

Meeting Notes

Jefferson County Board of Education
Revenue Advisory Task Force
October 10, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Mike Beard, Phillip Bond, Charles Booker, John Collopy, James Craig (Vice-Chair), Lori Goodwin, Rosa Guzman-Snyder, Cordelia Hardin, Chris Harmer, Natalie Harris, Cathy Hinko, Lisa Houston, Chris Kolb (Chair), William Komp, Jo McKim, Mildred Menchu-Johnson, Eddie Muns, Cordia Pickerill, Chay Ritter, Pam Thomas, Alan Young, Carmen Coleman, Renee Murphy, Devon Horton

Summary of Meeting

The KDE Corrective Action Plan (CAP) recommended the Board of Education consider additional revenue sources (e.g. nickel tax, utility tax) to address critical facility needs and other program and technology needs. The Revenue Advisory Tax Force was created to collect information, conduct research and analysis, and make recommendations to the Board regarding options for generating additional local revenue. Dr. Chris Kolb is Chair of the Task Force with James Craig as Vice-Chair.

The Task Force is expected to complete its work by December 31st, and submit a report with recommendations to the Board by the first meeting in January 2020. The goal is to hold a work session during the December 10th Board meeting.

Cordelia Hardin and Chay Ritter presented information on facilities funding, local taxes, and the district funding structure. It was noted that districts can levy more than one tax. No district in Kentucky has levied the excise tax. The following questions were identified for deeper discussion:

1. What do we need to know?
 - Can excise tax be graduated based on income?
 - Can we get a baseline number from utility companies?
 - What are utilities vs services?
 - Overall, what is included in the taxable list and what is not?
 - What do we need money for specifically?
 - Are there plans for cost savings?
 - What is the political will to ensure these taxes aren't recalled?
2. Needs and timeline, teacher shortage, technology needs. Can we place a sunset on the rate?
3. CAP:
 - 1.2 billion construction in facility needs
 - Facility depreciation
 - New construction
 - Existing maintenance
 - Long-term maintenance
 - Teacher shortage
 - Response time
 - Per teacher cost increases
 - Questions:
 - What data is available for this?
 - Why are we here?
 - Need technical data

4. Equalization in SEEK formula - need to know more about this – purposely tilted to make sure the state pays less – need for context to suggest longer term solution and to support the “why”.
5. Need to better educate black and brown communities about the lack of state funding.
6. Basic understanding of how it all works – a primer of what the terms mean and how it works together. Remember ESL folks and translation for educating.
7. Take each of the options and flesh out for the public.
8. What are the needs for revenue (to make the case)?
9. How regressive or progressive is each option? How will it impact people?
10. Ensure that excise tax can be graduated. Who do we ask?
11. Next should include General Fund, not just facilities. How much facilities money do you have? How do we define facilities need? Can they direct facilities nickel to upgrade only until optimal capacity met?
12. How much could utilities raise at 3% for same amount of utilities? Income tax? Property > 4% revenue increase?
13. How much facilities tax generates how much construction bond capacity against \$1.3 billion backlog?
14. Can we recommend JCPS legislative agenda item?

Future meeting dates:

- Monday, October 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 11, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 25, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 9, 5:30 p.m.

Information

Link to handouts from October 10 meeting - [Revenue Advisory Task Force](#)
(Including 19-20 SEEK calculations for Jefferson County)