

STEERING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2006

Members Present: Governor Chris Gregoire, Dr. Terry Bergeson, Charley Bingham, Denny Heck, Eric Liu, Victor Moore, Bob Watt and Amy Bragdon.

Governor Gregoire convened the meeting of the Washington Learns Steering Committee at 9:00 am on February 13th, 2006.

As the first order of business, Governor Gregoire made a motion to approve meeting minutes from the January 12th Steering Committee meeting. The minutes were adopted by the Steering Committee.

Governor Gregoire then announced Steering Committee member Denny Heck as the new Chair of the Higher Education Advisory Committee. The Governor thanked former Higher Education Chair Roberta Green for her service to Washington Learns. Governor Gregoire also welcomed two additional appointees to Washington Learns: Amy Bragdon to the Steering Committee and Betti Sheldon to the Higher Education Advisory Committee.

Judy Hartmann provided the committee with a legislative update regarding the status of bills that were part of the interim recommendations of Washington Learns. The update included a status report on the Early Learning Department Bill (HB 2964), the Pre-Apprenticeship Bill (HB 2789) and an update on current legislation to fulfill the requirement to offer alternative assessments of equal rigor to the WASL.

Terry Bergeson reported to the group on the work of the K-12 Committee including the committees work with the consultant Picus and Associates on conducting successful schools and evidence based studies. She also reported that the K-12 Advisory Committee had recently divided into four subgroups to better focus the work of the committee. These include: Funding Structures, Chaired by Jeff Vincent; Education Structures, Chaired by Betty Hyde; Compensation, Chaired by Kevin Teeley; and Equity and Eliminating Achievement Gap, Chaired by O.J Coates.

Jeff Vincent reported to the group on the successful schools methodology and reviewed the proposed criteria for the successful schools study. The committee discussed the successful schools methodology and unanimously approved the K-12 Committees criteria for the proposed schools study.

Dr. Richard Brandon then presented his report entitled “Assuring Access to High Quality Early Learning for Washington’s Young Children: Concepts and Costs” to the committee. Dr. Brandon outlined methodology and timeline analysis. The report included an overview of key policy cost drivers in early childhood education and current policies to assist parents with costs. It also proposed feasible solutions at higher/lower cost and coverage. The presentation concluded that with careful design access to high quality early learning could be provided to all children age birth-five at moderate cost. Dr. Brandon’s presentation sparked a spirited discussion among the members of the committee concerning potential cost models for early learning.

Next, Denny Heck provided an update to the committee on the work of the Higher Education Advisory Committee. Bill Chance and Dick Lutz presented the updated Pre K Survey entitled “Progress Report: Survey of State K-20 Programs and Initiatives.” The report consisted of a summary of the research the team had conducted on consolidated K-20 programs in other states. The team reviewed three types of K-20 programs including consolidated structure, common student data system and common single education budget. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding incentives to adopt a consolidated P-20 system. The report concluded that while Washington State does not currently have the structures that support a consolidated P-20 system, the state is a leader in the area of dual-enrollment.

Bob Watt and Regina Jones provided an update on the Early Learning Council. The Council had formed a new technical advisory committee on regulatory issues to be chaired by Charlie Bingham and Nancy Gerber. Regina Jones discussed governance and acknowledged the ongoing investment of the Early Learning Council’s private partners.

Finally, Ann Daley gave a budget and contract status report to the committee.

The meeting adjourned.