

10/17 Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting
Notes on End of Meeting Discussion Period

Wilhelm/Beardsley/Callahan

- Difference between equitable funding/effective education
- If funding is equitably provided, how does that ensure or not ensure quality education?
- When there is discussion about staff development funding, does that use what studies say is most effective, or are there dependence on local control?
- Concerned about how to increase salaries, especially in economically depressed areas
- If four students are added to class size in formula, have more money to spend per teacher
- Group also discussed special education costs and how they drive decisions for budgets in districts and may take away money from other programs – it's a dilemma about addressing equity issues

Page/Lapoint

- Three areas at play
 - Funding and effectiveness and equity
 - Straightforward to talk about equity in dollars, but it's not a full story
 - Having had lots of info/data, time for group to take a moment to look at course that Commission is on and give it some parameters with respect to core concepts – not to reach final conclusions, but right now there seems to be diffusion

Edlund/Reny

- Would be helpful to have better understanding of what districts in different parts of the state are facing – might be nice to hear from practitioners directly (supers/principals/teachers) going back to issues like early ed, education for economically disadvantaged, how different districts do professional development
- Trying to better understand disparity in local share – hearing it straight from supers would be informative
- Districts that raise more from local have more stable funding
- Idea of regionalization – what more could be done – if had cross-section of districts and could hear how they are approaching these ideas it would be very helpful

Alfond/Hubbell/Larlee/Langhauser

- How can something get accomplished by the Commission?
- We know we aren't going to fund Picus recommendation
- Looked at LD 1394 – good but small step forward on how create roadmap/offramps to eventually start spending
- Would like to talk about LD 1394 at next meeting, doesn't say we are going to spend money, but gives a roadmap for districts
- Conversation that schools need to be great for teachers in order to get results
- Inequity of pay in districts, it's not right for parents/students/community