Alternative Education Advisory

December 11th, 2018

Attendance: Robin Miller, Jennifer Wilkinson, Missy Corn, Elizabeth Ressell, Debra Watson, Jack Reed, Courtney Vernnon, Sheryl Tatum, Cindy Allen, Lori McGinnis-Madland, Paul Tryggestad, Linda Mace Phone attendance: Justin Fite, Mildred Burkhalter, Lori Bell, Christy Province, Dixie Speer, Garland Delk, Travis Graham

Discussion Items

**Funding Working Group**

* Funding group is discussing

1. Needing more money

2. How to distribute the money equally.

* Matt Holder is looking at previous year’s data to see what funding options looks like now. Funding group agrees that an attempt be made to minimize the decrease in funds a district receives during the formula transition.
* If anyone would like to help in this endeavor, the funding group would welcome those individuals.
* OSSBA, school board, advisory member all attended funding meeting last week.
* There is a bill set aside currently and we are waiting on verbiage.
* 93 district that are K-8 with no funding currently. Currently they all must offer alternative education, but there were discussions about dropping this requirement.
* Discussion for incentives for district to coop.

Concerns: If districts are only funded per people would the funding be less? Matt explained that there might be a minimum amount being based on a number of students being served.

What student number would we use? Maybe a couple of different check points along the year, with an average number for the year.

Would we look at percentages instead of actually students being served- Yes

Are we looking at more funding next year? Matt’s goal is to create a funding formula that will benefit most districts.

* Look at coordinating information for conversation with State of Oklahoma representatives. Possibilities would be for alternative education program to visit capital this year. New association is looking at dates available for an Alt Ed Day at the Capital.
* Would we want alternative education students going back to the tradition schools? The conversation with the group was that not all students are best served in the tradition school setting. It is the best placement for the student.

How much money are we requesting? Districts are spending $40 million and OSDE is funding $10 million. An additional $28 million would be a great starting point.

Would a charter school get alternative education funding? Matt stated the funds would follow the students.

Would the charter schools get the money directly? (Jack Reed) We would need to look at this, not sure. Jack Reed would like to make sure that funds follow the student throughout the year.

Is the OSDE looking at charter schools getting funding? Jennifer is working with a few charter schools that would like to be consider alternative education schools sites.

**State Board Rules**

See attachment.

**Lori Murphy- Administrative Rules Attorney**

* Laws- the OSDE proposes rules, the rules become proposals. The proposals go before the State Board of Education, after the board adopts the rules they are forwarded to legislators.
* A new rule being looked at is the definition between an alternative education and credit recovery program.
* Proposed rule change, is an elementary district (K-8th) can opt out of having an alternative education program, so any funding would be returned to alternative education fund.
* Jack Reed- Would like for a new rule that explains alternative education is a choice for students not a placement. Lori Murphy thinks this is already written into law. She will look into this further. Lori will gather the rules and send to Jennifer to forward to everyone.

**Program Networking: Norman**

Presenters: Paul Tryggestad and Linda Mace - 2 different Norman campus, right across from each other.

Paul Tryggestad-Dimensions North is tradition alternative education.

Linda Mace-Dimensions South serves students that are suspended, special needs students, dual enrollment, early childhood issues, alternative education night program and for behavior modifications. Dimension South staff also visits school sites on a regular basis. Students are moving in and out program all the time. Dimensions South also has a classroom at the courthouse, OJA students are transported there for online curriculum instruction with cooperative learning projects also. (The promise)

Dimension North has collaborated with Generation Citizens a civic organization led by students from an Oklahoma university. Generation Citizens works with high school student groups to help identify community needs and how to help improvement opportunities. Example: Dimensions North first hour Government students worked together with OU students to identify one of the needs of Norman Oklahoma. This year’s project is homelessness. This local collaboration between students will continue throughout the year and will end with a student led presentation at the capital.