

Draft Only
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**SUMMARY of
PROCEEDINGS**



JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

University of Wyoming Outreach Center
951 North Poplar
Casper, Wyoming
October 18, 2011

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Hank Coe
Representative Matt Teeters
Senator Paul Barnard
Senator Kit Jennings
Senator Bill Landen
Senator Chris Rothfuss
Representative Bob Brechtel
Representative Donald Burkhart
Representative Cathy Connolly
Representative John Freeman
Representative Kendell Kroeker
Representative Sam Krone
Representative Bunky Loucks
Representative Mike Madden

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Dave Nelson, School Finance Manager
Matthew Willmarth, School Finance Analyst
Tania Hytrek, Staff Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to Appendix 1 to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet
for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Education Committee met to receive information related to the education resource block grant model, including a system for monitoring the cost pressures associated with the model. In addition, the Joint Education Committee met to receive information and take action related to the application of an external cost adjustment and a regional cost adjustment to the block grant model. The Committee also received reports from the Department of Audit related to audits conducted of funds received by Wyoming school districts. The University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Community College Commission also presented information on college readiness, retention and remediation to the Committee. Lastly, Superintendent Cindy Hill and the Department of Education spoke to the Committee about the 2010-2011 Resource Allocation Study Update and the implementation of the 16-to-1 student-teacher ratio imposed by statute.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chairman Teeters called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to **Appendix 2** to review the Committee Meeting Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 15 and 16, 2011 Committee meetings were approved without revision.

SCHOOL FINANCE

Regional Cost Adjustment

Dr. Lori Taylor presented the Committee with information related to the Regional Cost Adjustment. *See Appendix 3.* Dr. Taylor outlined her recommended approach for the regional cost adjustment for the education block grant model to the Committee. She stated that an auto-regressive random effects hedonic wage index, such as the one she modeled, provides the most accurate adjustment for cost of living differences throughout the state of Wyoming. She indicated that this method takes into account multiple wage and cost indices. Dr. Taylor responded to questions presented by Committee members and others after her presentation in September on the regional cost adjustment. In response to the questions posed, Dr. Taylor explained the implications and impact of adoption of a hedonic wage index in the state of Wyoming. She concluded that the costs in Wyoming do vary widely and application of a wage index seems appropriate. In addition, Dr. Taylor indicated that adoption of one method is the most defensible professionally. She indicated that adoption of multiple approaches is not as defensible from an equity standpoint and in her professional opinion adoption of her recommended auto-regressive random effects hedonic wage index is an equitable measure reflective of the cost differences throughout the state.

The Committee undertook discussion of Dr. Taylor's recommendations and the proposed hedonic wage index. LSO staff provided the Committee with information related to the financial implications in relation to adoption of a hedonic wage index. *See Appendix 4.* In addition, LSO provided the Committee with clarification on the Committee's responsibilities in reference to the regional cost adjustment, indicating that the Committee's recommendation would be incorporated into a school finance bill for introduction to the Legislature as a whole. Senator Madden requested clarification of the recommendation by Dr. Taylor. He inquired about the application of a hedonic wage index in the instance where a substantial number of districts receive the statewide average even though wage indices indicate the costs are below the average. Dr. Taylor responded to Senator Madden's questions. Senator Jennings inquired about the cost implications of adoption of the hedonic wage index as recommended by Dr. Taylor. Dr. Taylor and LSO staff clarified the information presented in Appendix 4 and the cost implications of adoption of a hedonic wage index as recommended. Senator Landon inquired about a

policy recommendation that would transition into the recommended approach by Dr. Taylor. Dr. Taylor indicated that a phased-in approach is one policy option for the Committee to consider. Co-chairman Coe inquired about the implications for Teton County. He asked Dr. Taylor if she really looked at this district individually as it will have the largest financial impact. Dr. Taylor indicated that she gave Teton County special attention, reviewing its funding, as well as what is paid by the district in wages. She concluded that upon further examination of the proposed hedonic wage index as applied to Teton, it was an appropriate measure in her professional opinion and reflective of the cost differences experience in that region.

Co-chairman Teeters made motion that LSO staff draft legislation for adoption of a regional cost adjustment with multiple approaches. Representative Madden suggested adoption of the hedonic wage index for all districts with the ability to hold certain districts harmless or make up the difference between the current approach and the hedonic wage index via the external cost adjustment or an alternative method. Co-chairman Teeters withdrew his motion after Representative Madden's explanation. Senator Rothfuss commented on the ability to address the transition period indicating that this will likely take substantially more time than a couple of years. Co-chairman Teeters clarified that the last external cost adjustment was thirty-four million dollars (\$34,000,000.00) and that the issue at hand is six million (\$6,000,000.00) and that in his opinion, a couple of years would be sufficient time to phase-in the implications of the hedonic wage index as proposed. Senator Landon cautioned the Committee against large cuts that will affect wages for teachers. Co-chairman Teeters clarified that impact on wages will not be large cuts and that a reasonable compromise can be reached. Co-chairman Coe noted that the external cost adjustment is a separate adjustment from the regional cost adjustment, and suggested the two (2) adjustments be kept separate. Senator Jennings requested clarification from State's Counsel on the discussions related to the regional and external cost adjustments. Mr. Michael O'Donnell, State's Counsel, suggested the Committee keep the regional and external cost adjustments separate and in the event the Committee wishes to provide additional funding to Teton or other districts that, that it be done in a separate manner.

Cost System Indicators and External Cost Adjustment.

LSO staff addressed the Committee regarding the monitoring process of the education block grant model in reference to the cost of the model between model recalibrations. LSO explained its recommendation as outlined in **Appendix 5** and the overall process for monitoring the cost basis of the model over time. The Committee then moved on to discussion of the cost pressure indicators for non-teaching staff and the role that this monitoring plays in the overall monitoring of the block grant model and wages in the state of Wyoming. This information was presented by Dr. Christiana Stoddard. Dr. Stoddard concluded that there is little pressure on the teacher labor in Wyoming as demonstrated by the various indicators she reviewed. She indicated that there is little difficulty in recruiting and retaining teachers and educational personnel in Wyoming. Dr. Stoddard addressed the exit rates associated with teachers and other educational personnel in Wyoming. Generally speaking, the exit rates have remained relatively constant and stable, with the exception of the professional staff personnel, which have experienced some fluctuation and are increasing. She suggested continued monitoring of this category specifically. In her conclusions, Dr. Stoddard indicated that average annual wages for K-12 employees exceed those for state or private employees for most administrators, professional staff, classified staff and related aide positions. In addition, she indicated that the average annual wages for K-12 employees are lower than the private sector for chief executives, registered nurses and computer technicians positions. Co-chairman Coe inquired about the benefits implications in this discussion. Dr. Stoddard indicated that this information is likely available from the work of the Hayes Group, but stated it was not a task she was requested to perform. The Committee thanked Dr. Stoddard for her presentation and moved on to discussions of the external cost adjustment.

Dr. Lori Taylor provided the Committee with information related to the external cost adjustment ("ECA") and the possibility of making an adjustment in this area. *See Appendix 7.* She indicated that generally the Committee should consider the follow two (2) aspects in making its determination of application of an ECA: 1) if there are reliable estimates for the cost of each educational resource; and, 2) if there is a reliable estimate of the changes in the cost over time. She addressed each of these aspects separately in discussions with the Committee. Dr. Taylor concluded if prices are above market, there is no need to apply an ECA. She indicated that this may be a reasonable policy choice given that personnel prices appear to be above market value and the supplies and energy prices appear closer to market. She suggested that as funding levels become aligned with costs, Wyoming may consider adjusting each major resource component separately using the most appropriate price index for that component. She concluded that because Wyoming uses a block grant to fund schools, it is a policy decision whether to apply a cost adjustment to energy and supplies when there are no signs of label market pressures. Senator Rothfuss requested information regarding application of an ECA in the event it was the Legislature's choice to maintain the differential between funding and cost. Dr. Taylor suggested that the Wyoming Comparable Wage Index would be a reasonable adjustment to maintain the differential. This is approximately three and a half percent (3.5%) for 2012-2013. Representative Madden requested clarification on this point and the implication of the regional cost adjustment in the context of the ECA. Dr. Taylor clarified that the two (2) adjustments are currently separate and that the issues associated with the regional cost adjustment creates one (1) set of issues and the Legislative policies choices related to ECA and funding for creates a separate set of issues. She indicated that it may be possible to create a process that ties the two (2) components together, but that she has not done this and would likely not suggest such an approach because the issues associated with each are separate and distinct. Senator Jennings requested clarification of the information presented on slide 6 of Appendix 7. He questioned the difference between the funding model salaries versus the actual teacher salaries. Senator Coe suggested an approach that would be a targeted ECA for salaries in the model with the ability of district to expend that money as they so choose. Representative John Freeman asked about the difference between the figures as well. He indicated that it could be that districts are utilizing their resources in a different manner than they are funded and making different choices. Senator Rothfuss clarified the difference between the two (2) lines based on his understanding.

The Committee then moved back to its discussion of the monitoring process of the block grant. LSO staff provided the Committee with additional information in this regard. *See Appendix 8.* LSO discussed the comparison of the cost-based model amount versus the funding model amounts in the following areas: utilities, vocational education supplies, assessment, central office supplies, operation and maintenance supplies, gifted and talented per average daily membership, professional development, school-level supplies, equipment and technology and student activities. LSO described the assumptions made in the information presented including that reimbursable expenses will increase approximately eight percent (8%) annually, that health insurance will increase by approximately ten percent (10%) and that the ECA for staff would be zero (0), the ECA for energy would be 0.11% for 2012-2013 and 4.00% for 2013-2014 and the ECA for educational materials would be 2.17% for 2012-2013 and 2.00% for 2013-2014. LSO noted that the chart did not account for student demographics, including ADM, at-risk, counts, and vocational education. In addition, it doesn't account for staff demographics, including education and experience. Lastly, building and site information from school facilities department is not accounted in the information presented by LSO in **Appendix 8.** Co-chairman Teeters inquired about the adjustment to educational materials. He noted that this was the area that is most largely overfunded. The Committee discussed application of an adjustment to energy costs. Co-chairman Teeters noted that he was a proponent of one hundred percent (100%) reimbursement for utilities because this could not be controlled. Senator Jennings noted that this is somewhat within the control of the districts, noting a

specific instance where he visited a school in the cold winter months and the doors were propped open. Chairman Teeters noted that this would not be the first area to address and is somewhat nominal. The Committee engaged in discussion of activities and the model funding versus expenditures in this regard. It was noted that the model adopted for the funding of activities was forwarded by Campbell County School District and was adopted during the model recalibration and that the funding was very generous for activities.

Senator Rothfuss requested information regarding the financial impact of adoption of an ECA. LSO staff clarified that a one percentage (1%) point increase in ECA would result an increase of seven million, two hundred thousand dollars (\$7,200,000.00) in block grant funds for the purposes of the ECA discussion.

Representative Kroeker made a motion that the Joint Education Committee recommend that no external cost adjustment be made for the fiscal year 2013 to the education resource block grant model to the Joint Appropriations Committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Loucks. Representative Madden clarified that as proposed there would be no external cost adjustment applied to any portion of the model. Senator Rothfuss commented that a vote for the proposed motion would essentially result in a decrease in funding due to cost of living increases. The motion was adopted with a roll call vote with nine (9) ayes and five (5) nos. *See Appendix 9* completed vote form.

Regional Cost Adjustment

The Committee then resumed its discussion related to the regional cost adjustment and the hedonic wage index as proposed by Dr. Lori Taylor. Senator Jennings suggested that a process be adopted or proposed that would allow districts to comment on the hedonic wage index as proposed and to address uniqueness arguments. In addition, he suggested that Dr. Taylor's presentation and formulas be provided to each of the forty-eight (48) districts. Co-chairman Teeters noted that the Committee needed to take action with regard to a regional cost adjustment to allow time for preparation of appropriate legislation. Co-chairman Coe made a motion that LSO staff be directed to draft legislation which adopts the 2011 auto-regressive random effects hedonic wage index as proposed by Dr. Taylor for presentation at the January Joint Education Committee Meeting for consideration. The motion was seconded by Senator Jennings and Representative Brechtel. The Committee adopted the motion on a voice vote. There were two (2) nos: Senator Rothfuss and Representative Freeman. Senator Jennings asked that the draft legislation be provided to all forty-eight (48) districts. LSO staff noted that Dr. Taylor's work is posted on LSO's website and the draft legislation will be posted there as well.

Representative Madden made a motion that in application of the regional cost index, the actual index number rather than assumed index number be utilized to eliminate bias and any equity issue. Senator Landen commented that the application as currently enacted or a phased in approach may result in a cushion for those districts most heavily impacted. LSO staff clarified that it present the financial implications of both options for the Committee's consideration at the January meeting. Representatives Madden's motion was not seconded and there was not additional action by the Committee in this regard after the explanation of LSO.

Wyoming Department of Audit

The Wyoming Department of Audit provided the Committee with information related to the audit of ten (10) school districts performed in the Fall of 2010 and special education expenditures by Wyoming school districts. *See Appendix 10*. Mr. Justin Chavez, Wyoming Department of Audit, indicated that generally there were issues with the average daily memberships data when the full district audits were conducted. He indicated that the issues related to this included data reported in relation to ten (10) day drops, part time students, court-ordered placements and distance education. In addition, Mr. Chavez

indicated that there continues to be confusion regarding what experience is allowance for reimbursement and that district personnel records are not updated in a timely manner. He also stated that incorrect degree levels are noted within district experience data. The total findings as a result of the ten (10) audits completed was (\$678,140.00).

Mr. Chavez then moved on to discussion of the audit of special education expenditures of Wyoming school districts. He noted that in total, the findings resulted in an error of one quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the model amount. Co-chairman Coe requested information from the Wyoming Department of Education on the topic. Mr. Fred Hansen, Wyoming Department of Education, responded that the Department staff is currently revising the Chapter 8 Rules and Regulations to address the issues identified by the Department of Audit. Senator Jennings requested clarification of the auditing process of the Department of Audit in conducting audits of the school districts. He inquired if solutions to the issues identified are suggested by the Department of Audit to the districts. Mr. Chavez stated that the Department of Audit responds to any questions a district may pose, but does not suggest a specific remedy. He indicate this practice was instituted the Department of Audit reviewing the suggestions it previously made. Representative Connolly commented that a ninety-nine percent (99%) accuracy rate should please the State given the complex nature of the rules. Mr. Chavez agreed with this conclusion. Co-chairman Teeters noted that there may be room for improvement in the process and rules and regulations of the Department of Education in this regard.

MEETING RECESS

The Committee recessed at 12:00 (noon) for lunch. Co-chairman Coe reconvened the Committee at 1:25 p.m.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Review of Educational Resource Report for SY2010-2011

Mr. Fred Hansen and Mrs. Amy Copeland, Wyoming Department of Education, presented the Committee with information related to the allocation of school finance resources in the “Continued Review of Educational Resources in Wyoming 2005-06 through 2010-11” report. *See Appendix 11.* Mrs. Copeland reviewed the information contained in the report with the Committee. Specifically, she discussed the Summary of Findings as contained on page 5 of 14 of **Appendix 11**. She asked that the Committee take note of the class sizes as indicated on page 11 of 14 in Tables IV-5 and Table IV-1. In reference to salaries, Mrs. Copeland indicated that the salaries, as reflected on pages 12 of 14 of the report, are very competitive and are among the highest in nation. She concluded that elementary schools are employing fewer teachers than the model provides for. In addition, she stated that schools are not employing tutors to the extent they are funded. Mr. Copeland indicated that the next steps as related to this report and the information collected as a result, include improving functionality of the website and the report.

Representative Madden inquired about Table V-1 on page 12 of 14 and inquired about information regarding similar information for the 2005-06 school year. Mrs. Copeland indicated that this information is available but is not presented in the table provided and could be provided by the Department of Education.

Hathaway Student Scholarship Program

Mr. Sean Moore and Mr. Geir Solvang presented information to the Committee regarding the Hathaway Scholarship Education Program for school year 2010-2011. *See Appendix 12.* The information presented included data related to the progression of students that receive the Hathaway Scholarship each

year. In addition, the Mr. Solvang outlined the progression of each cohort (2006-07, 2007-08) by scholarship level. He also discussed the percentage of students losing eligibility after their first year and by performance level. Mr. Solvang addressed the percentage of students that receive the Hathaway Scholarship that receive a certificate or degree within two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years of initiating the scholarship.

Mr. Moore then moved on to discussion of the Hathaway Scholarship Program Longitudinal Study as mandated by the 2008 session law. Mr. Moore and Mr. Solvang indicated that the study would not be published as a result of internal review at the Wyoming Department of Education. Mr. Solvang indicated that instead the information would be utilized for creation of a longitudinal data system for the Hathaway Scholarship Program. The Department outlined the components of the system and requested Committee input on this topic. *See Appendix 13* for a list of the proposed elements.

COLLEGE REMEDIATION - UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AND WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION

Wyoming Community College

Mr. Jim Rose presented information to the Committee in response to 2011 Wyo. Sess. Laws, Ch. 85, Section 3. *See Appendix 14*. Mr. Rose indicated the Community College Commission has made progress towards common student expectations, in part by utilizing common ACT scores for placement into college level math and English. In addition, initial course placement for developmental college level math and English courses is being determined by ACT and COMPASS transition scores and has been standardized. The seven (7) Wyoming community colleges have created a task force charged with setting COMPASS and ACT standard transition scores for reading. Mr. Rose also presented information to the Committee regarding numbers of students enrolled in remedial courses and the success rates of remedial course and college level course in the same subject. He also discussed examples of interventions for the purpose of remediation efforts. In response to the charge to identify solutions and recommendations, Mr. Rose suggested several avenues. Part of the approach would include intrusive student advisement which entails more frequent interaction with the student and some training of all college staff in the area of student guidance and advisement.

Senator Landon inquired about the resources necessary to carry out standardization of remediation efforts for improvement of student completion and retention rates. Mr. Rose responded that the community colleges largely do not have the resources to carry out these intensive remediation efforts. He indicated that an exception budget request will be made of Governor Mead on October 27th to account for the fiscal aspect that will be necessary to implement and administer the recommendations of the Community College Commission. Mr. Joe McCann, Wyoming Community College Commission, further explained the initiative for remediation, indicating that the intrusive remediation will take place at every level of employment, not just the counselors and academic advisors. Mrs. Kelly Pelissier, Executive Director of the P-16 Counsel, noted that the P-16 Counsel has explored the need for increased communication with students as young as 7th grade regarding college and career readiness.

University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming provided the Committee with information related to remediation, student support, retention and graduation. *See Appendix 15*. Mr. Mike Massey, University of Wyoming, outlined the information to be presented by the University as related to the remediation and retention issue. *See Appendices 15 and 16*. Dr. Andrew Hansen, Office of Academic Affairs, University of Wyoming, discussed the specific goals and measures that will be proposed by the University of Wyoming to address remediation and retention efforts. Mr. Hansen indicated that by 2018, sixty-three percent

(63%) of jobs will require some college education. On that note, he indicated that Wyoming lags behind the national average in the percentage of adults with an associates degree or higher. He noted that the two (2) goals to deal with retention and remediation are to raise awareness about college readiness and to provide support after enrollment at the University of Wyoming.

Mrs. Tammy Aagard, Registrar, University of Wyoming, discussed the "Synergy Program" with the Committee. She indicated that Synergy is a program to assist students that may struggle in the post-secondary environment. Mrs. Aagard outlined the services included within this program, including a first year, course based leaning community, that includes classes to develop fundamental skills important to higher education academic success. In addition, the program has small cohorts and involves mentors. She outlined the data supporting the program and its use by the University in dealing with retention and remediation.

Mr. Massey concluded the presentation by discussing the University of Wyoming's recommendations for dealing with remediation and retention. He suggested that the University of Wyoming would refine its admission requirements to better identify those in need of additional academic support upon enrollment and increase student support services by re-allocating block grant and outside funds to support programs such as Synergy and other student support services that help students succeed.

A motion was made by Representative Connolly that legislation be drafted that changes the element of the Hathaway Scholarship that requires remediation count towards eligibility. Senator Rothfuss seconded the motion. Senator Landon commented that he agreed with the proposed motion and requested input of the University of Wyoming. Mr. Massey indicated that the information presented to the Committee does indicate that the addition of remedial classes for those students that are most vulnerable does place an additional burden on them, but that the University would not take a position for or against the issue at hand. Senator Jennings cautioned the Committee against adopting a motion which allows for payment of remediation classes by the State in the context a scholarship. Representative Loucks echoed the comments of Senator Jennings, indicating that his preference would be to deal with the issue at the high school level, adequately preparing the students for college, rather than remediating them once they arrive. Co-chairman Coe voiced a general concern with regard to a motion related to the Hathaway Scholarship which came as a result of a report on remediation and retention efforts. A voice vote was taken by Co-chairman Coe and it failed.

Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System Task Force.

The Task Force on Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System, led by Rollin Abernathy of the University of Wyoming, presented information to the Committee on the Statewide Longitudinal Data System in the State of Wyoming. *See Appendix 17.* Mr. Abernathy outlined what the Statewide Longitudinal Data System is and the effort it has undertaken to create a comprehensive data system. He discussed the efforts of the Task Force from a historical context and the benefits of the creation of such a system. Mr. Dan Ewart, University of Wyoming and Co-chair of the Task Force provided the Committee with additional information on the efforts and progress of the longitudinal data system. He indicated that the work of the Task Force began in 2010 and outlined the critical questions that the system will need to answer. He said the Task Force identified work items and potential obstacles that must be addressed during the implementation of a full data system. Mr. Ewart indicated that the U.S. Department of Education experts have been engaged in discussions with the Task Force regarding implementation and that stakeholder input has been sought on this topic. Mr. Ewart indicated that the project has been broken into phases and that the security of this project is absolutely critical. To date, he indicated that a draft MOU has been created that has been agreed to by all levels of educational partners in the state. In addition, a governance structure has been created for the system. He indicated that proposed staffing

model and budget has been created as well. Mr. Ewerts then moved on to the next steps associated with implementation of the data system. He indicated that the Task Force agreed almost unanimously to allow the data to reside with the Wyoming Department of Education. He also indicated that the Wyoming Department of Education has explored the possibility of obtaining and applying for a federal grant to assist with the cost associated with this project.

Mrs. Tammy Aagard, Registrar, University of Wyoming, discussed the data governance structure in a more detailed manner. She drew the Committee's attention to the chart on page 8 of 10 of **Appendix 17**. Representative Connolly inquired about the interplay and overlap of the governance structure as presented in relation to the State Superintendent and the Wyoming Department of Education. Mr. Drew Dilly, Wyoming Department of Education, indicated that the Department and the Task Force have a shared vision in reference to this data system. Mrs. Aagard followed up that while the positions and financial resources would reside with the Wyoming Department of Education, the personnel would answer directly to the Data Governance Board as opposed to the State Superintendent. Mrs. Aagard continued with her presentation, listing the members of the data governance structure.

Representative Teeters inquired about the implications in the event the Department of Education fails to obtain the federal grant funds. Mr. Ewert indicated that the entire budget of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) would then be requested from the Legislature. Mr. Teeters inquired about the efforts of other states in reference to creation of data systems and suggested perhaps it would be more simply to put the item out for bid with a request for a proposal. Mrs. Aagard responded to Co-chairman Teeters concerns and indicated that there may be a lack of stakeholder input if you proceed in such a manner.

Representative Brechtel inquired about the authority of the Task Force to continue operation in the future if legislation doesn't come forth. Mr. Abernethy responded the Task Force may continue its effort under each Agency's independent authority to collect information. Senator Jennings asked for clarification on the roles of the Joint Education Committee in light of the Governor's involvement and the Department of Education's interest in the effort. Senator Barnard inquired about the personnel costs associated with this effort and inquired about possible increases in the years to come. Mr. Ewerts responded that there are nine (9) positions over a course of three (3) years. Senator Jennings inquired about expanding the parameters of the project to include all data elements, such as work force information, population demographics, etc. Mr. Ewerts responded that the model created could be applied on a larger scale. Mrs. Aagard clarified that the charge of the Task Force was to create a collaborative data system to address long-term data needs in the educational context. Senator Rothfuss inquired about the use of the data and the security and privacy issues surrounding housing such a substantial amount of data. Mr. Dilly and Mrs. Aagard responded to Senator Rothfuss' concern, indicating that while the information coming into the system would be personally identifiable, the data reported would be at an aggregate form. In addition, she shared the concern voiced by the Senator and indicated that information provided in response to a request for data will have a sample minimum sample size of ten (10). Senator Rothfuss inquired about the life span of the data and the ownership of the data. Mr. Ewerts responded to Senator Rothfuss' follow up request, indicating that the lifespan would be substantial given the longitudinal nature of the data. In response to ownership, Mr. Ewert indicated that ownership will reside with the State of Wyoming, and will be utilized by the State of Wyoming. Representative Brechtel supported Senator Rothfuss comments on security. Senator Jennings echoed the concerns voiced by others with regard to security. Mr. Ewerts indicated that industry best practices would be utilized and employment of good people would help to prevent this issue, but that there is no guarantee with regard to the security of the data.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Summary of Proceedings

Student-to-Teacher Ratio

Mrs. Cindy Hill, State Superintendent, presented information to the Committee related to the student-to-teacher ratio and the 16-to-1 statutory requirement. Mr. John Masters, Counsel to the State Superintendent, spoke to the Committee regarding the terms utilized in the application of the 16-to-1 mandate. He then gave an example involving four (4) schools within a district and possible implementation of resources. Mr. Fred Hansen, Wyoming Department of Education, commented on the potential implication for districts that fail to meet the mandate of 16-to-1, noting that failure to comply could result in a loss of education funding. Co-chairman Teeters responded that the enacting legislation provides the Superintendent with sufficient latitude to grant waivers in the instance a district is at risk of losing its funding for failing to comply with the 16-to-1 mandate and that the Legislature was informed of the consequences in enacting the legislation.

Mr. Stuart Nelson, Superintendent Platte County, commented on the situation in his district as related to the 16-to-1 student-teacher ratio. Co-chairman Teeters requested that the individual districts work with the Department of Education and the Superintendent in resolving the issues surrounding 16-to-1.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-Chairman Coe adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Coe, Co-Chairman

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Committee Meeting Materials Index

Appendix	Appendix Topic	Appendix Description	Appendix Provider
1	Committee Sign-In Sheet	Lists meeting attendees	Legislative Service Office
2	Committee Meeting Agenda	Provides an outline of the topics the Committee planned to address at meeting	Legislative Service Office
3	School Finance: Regional Cost Adjustment	Power Point: Updating Wyoming's Regional Cost Adjustment: A Recap, October 178, 2011	Dr. Lori L. Taylor
4	School Finance: Regional Cost Adjustment	Spreadsheet: Updating the Wyoming Funding Model Hedonic Wage Index, Consultant Recommendation and Current Policy Approach Cost Analysis, Estimated School Year 2012-13, October 18, 2011	Legislative Service Office
5	School Finance	Power Point: Education Resource Block Grant Model, Monitoring Process, October 18, 2011	Legislative Service Office
6	School Finance: Cost of System Indicators and External Cost Adjustment	Power Point: Cost Pressures Indicators for Non-teaching Staff, October 18, 2011	Dr. Christiana Stoddard
7	School Finance: Cost of System Indicators and External Cost Adjustment	Power Point: External Cost Adjustments and the Wyoming School Funding Model, October 18, 2011	Dr. Lori L. Taylor
8	School Finance	Power Point: Education Resource Block Grant Model, Monitoring Process Cont., October 18, 2011	Legislative Service Office
9	School Finance: Cost of System Indicators and External Cost Adjustment	Vote Form: Motion – no external cost adjustment.	Legislative Service Office
10	Department of Audit: Report of SY2010-2011 School Audits	Power Point: Department of Audit, Update on Audits Performed in FY 2010-2011, October 18, 2011	Department of Audit
11	Department of Education: Continued Review of Educational Resources	Memo to JAC/JAC from A. Copeland, Wyoming Department of Education, Re: Continued review of educational resources	Department of Education

JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE - *Summary of Proceedings*

	Report, updated for SY 2010-2011	in Wyoming, 2005-06 through 2010-11, Report Update, October 18, 2011	
12	Department of Education: Series of Reports on Hathaway Student Scholarship Program	Power Point: Department of Education, Hathaway Scholarship Statistics 2010/11, State Level Reports, Comparing the First Five Cohorts, October 18, 2011	Department of Education
13	Department of Education: Series of Reports on Hathaway Student Scholarship Program	Spread Sheet: The Hathaway Scholarship Program Longitudinal Study Goals and Measures, and "hsp datastation," October 18, 2011	Department of Education
14	Wyoming Community College Commission	Power Point: Wyoming Community College Commission, SEA 63 Report, October 18, 2011	Wyoming Community College Commission
15	University of Wyoming	Power Point: University of Wyoming, Report on Remediation, Student Support, Retention and Graduation, October 18, 2011	University of Wyoming
16	University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Community College Commission	White Paper: The Wyoming Community College Commission and the University of Wyoming, Report on Higher Education Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates, October 11, 2011	University of Wyoming and Wyoming Community College Commission
17	Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System Task Force: Report on Statewide Longitudinal Data System	Wyoming P-20/W Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)	Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System Task Force
18	Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System Task Force: Report on Statewide Longitudinal Data System	White Paper: Wyoming SLDS Task Force Update 2011	Wyoming Statewide Longitudinal Data System Task Force
19	State Superintendent Hill	Power Point: Student-to-Teacher Ratio, Wyoming Funding Model	Superintendent Cindy Hill