

Advisory Committee on Financial Management, Accounting and Reporting

Minnesota Department of Education at TIES Building

Minutes of January 28, 2004 – 12:17–3:22 p.m.

Members in attendance: Barbara Anderson, Janna Duffy, Roger Heiden, Greg Hein, Greg Hierlinger, Pam Jensen, Phil Johnson, Julane Meyer, Margo Nash, Susan Paulson, Nancy Ramler, Tiffany Rodning, Larry Shomion, and Darwin Viker.

Others in attendance included: Dr. Thomas Melcher (MDE), Mr. Richard Guevremont (MDE), Ms. Audrey Bomstad (MDE), Mr. Ken Moos (MDE), Ms. Debrah Firkus (MDE), Ms. Colleen Leemon, (MDE) and Dr. Charles Speiker (MDE).

Chairperson Greg Hein opened the meeting and confirmed the agenda.

Dr. Thomas Melcher opened the issue of **tax shift and early recognition** for the group. Ms. Duffy clarified what she thought were accounting problems with the shift and early recognition. She shared her training materials with the group.

It was decided that Nancy Ramler, Janna Duffy, Darwin Vicker, Audrey Bomstad, Colleen Leemon, Julane Meyer, and Margo Nash (back up to Julane) will meet to develop a collaborative training model on the topic of tax shift, early recognition and the consistent and appropriate accounting treatment.

Ms. Duffy raised the issue of the **recognition of health and safety adjustments**. Ms. Bomstad assured the group that the health and safety aid entitlement report would be revised. The revised report will be available for group critique.

Ms. Duffy raised the issue of the **reemployment** account and its reserve account. Ms. Leemon will develop the concept further (the changes that could be forthcoming) and bring them to the group for review.

Dr. Melcher reviewed a newly proposed **financial information format** that would be published on the MDE website. It will provide for greater comparability within a consistent format; it will be available for review by the greater community; and, it would eliminate the need for AGER reporting (Allocation of General Education Revenue to Buildings.) It could reduce the number of reports from districts. It is intended to be operational (at least in part and in concert with the State Report Card) by Spring 2004.

Dr. Cheri Pierson Yecke, Commissioner of Education addressed the group and thanked members for their participation on this important committee.

Chairperson Hein called for agenda items for next meeting. They should be sent to him or to Mr. Guevremont. Some of the suggestions included: follow up on the financial information base on the MDE site and new (or needed) accounting treatments for technology-related expenditures.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, May 26, 2004 12:00 at MDE Conference Center

Wednesday, July 21, 2004 12:00 at MDE Conference Center