

Maps Working Group
School Renewal Commission
Conference Call
May 12, 2004
1:00 PM
Kirk Miller, Presiding

Present: Kirk Miller, Ric Floren, Carmen McSpadden, Senator Ryan, Bruce Messinger, Mary Whittinghill, Amy Carlson, Jim Standaert, Kris Goss, Steve Meloy.

ITEM 1 Discuss and Approve Possible Draft Recommendations from Maps Group

- Sen. Ryan – one mill of property tax should raise the same amount of funds regardless of where you live in the state.
- Ric - proposals that require everyone to pay their fair share (equalizing the burden) are the right thing to do.
- Mary - uniform property taxation doesn't have to specifically account for centrally assessed, etc. in the policy statements.
- Bruce - we must consider equalizing the burden and benefits.
- Kirk – this same mechanism must consider the necessary revenue to provide a system of quality elementary and secondary schools as required by the constitution.
- After much discussion it was decided to prepare a preamble statement followed by Guidance Concepts, and finally Policy Recommendations.

ITEM 2 Define and approve Guiding Concepts

- Crafted the Preamble statement, Guidance Concepts and Policy Recommendations.
- Gained consensus of the group to take these items to the full commission.

ITEM 3 Review Requested Maps – Amy Carlson

- Amy discussed the recommendations from the School Funding Advisory Council working group in 2002 that recommended a system that had only a General Fund and a Capital Fund.
- Discussion led to the crafting of statement to be considered in the Guidance Concepts section.

ITEM 4 Communicating with the Interim Tax Reform Study Committee

- Recommended a new name for the Maps Working Group changing to the School Taxation and Revenue Working Group. This is as a result of our fundamental change from looking at taxation winners and losers, to consideration of the larger philosophical questions. We should allow the taxation and revenue experts to develop a system based on the conceptual issues outlined.
- Developed Preamble Statement, Guidance Concepts, and Policy Recommendations to be considered by the full Commission. If consensus of the Commission is established the work will be forwarded to the Interim Tax Reform Study Committee for deliberation and inclusion in the big picture of issues they are considering.