

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 28, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on February 28, 2023, at 12:00 PM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kim Banta, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Kim Banta, Chair; Representative James Tipton, Representative Shane Baker, Representative Tina Bojanowski, Representative Scott Lewis, Representative Josie Raymond, and Representative Steve Riley.

Guests: Robin Fields Kinney, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education; Karen Wirth, Director, Division of Budget and Financial Management, Kentucky Department of Education; Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Kentucky Department of Education.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Seth Dawson, and Amie Elam.

Minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting were approved.

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Staff from KDE gave a presentation to the committee regarding federal pandemic relief funds and the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) program. KDE provided updates on allowable uses and spending for federal relief dollars, SEEK requirements, and local effort funding.

Federal Pandemic Relief Funds

In response to a question from Representative Lewis, Ms. Kinney said that all pandemic relief funds have been allocated to local school districts. She added that districts are aware of how much has been allocated and that many of them will devote these funds to instructional loss. She said that some of the money has not been used, as of yet, because there is still time to expend these funds.

In response to a question from Bojanowski, Ms. Kinney said that KDE does not recommend hiring staff with non-recurring funds. However, hiring supplemental instructors is permissible.

Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK)

In response to a question from Representative Raymond, Ms. Wirth said that currently preschool funding comes from one block of money divided by the number of students that fall into each funding category. Ms. Kinney added that it would be possible to add preschool students to the SEEK formula.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Mr. Ritter said that the fluctuation of property assessment values does affect school districts.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.