

Date: February 16th, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Task Force Members Present: Josue Tamarez Torres, Alexadra Fain, Brandon Chandler, Brandon Enos, Brian Kruk, Casey Morgan, Chane Roscoe, Chris Tatum, Christie Volmer, Cynthia Hopkins, Dave Lewis, Eric Hale, Faye Urich, Janie Coheen, Jason Hewitt, Jean Streepy, Jennifer Kuehne, Joshua Sciara, Judd Marshall, Justin Terry, Kimberly Davis, Kisaundra Harris, Leah Tunnell, Linda Galvan, Melina Recio, Narciso Garcia, Pam Fischer, Rick Rodriguez, Roland Hernandez, Rosie Vega-Barrio, Sadie Atha, Sergio Estrada, Sherry Taylor, Suzanne Kirkland, Tiffany Kilcoyne, Tiffany Klaerner, Valerie Haywood, Vania Amado

Task Force Support Present: Kelvey Oeser, Jessica McLoughlin, Matthew Holzgrafe, Emily Garcia, Allison Friedlander, Melissa Yoder, Kyla Jaramillo

Session: Opening Session

Teacher Vacancy Task Force Chair, Josue Tamarez Torres, welcomed the Task Force to the meeting, sharing excitement for the progress of the Task Force. He shared gratitude for the work and thanked the Task Force members for their outstanding commitment. He reviewed the agenda for the day, meeting norms, and the purpose for the meeting. Mr. Tamarez Torres summarized trends in Task Force feedback from the December meeting and how it was used to further refine recommendations. He discussed that the Task Force had opportunities between meetings to further provide feedback on the executive summary and draft report content. Mr. Tamarez Torres shared key actions taken since the December meeting including refining recommendations, synthesizing feedback, and drafting final report content. He then introduced Commissioner Mike Morath.

Commissioner Morath expressed gratitude for the work of the Task Force and shared the impact that the Task Force recommendations have already had. He shared that bills have already been filed related to Task Force recommendations, and that he has heard excitement for the final TVTF report. Commissioner Morath shared an update on the initial introduced budget, including legislative intent riders, which propose to increase funding for public education. He shared that both chambers have expressed interest in increasing teacher compensation and that there are legislative intent riders in the House that reference increases to the basic allotment, the school safety allotment, and instructional materials. He reminded the Task Force that this is just the introduced budget, and that nothing is final until the budget is passed and signed by the Governor. Commissioner Morath ended his update by thanking the Task Force members again for their outstanding commitment and contribution.

Deputy Commissioner Oeser shared that the Task Force had the opportunity to provide questions and input on the final draft report prior to the meeting, and that only minor feedback was received. She shared that this is a great sign that the group was on track with the drafted recommendations with group consensus. She shared that the goal was to have the final report published to the website by the end of the month. Considering the timeline and opportunities for feedback, she mentioned that staff would only be able to make minor adjustments and clarifications at this point, and any final feedback would require clear consensus from the group.

The Task Force then moved into breakout rooms to discuss each section of the final report.