

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Education

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2020 Interim

August 19, 2020

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Alice Forgy Kerr, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Alice Forgy Kerr, Co-Chair; Representatives James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senators C.B. Embry Jr., Christian McDaniel, Gerald A. Neal, Johnny Ray Turner, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Kim Banta, Randy Bridges, Joseph M. Fischer, Kelly Flood, Cluster Howard, Regina Huff, C. Ed Massey, Bobby McCool, Brandon Reed, Rob Rothenburger, and Attica Scott.

Guests: David Cook, Director, Division of Innovation, Department of Education; Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Department of Education; Robin Kinney, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, Department of Education; Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Department of Education; Christina Weeter, Director, Division of Student Success, Department of Education; Jon Akers, Executive Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety; Ben Wilcox, State School Security Marshal, Department of Criminal Justice Training; Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education.

LRC Staff: Chuck Truesdell, Seth Dawson, Nick Peak, and Amie Elam

Kentucky Department of Education

Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) gave a presentation focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on SEEK formula calculations.

In response to a question from Senator McDaniel, Mr. Cook said that KDE is currently receiving information from school districts regarding the impact of the property tax shortfall. Mr. Cook said that participation numbers collected in the spring are hard to compare to other school years because the information was not gathered in a standard way.

Mr. Cook said that all third-party digital platform vendors are reviewed and must follow guidelines that adhere to the Kentucky academic standards outlined in statute.

In response to a question from Representative Riley, Ms. Kinney said KDE is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop guidance on how to handle students that do not attend or participate in virtual learning.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Ms. Kinney said the emergency regulation is drafted so that 2018-2019 attendance data would push forward to calculate attendance for SEEK purposes. Mr. Cook said that KDE would report to the legislature in October, June, and July the participation information for all school districts.

In response to a question from Representative McCool, Mr. Cook said teachers who are working with students that have special needs are going above and beyond to find ways to connect with their students during this unusual time. He added that KDE has developed specific guidelines related to students with special needs and non-traditional instruction.

In response to a question from Representative Scott, Mr. Cook said school districts are working hard to ensure each student has a personal learning device. He said the number of students without devices is getting smaller every day.

School Safety

Representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Kentucky Center for School Safety, and the Department of Criminal Justice Training gave a presentation focusing on the implementation of school safety and resiliency legislation.

In response to a question from Representative Bridges, Mr. Akers said that he would provide the individual district information to Representative Bridges.

In response to a question from Representative Scott, Mr. Akers said that School Resource Officers (SROs) account for 31 percent of requested safe school funds.

Council on Postsecondary Education

Dr. Aaron Thompson gave the committee an update on the Council on Postsecondary Education's Agency Budget.

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.