

General Information

This report contains pertinent information presented and discussed during the second interim committee week of the 2019 legislative session. In the midst of inaugural activities, the legislature held its first set of committee meetings of 2019 this week. Many of the Senate committees were canceled, but the House held most of its meetings which were mostly agency briefings and updates.

Senate

Senate Education Committee

The Senate Education Committee met and provided school safety and security updates from Damien Kelly, Executive Director of the [Florida Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools](#). During Mr. Kelly's presentation, he emphasized the need to comply with deadlines, particularly the deadline for the submission of the FSSAT.

Furthermore, Mr. Kelly discussed the cost of hardening schools (please see attachment). Mr. Kelly acknowledged the diversity of school districts and schools in Florida and the cost in securing schools. Senator David Simmons, who represents most of Seminole and a portion of Volusia County asked for an analysis of the cost of hardening schools. Both Senator Simmons and Senator Bill Montford asked for a cost analysis of school hardening in order to know how much it is going to cost to harden every school. Mr. Kelly said that he would provide a cost analysis.

- Please click the highlighted link to view Damien Kelly's [School Safety & Security Update](#) to the Senate Education Committee on January 8th, 2019.
- Please see the attached document labeled, "**MSD Safety Commission Legislative Recommendations Bullet Points**."

Mr. Kelly also identified ten practices that schools should consider employing to increase safety (**many of these school districts currently employ**):

1. Single point of entry.
2. Vet visitors and limit access to certain areas.
3. Lock classroom doors, determine hard corners and keep such hard corners marked and cleared.
4. Plain language.
5. Lockdown/code red call to be made by any staff.
6. Single earbud policy (students wearing two earbuds in hallways prevents them from hearing announcements).
7. PA system in all hallways.
8. Conduct active shooter drills monthly with law enforcement (make law/policy similar to what is required for fire drills).
9. Advertise FortifyFL app on all campuses.

Also during his presentation, Mr. Kelly provided information relating to safe- school officers was updated (see attachment for detail) and is as follows:

- 3,649 – Number of school facilities, to include charter schools
- 2,396 – Number of SROs assigned to schools
- 449 – Number of school safety officers assigned to schools
- 726 – Number of Guardians assigned to schools
- 3,571 – Total number of safe-school officers assigned

Senator Manny Diaz, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee has requested input from superintendents on the implementation of the Guardian Program. Superintendents from Polk, Suwannee, and Pasco were invited to present. The superintendents described the Guardian Program implemented in their respective districts. Suwannee County implemented the program as anticipated by the Legislature while Polk has implemented a hybrid model. Chairman Diaz recognized that districts took the program requirements and were able to adopt it to fit their districts' needs. He also stated that there would be some modifications to the statute and would look to superintendents for input.

Future meetings will include a presentation on the initial report of the [Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission](#).

House

House Appropriations Committee

The House Appropriations Committee met and heard a presentation by Amy Baker, Coordinator from the Office of Economic & Demographic Research on the updated [Long Range Financial Outlook](#). The bottom line is that while the General Revenue outlook balance for this fiscal year is good and total state reserves are solid, the projections beyond the 2019-20 fiscal year are troubling and many are predicting a recession.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee was provided an overview of the Governance of the Florida Education System. Please click the highlighted link to view the [overview of Governance Structure for K-12 system](#).

House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

The House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee was provided a presentation early learning and the state scholarship programs. Please click the highlighted link to view the [early learning and state scholarship programs presentation](#).

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

The House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee was provided a presentation on the base budget from Denise Potvin, Budget Chief in Florida's House of Representatives. Please click the highlighted link to view the [base budget](#).

House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee

House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee provided a presentation on the changes to school improvement. Please click the highlighted link to view the [school improvement presentation](#).

Finally, attached is the third calculations FEFP Comparison developed by Jim Hamilton. Orange County took a particularly large hit, due to a decline in enrollment that the various estimating conferences and the Department of Education attributed to the movement of many Hurricane Maria students to other locations. There are a few things that are particularly significant. First UFTE is 2,092.02 lower than the first calculation.

Total potential funds are \$9,576,729 less than the first calculation. Lottery and School Recognition funds have increased \$1,203,196. That is driven by increased school recognition funds, and therefore the reduction in total potential revenue of \$9,576,729 is understated by \$1,203,196, and the impact on the operating budget is actually more like \$10,779,925.

I hope you find the information above helpful. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (407) 317-3200 ext. 2002966 or Eileen Fernandez, Associate General Counsel at (407) 317-3411 ext. 2002945.

The next interim committee meetings will be held on the week of **January 21st**.

Regards,

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