

Record Approved by Members as Corrected, September 27, 2012

K-12 Public School Facility Funding Task Force  
July 26, 2012, Meeting Record

On July 26, 2012, the initial meeting of the K-12 Public School Education Facility Funding Task Force was held in Room 1706, Turlington Building, Tallahassee, Florida. The Task Force was authorized by Section 20, Chapter 2012-133, Laws of Florida (L.F.).

Chair of the Task Force, Linda Champion, called the meeting to order. In addition to the Chair, members Joe Joyner, Charles Shaw, Gene Waddell, Robert Runcie, Caroline Zucker and Elizabeth Haney were present. John Hage and Jon “Tom” Rogers participated by telephone. Attachment A is the list of Task Force members listed by required representation in the law.

In her opening remarks, Chair Champion welcomed the Task Force members and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Members were given an opportunity to comment about their background and expectations for the work of the Task Force.

Chair Champion reviewed the charge to the Task Force as stated in Section 20, Chapter 2012-133, L.F. The Task Force was authorized to examine all relevant factors in order to make recommendations to the Legislature for more equitable funding for charter schools and schools operated by a school district.

Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Education, Judy Bone, provided the Task Force with two documents: 2012 Sunshine Law Overview and Public Records Overview, 2012. The documents and a related presentation were provided to inform the Task Force about the policy that must be followed involving Task Force business. Members were told to not send fellow Task Force members any information regarding the Task Force. If the members of the Task Force wish to consider any information, the information must be sent to the public records custodian, who will provide the information to the Chair for distribution to the members.

Chair Champion called upon John Newman, Chief of Staff, Department of Education, to review background materials provided to the Task Force members. Attachment B is the table of contents for the materials. The following site has the materials as presented: <http://www.fldoe.org/cefo/pdf/k12fundingmaterials.pdf>. During Mr. Newman’s presentation, Task Force members requested clarification or additional information. The requests were as follows:

1. Notify Task Force members of Link Jarrett’s e-mail address and designate him as the “custodian of public records” by way of a memorandum.

2. Charter school PECO funds were compared to the discretionary local improvement millage and were presented to the Task Force members, on page 17 of the meeting materials. This comparison currently included charter school and capital outlay full-time equivalent (FTE) students. Task Force members requested that Department of Education staff revisit the calculation by excluding charter school FTE students when calculating the per FTE student amount from Local Capital Improvement funds.
3. Compare expenditure policies of local capital improvement funds and charter school capital outlay funds. The statute for charter school capital outlay funds, presented on page 4, is Section 1013.62(2), Florida Statutes (F.S). The statute for the Local Capital Improvement funds (1.5 mill levy) is Section 1011.71(2), F.S.
4. Provide historical summary of capital improvement millage levy for all millage. The 2011-12 school district millage data was presented on page 18, including:
  - a. Historical data from the 1990s to 2011-12.
  - b. Tax rolls by year.
  - c. Certificates of Participation (COPS) obligations history (relatively recent). Total outstanding COPS as of June 30, 2011, were illustrated on page 24, column 8.
  - d. Recent history of potential revenue that would have been generated by the 2.0 Discretionary Capital Improvement Millage compared to what was actually generated.
5. Task Force members were presented, on page 9, with a comparison of 2011-12 charter school FTE to total FTE. The members requested FTE student growth by year, to show number of new students enrolling each year for charter schools, traditional schools, and total growth.
6. State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) and Class Size Policy.
  - a. Provide building codes and requirements for charter schools versus traditional schools; the calculation of student stations and the effect of class size; and how square footage is treated.
  - b. Provide a list/comparison of SREF building requirements and charter school building standards.
  - c. Identify where greater flexibility could be provided to traditional district school facility design and construction without creating any health or safety issues.
  - d. The Chair confirmed that the student station calculations, shown on page 26, take class size requirements into consideration. John Newman stated that when co-teaching was implemented, it mitigated the need for capital outlay class size funds. Task Force members inquired as to how co-teaching, core courses, and virtual education affect the student station calculation.
7. Research how other states fund capital outlay needs of charter schools (North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Illinois were suggested).

8. Calculate exceptional education students as a percentage of total FTE students of charter schools and school district exceptional education students as a percentage of total school district FTE (excluding McKay scholarship students).
9. Provide history of startup funds for charter schools from the beginning of the program; include information about longevity of operation.
10. Describe the future outlook for Gross Receipts Utilities taxes and sustainability of Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) revenue?
11. How do/should charter schools fit into the utilization factor? What policies should guide approval of charter schools? Should charter schools be on the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH)? Outline and explain the process for approving facilities for charter schools from the planning stages to the request for funding.
12. Quantify the technological readiness of schools. Verify that charter schools are included in the technology survey conducted by our Technology Office.

Chair Champion discussed plans for the next meeting. Materials requested during the discussion will be provided in advance of the next meeting. In addition, a funding model will be developed for a workshop presentation. The model will be presented at the next meeting and will be available for revision at the third Task Force meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled for September 2012.

An opportunity for public comment was provided by Chair Champion. Mr. Chris Doolin, representing the Small School District Council Consortium, commented that there needs to be sufficient funding to meet capital technology needs; there may need to be new resources; priorities should be set in a 5-year facility planning cycle; investment of public funds in facilities need protection; and capital outlay funds should be allocated for projects, not distributed on an FTE student basis. Mr. Ralph Arza, representing the Florida Consortium of Charter Schools, commented about the importance of the work of the Task Force and that the funding needs and challenges require thorough discussion.

The meeting was adjourned.