State Board of Education SCHOOL FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE November 30, 2007 MINUTES

<u>Committee Members Attending</u>: Susan Haverkos, Deborah Cain, Heather Heslop-Licata, Colleen Grady, Jennifer Stewart, Sue Westendorf, and Virgil Brown via telephone.

Staff Present: Barb Mattei-Smith, Kelly Weir, Christina Siracusa, Matt Cohen

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Mr. Brown.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>: Minutes from the November 11 meeting were distributed. Mrs. Grady moved, and Mrs. Heslop-Licata seconded approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved without objection.

<u>Discussion Documents</u>: Staff distributed the following documents: Background Perspectives on Base Cost, Executive Summary of Pennsylvania Cost Study, Ohio/Pennsylvania Comparison Fact Sheet, Options for Base Cost Methodology, and Possible Timeline for Subcommittee Work.

During in-depth discussion of the documents, the following themes emerged as directions the subcommittee would like the work to progress:

- 1. Provide a common definition of main terms in goals (such as "adequate", "equitable", and "success")
- 2. Provide increased flexibility in use of state funding as an incentive for student achievement, with a scale from improving to high achievement.
- 3. Increase restrictions for use of funding in districts with low levels of student achievement.
- 4. Use funding mechanisms to motivate increased provision and use of regional services for all districts.
- 5. Move from funding the district to funding the student.
- 6. Move from unit to weighted funding in areas where units still exist.

After discussion of the methods to undergo a base cost analysis, there was general consensus that the subcommittee would like to begin with Gap Aid districts and look at several different variables that could be considered indicators of success (option A on the Base Cost Methodology document).

Finally, the local district revenue tools and rules that apply were reviewed for discussion at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for December 9, 2007 at the Embassy Suites.

<u>Next Steps</u>: Mrs. Mattei-Smith proposed that the next meeting consist of the local revenue discussion, a progress report on the analysis of district spending patterns required by HB 119 to promote effective and efficient use of resources, discussion of the gap district analysis and definition of success, and a presentation of current statutory limitations on flexibility of funding.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.