, 19, 8, 9 and 16 would experience the greatest loss of per capital funding. Participants noted that they appreciated that the modeling conveyed information in a way that was easy to understand, but noted that there was not a clear understanding on how each model impacted the range of schools based on school size. Participants also again expressed concern about the idea that the modeling was based on a fixed sum.

Ben reviewed a final model to include a new weight for Students in Temporary Housing and noted that the addition of a weight like this would shift funding from mostly lower poverty schools to mostly higher poverty schools. Schools in districts 9, 32, 5 and 6 would have the largest gains per capita, while schools in districts 26, 31, 25 and 20 would have the largest decreases per capita.

Ben previewed some additional potential analyses for the Working Group including: concentration weights, average teacher salary, portfolio weights proposals, ideas around special education students and the impact of the new class size legislation.

Participants shared some additional thoughts on more models for the NYC Public Schools team to review, including the addition of a weight for students who involved in the Department of Children and Families; a weight for students in Foster Care; additional measures to understand and weight poverty; and additional ways to address the needs of students with disabilities, including addressing “breakage” issues at the school level. Some participants also repeated their concern about looking at new models within a fixed pie, rather than with new funding.

5. Closing

Jasmine closed the meeting letting participants know that the Working Group would be having an in person half day session at Tweed Courthouse on Tuesday, October 4th in the afternoon. Jasmine also requested that participants complete the follow up survey that would be sent to the group after the meeting in order to inform the planning of the remaining working group meetings.