

**Alaska's Education Challenge**  
**May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Modernization and Finance Committee**

**In Attendance:**

Bob Whicker (FACILITATOR)  
Sue Hull (Co-Chair)  
James Fields (Co-Chair)  
Jessica Cook  
Michael Partlow  
Luke Fulp  
Cheryl Frasca  
Jennifer Johnston  
Lee Butterfield  
Lou Pondolfino

Katrina Church-Chmielowski  
Karen Gaborik  
Tammy Van Wyhe  
Alexei Painter  
Tim Navarre  
Rick Luthi  
Sen. Shelley Hughes  
Sam Jordan (STAFF)  
Meredith Bowman for Mindy Lobaugh (STAFF)  
Jerry Covey (STAFF)

**Our Big Picture Goal:**

Identify 2-3 transformative ideas that will amplify student learning for Alaska's students in the area of Modernization and Finance.

**Intro Discussion:**

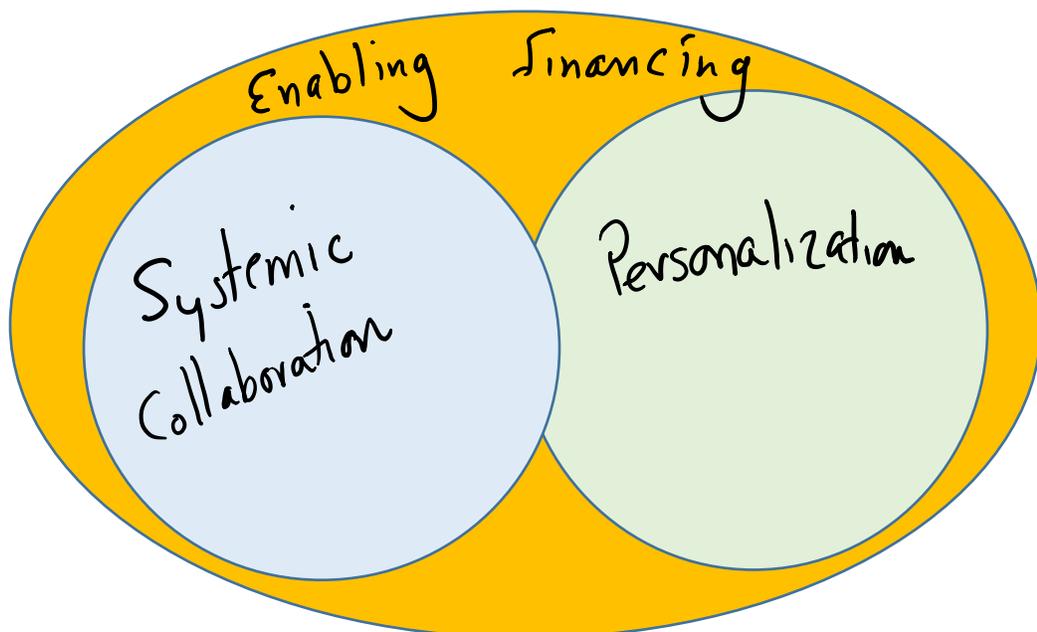
- Committee reviewed conference call expectations and logistics.
- Committee reviewed the use of SmartSheet.
- Committee discussed the potential of using Google Hangouts at July meeting

**Review of four affinity areas with individual committee members:**

- Reached out to business admins group, AASBO. Flush out each area – look at the relationship between modernization and finance. Suggestion to change to 'sustainable funding plan'. Formula changes need to be run through a stakeholder process.
- Need to further define areas.
- Need to make topical suggestions regarding foundation formula. Concerned about special needs funding.
- Looks for areas to promote 'deep systemic collaboration'
- Change the word 'boundary-less' – manifestation of personalized learning.
- Boundary-less learning definition should include the availability of gaining credits beyond the brick and mortar.
- Real world learning, anytime data could help better define the boundary-less learning from personal pathways.
- Sharing experiences and learning opportunities – extending opportunities. It all comes back to systemic collaboration.
- "I want to ensure that students come before the dollar signs."
- Move on to definitions of group. – How do we define concepts as 'transformative'? Look at end game of student performance not the end game of 'more money'.
- There are more students coming to school from lives of poverty and special needs. It's rich diversity, but presents challenges. The job [of teaching] is different than it was 17 years ago. Need to do a better job publicizing CTE – dual diploma model – CTE *and* Academic pathways. Stronger tie between secondary and post-secondary. Alignments.

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- True systemic collaboration ensure that ideas fit with the capacity of folks on the ground (teachers, students, parents).
- Take a more in-depth look into funding, look at what others are doing (nation-wide)
- Be cautious about monetary incentives. Disproportionate negative impact on lower performing schools.
- Need to define the roll of finance in this committee.
- Could finance go around all the committees and not just this one? A bigger circle. After idea generation - Address ideas as reasonable and financeable?
- Make sure that thoughts don't get lost in the labels. Wish transformation was easier. All things take resources – people, money, and technology. We are good a dreaming – but not all dreams are practical.
- Need to put things into 'buckets' [affinity groups] which are non-negotiable.
- How do we get others talking about the [Governor's Education] challenge?
- We need to push ourselves to look at how to use current resources. Use the funds that we have differently. Caution with incentives because the folks that need those the most will have the least capacity. Review iNACOL – don't recreate the wheel. Need help from DEED on competency based education models.
- An age 0-K continuum of education. This would be transformation.
- Things are changing despite us. Education is local. How do you work prescriptive ideas into local systems?
- Look at the Ontario model. Review the way they made systemic changes.
- We need to build the system to be constantly readjusting to serve students. This type of systemic change has been done in large districts, but we are likely the first state to do this. There have been transformations in districts (in and out of AK) that we can look to model statewide. What are the resources we can gather from outside sources to bring to students? Business world, CTE world? Should not dismiss incentives, but think of them in new ways.
- **Poll** – combine 'boundary-less learning' and 'personal pathways'. Carried forward via poll at 86%



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**Establishment of Affinity Groups (affectionately referred to as 'buckets'):**

- Personalization – Lee, Lou, Jessica, Karen, Katrina, Sue, Rick
- Systemic Collaboration – Tammy, Shelley, James, Jennifer, Rick
- Finance – Cheryl, Tim, Luke, Jennifer, Shelley, Michael, Alexei

Each affinity group is to come up with definitions/words and ideas for 'bucket' – small group work.

- Lee and Sue will facilitate Personalization
- James and Tammy will facilitate Systemic Collaboration
- Luke, Cheryl and Tim will facilitate Enabling Finance

Once affinity group work is done, the whole group will look at the product and decide whether there is agreement.

**Next steps:**

- Affinity small group work
- Bob will put a section into SmartSheet for any topical suggestions to other committees. Please submit suggestions by Wednesday next week (May 31<sup>st</sup>).

**Literature/Resources Discussed:**

- Guide: [Project RED: A Toolkit for Education Transformation](#)
- Article: [Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario](#)
- Book: ['Thank You For Being Late: An Optimists Guide To Thriving in the Age of Accelerations' – Thomas Freidman](#)
- Article: [How the World's Most Improved School Systems Keep Getting Better.](#)

**Next Meeting:**

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 1:00-4:00pm