



Advocacy Advisory Committee

December 16, 2024

Meeting Minutes

The Advocacy Advisory Committee (AAC) met at the State Capitol December 16, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The following attended the meeting:

AAC members: Sandy Dochen, Gabriel Estrada, Lisa Adams, Piper Nelson, Amari Pandian, Heidi Langan, Sarah Levithan Daniels, Angel Vales Lara, Daphne Hoffacker, Shelly Suarez, and Bardo Montelongo

AISD Trustees and Staff: Trustees Arati Singh, Candace Hunter, Lynn Boswell and Edna Butts

Travis County Legislators and Staff: Rep. Donna Howard, Rep. Gina Hinojosa, Rep. Vikki Goodwin, Eva DeLuna Castro, Samantha Cupero, Cole Wilson, Skyler Korgel, and Brian Pena

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Sarah Levithan Daniels at 3:05 p.m. There was no public comment.

Legislators asked what dollar amount increase in the basic allotment districts are asking for. The amount needed to fund schools at the level of HB 3 passed in the 86th session, adjusted for inflation, is \$7,500.

Rep. Howard, who has been a member of the House Appropriations Committee for several years, shared that the Comptroller will not announce the state's biennial revenue estimate until January 2025, so we do not know yet how much money will be available for the state's obligations. Estimated projections are \$20 billion, \$8 billion of which are already dedicated funds. In addition, the State has to pay for the property tax cuts the legislature passed last session in future years, including this year.

Rep. Goodwin said that the state is paying 27 percent of public school funding (excluding charter schools, which receive 100 percent funding from the state). In 2008, the state's share was 49 percent.

Rep. Hinojosa mentioned the concern that vouchers may have on retired teachers, explaining that if teachers and other public school staff leave public schools there will be fewer people paying into Texas' Teacher Retirement System and could result in less money for TRS retirees.

The group discussed sharing information about all the good things public schools do and the choices students have, including CTE, PTEch, magnet programs, etc. The committee also mentioned getting more students involved discussing these issues and sharing what they love about public schools.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.