

December 13, 2006

Advisory Committee on Financial Management, Accounting and Reporting

The Advisory Committee met on December 13, 2006. Members in attendance: Nancy Ramler, Cathy Holm, Susan Paulson, Margo Nash, Darin Jensen, Jaber Alsiddiqui, Steve Torgrimson, Julane Meyer, Deborah Medlin, Barbara Anderson, Dan Brooks. Others in Attendance: Commissioner Seagren (MDE) (School District Consolidated Financial Statement discussion), Tom Melcher (MDE), Colleen Leemon (MDE), Mary Annala (MDE), Ken Moos (MDE), Debrah Firkus (MDE), John Koehler (MDE).

Jaber Alsiddiqui opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Jaber asked the committee to review the agenda and let him know if they would like to add item(s). No items were added to the agenda.

Tom Melcher provided an overview of the School District Consolidated Financial Statement. Tom explained that the format was developed to be consistent with information that the department currently publishes. The format is in alignment with the Profiles reporting format with a few less categories.

Dan Brooks questioned the title "Instructional Support Services". He recommended the title, "Instructional and Pupil Support Services." Tom agreed the suggested title would be more informative.

Jaber inquired about the report format and how that compared with the Governors 70% rule. Commissioner Seagren explained that the report was prepared in response to a legislative mandate. The format was developed to be consistent with the financial information that the department currently publishes. They wanted to consider the public perception of instructional costs and also be fair to districts. Presenting the information in a consistent manner will build on the public's knowledge of information that is currently published.

Darin Jensen brought up a concern regarding the change in Special Education Tuition Billing and the impact when comparing data for two years of financial information. Commissioner Seagren explained that the department could incorporate an explanation describing significant legislative and major policy changes in the report. It was determined that the Special Education Tuition Billing changes would affect the comparison of 05-06 and 06-07 data.

Committee members discussed titles, definitions, potential footnotes and the location of the report on the department's website.

Tom explained that the department would update the Consolidated Financial Statement prototype based on the changes discussed and distribute a copy to the members for their review.

Jaber presented the prior meeting minutes (October 11, 2006) for review and approval by the committee. A motion was made by Deborah Medlin and second by Darin Jensen to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Colleen Leemon presented information regarding the search for Advisory Committee members. She referred to the membership search letter distributed by Tom Melcher and Colleen. She also presented the list of committee members highlighting the expiring memberships. Colleen explained that they would like to continue to have a balanced group with representation from a variety of entities varying in size, location, and type of representation.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at the Minnesota Department of Education.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.