

School District Boundary Task Force

FINAL Meeting
November 17, 2015

Skype Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

The final meeting of the School District Boundary Task Force was called to order by Senator Deb Peters at 4:00 p.m. CST.

The following task force members participated: Senator Deb Peters, Senator Angie Buhl, Representative Herman Otten, Representative Karen Soli, Superintendent Jennifer Lowery, Superintendent Tom Oster and Superintendent Mike Lodmel.

Department of Education staff included: Tamara Darnall, Susan Woodmansey and Bobbi Leiferman. Department of Legislative Research Council was represented by Doug Decker and Michael Houdyshell from Department of Revenue was also present.

NOTE: For the purposes of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order.

Senator Peters requested a change to the proposed agenda for the meeting. She asked to remove agenda item #3 - to finalize draft legislation on attendance centers within boundaries of another school district. She recommended to the task force members that there was insufficient time at this meeting to cover this issue and will ask legislators to continue the discussion, in person, on the morning of the Governor's budget address. A motion was made to remove the agenda item and to continue this discussion in person was made by Representative Soli, seconded by Superintendent Oster. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote (7 ayes, 0 nays and 2 excused).

Review and Approval of Minutes

The first agenda item was to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Buhl and the motion was seconded by Superintendent Oster. The motion prevailed on a roll call vote (7 ayes, 0 nays and 2 excused).

Finalize Draft Legislation for Minor Boundary Changes

Superintendent Oster informed the task force that he was recently contacted and asked what impact the recommended changes of this task force may have on future reorganizations and allowances for minor boundary changes.

After a quick review of the current reorganization statutes the task force requested that Tamara Darnall and Doug Decker review and amend the proposed legislation to provide an allowance for minor boundary changes when associated with school district reorganization.

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The task force then reviewed all public comments received regarding the proposed draft legislation. All members appreciated the feedback and will move forward with the draft as proposed and allow the discussion to continue during the legislative process.

A motion was made by Superintendent Lodmel to include in the final report the draft legislation that includes the allowance for minor boundary changes associated with reorganization. Motion was seconded by Senator Buhl. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote (7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused).

Public Comments

The task force then moved on to review other public comments received regarding non-contiguous school district boundaries.

Senator Peters asked for the final report to include a request to continue the discussion on irregular school boundaries and non-contiguous land areas. This issue will need more public input and time than allowed in one summer study. Due to the emotional and financial impact on patrons and school districts the task force is not recommending any changes to school boundaries at this time.

Task Force Report

Due to changes to the draft legislation on minor boundary changes the task force has requested to be able to review and vote on a final version of the report. Ms. Darnall and Mr. Decker will draft the legislation and a final report and send to each member via email by November 22, 2015. Task force members are asked to respond, via email, by Monday, November 23rd. This will allow sufficient time to submit a final report to the Governor and Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council no later than December 1, 2015.

There was a motion by Representative Otten to proceed, as stated above, in the draft of the final report, seconded by Superintendent Lowery. Motion prevailed on a roll call vote (7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused).

A motion to adjourn was made by Representative Soli, seconded by Senator Buhl. Meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. CST.