



## CLASSROOMS FIRST INITIATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

**General Meeting – July 9, 2015 2:30 P.M.**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Members Present:** Alicia Alvarez, Tim Carter, Susan Chan, Janna Day, Annie Gilbert, Kenneth Hicks, Beth Maloney, Greg Miller, Co-Chair Jim Swanson, and Dawn Wallace

**Members Absent:** Governor Doug Ducey, Brian Capistran, and Superintendent Diane Douglas

**Staff Present:** Veronica Metz and Kristin Sorensen

### **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Jim Swanson called the meeting to order at 2:31 P.M.

Mr. Swanson then called for an approval of the June 26, 2015 Council meeting minutes as presented. Kenneth Hicks motioned for approval and Susan Chan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Brenda Bartels advised the Council that she is concerned about funds based on academic outcomes. Ms. Bartels advised that the current system penalizes districts when students do not meet current year standards even when those students start the school year one to two grades behind. Ms. Bartels asked the Council to please take individual district needs into account when reviewing the new funding formula.

Joe Guesic wanted to ensure that Council members understand and remember that their work is about our children, our schools, and our money. Mr. Guesic advised that the education system is looking at a large long-term shift and this Council is putting in place changes that will affect this shift. Mr. Guesic asked that the Council be thoughtful and deliberate with these changes.

Jan Ogino a teacher with Peoria Unified School District expressed concerns regarding backpack spending. Ms. Ogino advised that districts are more aware of what they need to spend per school, expressed concerns regarding the difference in how districts and charters are required to report spending, and advised that funding portability may widen the gap between the haves and have-nots as more affluent families can transport children to charters. Ms. Ogino also advised that teachers are most aware of what spending is needed in the classrooms and expressed concern that only one teacher was present on the Council.

## **Review Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Swanson advised the council of the proposed meeting schedule, which would have the Council meet at 2:30 pm in the Executive Tower Second Floor Conference room on the below dates. Mr. Swanson advised that the Governor would be attending the September 22, 2015 and December 2, 2015 meetings for recommendation presentations. With no objections the meeting scheduled was adopted.

July 30, 2015	October 8, 2015
August 13, 2015	October 29, 2015
August 27, 2015	November 19, 2015
September 10, 2015	December 2, 2015
September 22, 2015	

## **Discussion of Working Groups**

Mr. Swanson then reviewed the proposed three working groups and their memberships.

### **1. Equitable Funding Structure**

- a. What is equitable in the current formula? What is not?
- b. Revenue inputs (per-pupil, Group A weights, QTR, bonds & overrides)
- c. Tax reform policies (items outside of the revenue control limit)
- d. Creation of one easy to understand formula

Proposed Council Members: Ken Hicks, Annie Gilbert, Jim Swanson, Dawn Wallace

Proposed Consultants: Arizona Association of School Business Officials, Goldwater Institute, Arizona Charter School Association

### **2. Student Centered Learning Priorities**

- a. Funding levers (achievement, poverty, special education, human capital, capital)
- b. Backpack funding
- c. Transparency of the distribution of funds to school site
- d. Governance under school site/student-based budgeting—involvement of principals
- e. Classroom spending definitions

Proposed Council Members: Susan Chan, Alicia Alvarez, Beth Maloney, Jim Swanson

Proposed Consultants: Reason Foundation, Arizona Chamber of Commerce, Arizona School Boards Association, Foundation for Excellence

### **3. Incentives for Excellence**

- a. Performance expectations: What is true achievement? Synergy with A-F Redesign Subcommittee
- b. School-level achievement weights
- c. Regulatory, formulaic and operational incentives (high-performing schools)
- d. Regulatory, formulaic and operational disincentives (low-performing schools)

Proposed Council Members: Brian Capistran, Tim Carter, Greg Miller, Janna Day

Proposed Consultants: A for Arizona, Education Finance Reform Group, Jaime Molera/Greater Phoenix Leadership

After the work group review, Mr. Swanson discussed the working group meeting schedule. Mr. Swanson explained that the working group will meet on the following dates at the following times.

July 30, 2015	October 8, 2015
August 13, 2015	October 29, 2015
August 27, 2015	November 19, 2015

September 10, 2015

Equitable Funding Structure: 8-10am

Incentives for Excellence: 10-12pm

Student Centered Learning Priorities: 12-2pm

**Next Meeting**

Mr. Swanson advised that the Council will have its next meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> and that the Council members can expect updates from the three working groups on their first meetings.

**Adjourn**

With no further business before the Council, Mr. Swanson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 P.M.