



To: TARS Membership
From: Michael Lee and Leigh Ann Glaze
Re: Commission ends with final report issued

December 21, 2018

Dear Members,

The Texas Commission on Public School Finance finished its work Wednesday. They received over 80 hours of testimony throughout the process. As I have stated before, two of the three working groups seemed to go through a process to focus on the areas on which they were working. The Revenue Group waited awhile to move forward and seemed to almost run out of time. As well, the Revenue Group did not take any uninvited testimony. One thing that caught my attention is that a couple of the committee members stated that the State needed to look at alternate forms of revenue and seemed to reference Nicole Conley Johnson's presentation.

Ken King stood in there on behalf of Small and Mid-sized Districts when that part of the discussion took place. There is still some hesitancy to leave these formulas as they are. I found it quite interesting though that they threw \$280 million to Fast Growth Districts to help with the lag year if the State adopts same year tax values. The discussion centered on making sure the small and mid-sized school funding remained at least revenue neutral for both the State and the Districts. It was also stated that it will be a very complex formula that will need to be worked out during session to achieve this goal. My thoughts are that the Commission almost wished they

had not brought up this particular talking point. We must get on this issue quickly with our Legislators and prove our efficiency.

Links to the available reports from the final commission meeting:

<https://tea.texas.gov/schoolfinancecommission/>

Dec. 19, 2018 - 10 a.m.

Texas Commission on Public School Finance

Capitol Extension, State Capitol Building - Room E1.016

[Agenda](#)

[Commission Final Report - Draft](#) (PDF)

[Exhibits - Dec 19 2018](#) (PDF)

[Appendix - Dec 19 2018](#) (PDF)

I noticed that the Public Policy Foundation put out a statement that no new money needs to be added to Education. However, the several members of the Commission stated that the State must put in more new money.

Senior Advisor and Policy Specialist for Governor Abbott, John Colyandro presented Governor Abbott's plan in Midland on Thursday. Our incoming President, Becky McCutchen and other superintendents from Region 18 attended the event. We will try and get more information out to you once we get more details.

It is now time to enjoy a few days for Christmas. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a few fun days of relaxation!

Sincerely,

Michael Lee

Please continue to sign up.....THANKS for all the registrations to the TARS Membership Luncheon on 1/29/2019 at Mid-Winter! It will be GREAT to see you all. If you have not registered yet, please click on the link below to do so. Have a GREAT weekend!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tars-membership-luncheon-at-tasa-mid-winter-2019-tickets-53566918094>

TARS Events and Travels

- January 29, 2019 – TARS Membership Luncheon while at TASA Mid-Winter



THE MAJOR THRUST OF TARS IS THREEFOLD:

- To protect the “small school formulas/adjustment,”
- To protect the valuation of agricultural land according to its productivity only, and
 - To fight efforts toward consolidation of small school districts.