



State of New Hampshire
Governor's Office
FOR
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY
(GOFERR)
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, OCTOBER 16, 2020

3:00 p.m.

in

One Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

Legislative Advisory Board Members:

SENATOR	Senator Lou D'Allesandro
SENATE PRESIDENT	Donna Soucy
SENATE LEADER	Senator Chuck Morse
SENATOR	John Reagan
SPEAKER	Steve Shurtleff
HOUSE LEADER	Rep. Dick Hinch
CHAIRWOMAN	Maryjane Wallner
REPRESENTATIVE	Erin Hennessey

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - Reading of Public Meeting
Statement
- II. Attendance
- III. Legislative Advisory Board Discussion Item:
 - 3:10 PM - 3:30 PM - Public School
Unreimbursed COVID-19 expenses
 - 3:30 PM - 3:50 PM - Mascoma Community Health
Center
- V. Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, October 27th 1 PM
- VI. Adjourn

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * * * *

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: My name is Taylor Caswell. I am
4 the Director of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief
5 and Recovery, and I'm going to facilitate today's meeting.
6 The GOFERR Legislative Advisory was created by Executive
7 Order #2020-06. That order is publicly available on the
8 Governor's website.

9 Today's meeting is an official meeting of the
10 Board. It is open to the public and will be run in a manner
11 compliant with RSA 91-A.

12 As I mentioned, today's call is being recorded.
13 Should you be a speaking participant and not wish to be
14 recorded, you may disconnect now. The recording from
15 today's meeting will be transcribed and posted on the GOFERR
16 webpage.

17 Because the Board is meeting by phone under RSA
18 91-A; there are a few initial logistics that we need to
19 establish. First, each of us must state our names, where we
20 are located, and who is in the room with us. I'll begin.

21 My name is Taylor Caswell. I am the Director of
22 GOFERR and I'm here in the GOFERR Office in Concord with

1 Nancy Smith, Lisa English, and Hilary Ryan [phonetic].

2 Senator Soucy?

3 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy. I am at my
4 office in Concord, and I am alone.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL:

6 Speaker Shurtleff?

7 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff. I am at my
8 cabin in Bethlehem, and I am alone.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Well, that sounds nice. Senator
10 Morse?

11 CHUCK MORSE: Chuck Morse. I'm in my office in
12 Atkinson, and I am alone.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

14 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I am in my
15 office in Merrimac, and I am alone.

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

17 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: This is Senator
18 D'Allesandro. I'm at my home, and my wife is in the house.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

20 MARYJANE WALLNER: This is Maryjane Wallner. I'm
21 in my home in Concord, New Hampshire and my husband is in
22 another part of the house.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Reagan?

2 [Pause]

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

4 ERIN HENNESSEY: Good afternoon, Erin Hennessey
5 here. I am at home in Littleton, and I've got home
6 schoolers with me.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, everyone.
8 As we move through the agenda today, each Board member and
9 anyone else speaking is asked to identify themselves before
10 speaking. And please also remember to use those mute
11 buttons if you are not talking.

12 Should we choose to take any votes today, they
13 must be done by roll call, following the process we just
14 used.

15 And finally, before we begin today's
16 presentations, please remember to hit 5* if you would like
17 to ask a question or make a comment. And that would be it.

18 A few announcements before we get started today,
19 just in regard to the announcements that were made yesterday
20 at the Governor's press conference.

21 We did authorize the Main Street Relief Fund 2.0
22 just briefly for everybody's knowledge that it would be a

1 \$100, million-dollar Business Relief program. The intention
2 is for that application to go live on Monday at 8:00 a.m.
3 We will have the usual web forms as well as call-in numbers
4 for people to be able to get answers to questions they may
5 have.

6 In general, the application process is not going
7 to be terribly different from previous application
8 processes. There are a couple additions to this program
9 that represent programs that were in the GAP program. So
10 we've done a little bit of a combination program for this
11 round.

12 And again, that will be open through October 30.
13 All of the information, including the FAQs, is available on
14 our website, and I think its right at the top page. And as
15 soon as the application goes live, which -- again -- will be
16 Monday morning at 8:00 a.m., you'll be able to find that
17 information there as well.

18 I would also want to make note that I'm not sure
19 if this got announced yesterday, but Round 4 of the
20 municipal county program is also now open, effective
21 yesterday. That will also be available through the
22 thirtieth of October. And that's to cover eligible expenses

1 for counties and municipalities between September and
2 October 15.

3 And then lastly, the Governor also announced a new
4 public school funding program in the total amount of \$45
5 million-dollar. This is actually two programs, the first of
6 which is a \$35 million-dollar program that's based on a per
7 pupil allocation. I believe the number is \$200 per student
8 and was used for that component of the program.

9 All of that would be available to school districts
10 and schools once they complete their budgets for the ESSER
11 program. And that programs going to be run out of the
12 Department of Education.

13 And then on top of that, there will be coming a
14 supplemental emergency fund for schools in the amount of \$10
15 million, and that's for documented expenses that go over and
16 above the \$200 per student allocation, that was defined in
17 the program.

18 So those are a couple of updates based on
19 yesterday in case you missed it. And then the other item in
20 following up on the conversation that we had last time was
21 with regard to the data that the Department of Homeland
22 Security had with regard to the last run at some of the

1 school funding when the FEMA component was still in play.

2 And I believe we have Fallon Reed (phonetic) from
3 Homeland Security or someone on our team who might be able
4 to give us just a quick run through of the somewhat limited
5 information that we found in that regard. So I don't know,
6 Fallon, if you're on or if you could speak to that for us?

7 FALLON REED: Sure thing. This is Fallon Reed
8 from Homeland Security Emergency Management. I'm the Chief
9 of Planning and Grants and the state coordinating Officer
10 for the COVID disaster. So Taylor, would you like me to
11 kind of jump right in, or give some background, or were
12 there specific questions?

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, if you could just run
14 through what information you guys came up with, I think that
15 might generate some questions and conversation.

16 FALLON REED: Sure, absolutely. So traditionally
17 in public assistance in disaster declarations, schools are
18 considered eligible. So public schools are considered
19 eligible applicants. And then based on that, they look at
20 the individual work to see if the works meets the criteria
21 for the disaster.

22 So in the beginning when this all took place and

1 we received a disaster declaration in April, we had reached
2 out to schools in the state, all schools in the state, and
3 had basically said, "We believe you to be eligible or
4 potentially eligible to start collecting your information,
5 and we'll work with you to process the data once -- and see
6 if FEMA will agree with the eligibility information for
7 reimbursement."

8 So we had done that in the beginning. We had a
9 number of schools come back and fill out what's called a
10 "request for public assistance." And basically, it's just a
11 form that says, yes, we would like to be considered for
12 federal assistance reimbursement for the disaster.

13 As we began to capture the data from the schools,
14 we learned from FEMA that some of the expense may not be
15 eligible, or the work that schools were doing may not be
16 eligible.

17 So we had asked the schools at that time over the
18 summer -- well, originally, let me become known as up one
19 second -- we had asked them to look initially at their costs
20 to close.

21 So the disaster dates back to, or the eligibility
22 dates back to January 20. And so we had asked schools to

1 capture any costs incurred related to the COVID response
2 from January 20 through the June timeframe -- like the end
3 of school.

4 And we looked at primarily the cost of shutting
5 down the in-person schooling that had been going on during
6 the initial response this past spring.

7 We didn't tackle any of the reopening costs,
8 because we were under the assumption from our partners at
9 Region 1 that there would be Reopening America guidance
10 coming out that would cover that. So we only focused on the
11 shutdown costs in the initial response.

12 So we had asked schools to capture this, submit
13 their data, based on the information that we were able to
14 send over to the team at GOFERR to send out to the
15 Legislative Advisory Board was that we had 11 SAUs and two
16 charter schools that had submitted costs initially, right
17 around \$880,000. None of those costs were determined
18 eligible or not.

19 We had started our initial review, but then kind
20 of put things on hold. We didn't want to add any extra
21 burden to the schools and have them submit more
22 documentation or clarification on things while we were kind

1 of in limbo waiting for a formal determination or path
2 forward for FEMA. So it's a small percentage of the costs
3 that schools had incurred. We had only had, like I said, 13
4 total schools or SAUs that had submitted.

5 And some of the things that we knew right off the
6 bat, like the Plexiglass shields and sneeze guards -- things
7 like that -- were not eligible under public assistance, but
8 we hadn't really done much more of a review.

9 So we didn't -- we don't necessarily have accurate
10 numbers of the costs that have incurred. We did encourage
11 all of the SAUs and charter schools to continue tracking
12 their costs so that they had that. And I believe many of
13 them still are doing that.

14 But we just don't have the numbers total across
15 the state and all the districts and the charter schools as
16 to what they have.

17 So that's kind of the Reader's Digest version of
18 what we've been doing, but certainly can answer any
19 questions or additional needs that the Legislative Group may
20 have.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Great. Thank you very much,
22 Fallon. Very helpful. Are there any questions from anybody

1 on the Committee? Are there any discussion points from
2 anybody on the Committee, with regard to the education item
3 that we have on our agenda?

4 SENATOR MORSE: Taylor, this is Senator Morse. I
5 have my hand raised, but sorry the -- I started to build a
6 document, and understanding what's just happened. There are
7 some factual ones.

8 But first, last week, or it might have been this
9 week, you talked about per pupil. Is it my understanding
10 that under per pupil, the schools do not have to account for
11 what we give them, they just get \$200 per person?

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: That's correct, Senator.

13 SENATOR MORSE: Okay. And we had a document that
14 was pretty comprehensive for Manchester, which they were
15 looking for \$11 million other -- \$200 per student, they get
16 \$2.6. Salem, I checked with them, they were looking for
17 \$480, they'd get \$709. Salem will get just the \$197.
18 They'd get \$362.

19 I couldn't get any further, because there just
20 hasn't been enough time between meetings. But the reality
21 of what \$200 per student was why I -- when I talked to the
22 Governor, in some cases -- and I would believe it's probably

1 the city, the \$200 per student probably won't work. You put
2 \$10 million dollars in to let them apply, I believe, for
3 funding out of that \$10 million dollars, to see if they can
4 get closer to getting some of their things paid for.

5 And I specifically talked about computers and
6 things like that. But having said that, it would be nice if
7 in the next week or so we could run this out, if people have
8 kept data -- I understand that people have stopped
9 collecting data, but I would think they had collected enough
10 data for the opening of the pool or however they handled
11 that, that we'd see, you know, a relationship there. And
12 then we just don't have it yet, but anyhow.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, yeah. I think part of the
14 thinking here has been speed to get some resources out to
15 the school districts as quickly as we could. Yes, I think
16 there was under the guidance that we received from the
17 federal government, there was a higher number that we were
18 eligible to take this to.

19 But given all the other resources that are on the
20 table, given the fact that we weren't -- there was some
21 discussion in the last meeting about an imbalance that might
22 come as a result of using just exclusively the per pupil

1 allocation, we came up with a bit of a, I think, middle
2 ground for the moment that gave us yes, the \$200 per
3 student, but also there's this additional fund, to which
4 there hasn't been -- that would be eligible, where school
5 districts would be able to apply for those above and beyond
6 there. I can't speak to at this exact moment exactly where
7 the numbers fall on any one district.

8 I think one of the things that we did find out in
9 our investigation is that we didn't have a lot of that
10 directly handy at the moment.

11 So certainly able to have more discussion on this
12 point, but at this stage I think really the underlying issue
13 was getting some resources based on some formula, taking
14 advantage of the fact that the federal government is going
15 to let us distribute resources without a substantial amount
16 of information having to flow back, if we wanted to take
17 advantage of all of those pieces sooner rather than later.

18 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. I think what would be
19 helpful is, I mean, our next meeting's not until the twenty-
20 seventh. I think what would be helpful is -- and it was
21 pretty easy to get Salem and Pelham, I mean, one knew it off
22 the top of its head -- and then the projected \$200 per

1 student.

2 What are ESSER funds? Because they seem to have
3 played a major role in some of these communities?

4 LISA ENGLISH: So yeah, the ESSER Fund, that is
5 the CARES Act funding that -- sorry, this is Lisa English --
6 that CARES Act funding that was specific to primary and
7 secondary schools. And so, those funds have a longer
8 lifespan in them. They can be spent through into 2021,
9 where these funds have to be used by 2020.

10 But it's about \$37 million dollars -- I'm so sorry
11 I don't have the figures right in front of me -- divided up
12 or allocated to school districts based on their Title 1
13 formula.

14 And so, one of the benefits of these funds is, you
15 know, these funds can be used with less documentation.
16 Surely, a school will not anticipate needing the emergency
17 funding, and they can kind of frontload using the
18 Coronavirus Relief Fund, the GOFERR Fund in 2020, and budget
19 their ESSER funds for additional expenses for 2021.

20 SENATOR MORSE: Okay, thank you. And then one
21 final question, the \$200 per student, if the federal
22 government -- and there's a huge if -- were to look at FEMA

1 again, would the money that the towns and cities be getting
2 under the \$200 per student, would they have to account for
3 it all under their FEMA application?

4 FALLON REED: So as to whether or not they'd have
5 to account for it on their FEMA application, that part I'm
6 not certain of. I can say, though, with regard to what the
7 school district would have to provide to the state, they
8 would not need to document how those funds are used, at
9 least with GOFERR.

10 Now, I think they'll want to maintain their
11 documentation for a number of purposes -- potential audit
12 and potential future needs. So the FEMA application I'm
13 just not as familiar with if they were to revisit their
14 September 11 guidance.

15 FALLON REED: Lisa, if I may I can answer that --
16 this is Fallon. So if FEMA were to change -- if the federal
17 government were to change their determination on
18 eligibility, and schools were then eligible for public
19 assistance, the information or the money that they received
20 from the CARES would likely need to come into play.

21 So we would need to know how much they got, and
22 basically what it was spent for - not down to the individual

1 line item, but what FEMA looks at is any cost, or any money
2 that's reimbursed.

3 So basically, let's say for example a town has a
4 generator that's damaged in a storm, they would deduct any
5 insurance that they got from that, from the eligible costs,
6 and then the remaining amount, if it meets a certain
7 threshold would be eligible for reimbursement.

8 So the way FEMA I would imagine would look at it
9 is that they would look at what other funding stream, so
10 there's no duplication of benefits, and we would deduct
11 that.

12 The other piece is that CARES has also been
13 authorized as match for the FEMA program. So if they were -
14 - because FEMA is only a 75/25 split. So --

15 SENATOR MORSE: --

16 FALLON REED: if we were to -- if the schools were
17 suddenly allowed to do this, we could use that as part of
18 their match. So the long of the short of it is that we
19 would -- yes, we need to know what the schools got, and we
20 would work through them.

21 You know, they would need to account for where
22 that money went, and if it went towards any of the eligible

1 FEMA expenses. So --

2 SENATOR MORSE: Thank you.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. Thank
4 you, Fallon. Next, I have Representative Wallner.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Thank you. Could you
6 talk a little bit about the \$10 million dollars, and how the
7 decisions will be made, and where the decisions will be made
8 as to school districts that will get part of that \$10
9 million dollars?

10 I mean, I just think I heard someone say that
11 Manchester, for instance, is getting \$2.5 or \$3 million
12 dollars through the \$200 formula, but yet we saw an expense
13 sheet from them that really outlined \$11 million worth of
14 expenses.

15 So it seems like there are going to be school
16 districts out there who are going -- the formula is going to
17 seriously really shortchange them from what they have spent.

18 So how will those decisions be made, and where
19 will they be made?

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: So thank you, Representative --
21 this is Taylor. The initial \$200 per pupil payment will be
22 distributed through the Department of Education. I'm not

1 sure I have an exact timeline yet, but I would expect it in
2 the next few weeks.

3 And then of the \$10 million program, that will
4 come after the distribution of the initial \$200 per student.
5 And again, that will be administered by the Department of
6 Education.

7 I would say, unless Lisa disagrees with me, the
8 exact components of that and how they are going to
9 distribute, and how they are going to administer that
10 program has not been fully completed yet.

11 LISA ENGLISH: And if I may, I think that's the
12 goal -- the extra funding would be based on additional
13 documented expense that the schools have incurred, but we
14 have to remember this can only be for expense through the
15 end of the calendar year of 2020.

16 So I believe the Manchester -- for example the
17 Manchester data, I think was based on the whole school year.
18 We wouldn't -- the Department of Education wouldn't be able
19 to come look at spending this money for 2021 expense.
20 However, it can be used for 2020 expense that aren't
21 otherwise covered.

22 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Next is Senator

1 D'Allesandro.

2 [Pause]

3 Senator, we can't hear you, if you could --

4 [Pause]

5 Senator? I'm sorry, we're having with the mute
6 button, I can see-- you're unmuted on my side.

7 [Pause]

8 While we wait, Senator Morse, do you have your
9 hand -- oh, there you are. Sorry, Senator. Go ahead.

10 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Two things I wanted
11 to mention. First of all, it seems to me if the schools
12 were paying attention, they would be collecting this data,
13 as they know how important it is and how it reflects on
14 their operating budget, whether they're going to get money
15 or not. So that's incumbent upon the schools to do that.
16 And Manchester did that, and I think other districts have
17 done that.

18 The situation, though, is that the \$200, although
19 desperately needed -- for example in Manchester represent \$2
20 million of at least an \$11 million-dollar ask.

21 So the question that's posed is, between now and
22 the end of this calendar year, which is when this money has

1 to be spent, the dollars that you have spent, you would have
2 to wait until December to account for those dollars, and ask
3 for those monies.

4 But indeed, isn't that a Catch-22, because you
5 can't do that the day it expires at the end of December. So
6 you'd be doing a forecast of the monies that will be spent
7 for the monies of October, November and December. And I
8 think that puts you in a very compromising position to ask.
9 How are we going to address that?

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: I'll ask Lisa to answer that for
11 you.

12 LISA ENGLISH: So I think in the first instance,
13 to the extent that schools have actual expense that are
14 being -- have already been expended, and at least we've
15 heard that one of the largest costs is the reopening cost,
16 so these are dollars that have already been spent,
17 essentially, on the school district.

18 So being able to take the \$200 per student and see
19 where that puts schools, based on where they are at, they
20 budget up their ESSER.

21 But I do think being able to estimate, there may
22 be some ability to take that into account. But I think

1 schools may have funding that's already gone out the door,
2 and will have already gone out the door by the time the
3 application for the \$10 million are coming up. And no doubt
4 that data will be helpful to see where there are additional
5 shortfalls, and how expensive those shortfalls may be.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Well, and I think also the
7 projections would really apply more toward the second fund,
8 as opposed to the first fund, which is the \$200 per student.
9 That doesn't necessarily carry with it the same
10 documentation requirements that might be required for the
11 second.

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Well with -- yeah, I think,
13 you know, people are trying hard to make sense of this. But
14 look at the timeframe that we're reacting in. We're in the
15 middle of October now, so we have November, we have that
16 Thanksgiving vacation and then we have December and we run
17 into the Christmas situation.

18 So we're putting a lot of pressure on districts,
19 if they have really significant -- and they do have
20 significant -- needs, to make their cases to the Department
21 of Education. I think that's the key point I wanted to
22 make. So thank you very much.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah. You're welcome, Senator.

2 Senator Morse, do you have your hand raised again?

3 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. Just so we get a clearer
4 picture, and maybe it's not GOFERR that needs to do it,
5 maybe it's the Legislature, but there's FEMA money to be in
6 one column that, you know, the expenses that schools thought
7 they were going to cover under FEMA, which I've got to
8 believe they have -- I mean, we're not talking we have to
9 have it exact, but I mean the two schools that I did get
10 ahold of the Superintendent, it was done within half an hour
11 in total.

12 The ESSER funds, which I don't quite understand,
13 and maybe you could give us -- you know, a little more
14 detail on that for the next meeting, but if I look at
15 Manchester, there's almost \$7 million dollars in ESSER
16 funds, and I'm not sure what they represented. But, you
17 know, so if you take \$7 million and \$2.6 -- does that solve
18 the same bucket of problems, or is it two different
19 problems?

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, Senator. I think that's
21 definitely one -- that's a question we'll need to get back
22 to you on specifically, given where we are right now. Happy

1 to add that to the agenda for our next meeting.

2 SENATOR MORSE: Okay, thank you.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Any other questions
4 or comments on this topic? Okay. If not, we'll -- moving
5 on to the next item on the agenda is, which is back to the
6 Mascoma Community Health discussion. I will once again turn
7 it over to either Senator Morse or Senator D'Allesandro, to
8 lead this bit of the conversation.

9 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Well, this is Sen -- go
10 ahead, Chuck.

11 SENATOR MORSE: No, no, go ahead.

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Well, Senator Morse and I
13 have been working on this, and I applaud his work ethic and
14 work effort. We've been working on this really night and
15 day I might say since our last meeting, and previous times.
16 So I think we've come up with a solution at this point in
17 time.

18 I'd like to make this as a motion that we
19 allocated from the CARES fund \$110,000. This will sustain
20 them for the months of November and December. They will
21 then work with Health and Human Services on soliciting
22 dollars to carry them through the rest of their fiscal year,

1 and try to work out a situation where they could get up to
2 \$20,000 a month from Health and Human Services until they
3 become financially viable.

4 They'll continue to do fundraising and continue to
5 get themselves in a position where they can restore
6 activities, and they'll do that at as rapid a rate as they
7 can. But I think that's the solution that we have come up
8 with.

9 And I -- again, thank Senator Morse for his
10 efforts. I know he's spoken with the Governor, and he's
11 worked this thing out, he's spoken with the people over at
12 Mascoma, as I have on a daily basis. So thank him for his
13 efforts, and I bring that motion forward and ask for a
14 positive reaction to that. Thank you, Taylor.

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: You're welcome, Senator. Is
16 there a second to the Senator's motion?

17 ERIN HENNESSEY: This is Erin Hennessey, I will
18 second that.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Ok, great. Is really -- thank
20 you, Representative Hennessey -- is there any discussion on
21 this?

22 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah, I just want everyone to

1 understand the \$110,000 was to cover October, November and
2 December.

3 There is a little bit of a shortfall that they've
4 agreed that they're going to go to donors to take care of.
5 And along with that, we have talked with the Center of
6 Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office about
7 starting in January with an enhancement in their payment.
8 We've got to work through that, but that's the plan.

9 And in talking to Mascoma, they originally talked
10 to us about a marriage -- you know, with an organization
11 that would help get them into federal funds. I certainly
12 explained that to the commissioner. And that's probably a
13 good avenue to be looking at for a long-term solution.

14 So there's a lot going on here. I applaud Lou
15 and, you know, doing it in this fashion, because it was a
16 lot of meetings, but we're getting somewhere, and there's a
17 lot more to do, so I don't think we can just drop this, I
18 think it's going to have to end up back at the Legislature,
19 to be honest with you.

20 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay, great. Thank you, Senator.
21 And thank you both for taking on this issue for us. Is
22 there any other discussion on this subject?

1 ERIN HENNESSEY: Director Caswell, this is Erin
2 Hennessey. I'm not sure if my, "Hand raised" thing is
3 working or not, but I just want to echo what Senator Morse
4 said about them trying to continuously pursue the FQHC
5 status so that they have preferred reimbursement rates. And
6 I think that's going to really help them and not require any
7 more funding down the line.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Representative.
9 Any other discussion on this point? Okay, well, I'm not
10 seeing any here. So with that, I think we'll just move to a
11 vote. So we'll move onto the roll call quickly. Senator
12 Soucy?

13 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy, I vote yes.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you. Speaker Shurtleff?

15 SPEAKER SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff, I vote yes.

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yes.

18 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: This is Dick Hinch, I vote
20 yes.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

22 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: This is Lou D'Allesandro, I

1 vote yet.

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey?

5 ERIN HENNESSEY: Hennessey yes.

6 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. So that motion passes, and
7 we will proceed as we usually do. So thank you, everybody,
8 for that. Looking on the agenda here, I just want to make
9 sure that we all are on schedule for October 27.

10 SENATOR MORSE: Taylor, just so everybody knows
11 that I'm not dropping the ball, it's just there's only so
12 many hours in a day, the Broadband issue -- and I know we
13 got a report the other day from you on what's been
14 appropriated already out of these numbers -- I certainly
15 have a request in to the Governor's Office to ask what the
16 thought process is off that money.

17 I don't have the answer in front of me today, so I
18 can't address it, but if you do get it in GOFERR, I know the
19 issue is still hanging with the GOFERR Committee, so we need
20 to put that on the agenda for the next meeting.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes. Just to clarify Senator,
22 you're talking about the overview of the resources that

1 remain under the CARES Act? Is that what you're referring
2 to?

3 SENATOR MORSE: Yes.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, we're preparing for that
5 conversation as the main item on the twenty-seventh.

6 SENATOR MORSE: Okay, thank you.

7 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. And Representative
8 Wallner, do you have your hand raised?

9 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: I do, thank you.

10 TAYLOR CASWELL: Go ahead.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: And I'm sorry to go back
12 to the school funding issue, but the more I sat here and
13 thought about it, the more I thought, the \$10 million
14 dollars is really not going to go very far.

15 And we know that from what Mr. Ladd told us last
16 week, he already had been in touch with 25 percent of the
17 schools, and they already were talking about \$17 million.

18 If you work that out, you were to go through that,
19 that gets you up around \$68- to \$70 million that is looks
20 like schools would need. So it feels like the \$10 million
21 will not really be able to address the additional need that
22 the schools will have -- it may not even come close.

1 I'm wondering if -- because we, it does seem like
2 we must not have much left -- at this point it seems like
3 maybe \$100 million dollars. Is that about right?

4 SENATOR MORSE: I think it's between -- you know,
5 it's maybe a little less than that.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Okay. So you can see
7 that it is actually going fast.

8 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: I'm wondering if we could
10 earmark a little bit more money to the schools and set it
11 aside, and see when the applications come in if there isn't
12 need for additional funds? I think it's going to be really
13 hard when that -- when those applications start coming in,
14 it's going to be really hard to decide how to distribute
15 that \$10 million dollars.

16 Or is everyone going to get proportionate, or are
17 some schools going to get more than other schools?

18 So I would like to make a motion that we set aside
19 \$30 million dollars that would be available to schools if
20 needed?

21 SENATOR MORSE: So just to clarify, like a reserve
22 fund, is that what you're suggesting, Representative?

1 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes, like reserve funds.

2 SENATOR MORSE: Okay.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Because I just -- it
4 means that if the \$10 million goes really fast and you need
5 additional funds, I think it would be good to know that they
6 were available, they're set aside for this purpose, and
7 because it is a spend down that's going fast now.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. So you've made that
9 motion. Before we get into some discussion, maybe I might
10 ask for a second to that motion?

11 DONNA SOUCY: This is Senator Soucy. I would
12 second the motion, and that was the purpose for raising my
13 hand.

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good. Thank you, Senator.
15 Okay. I have -- Senator Morse, I have your hand -- see your
16 hand raised?

17 SENATOR MORSE: Yeah. I think I kind of
18 anticipated that -- and that's why I asked for a document to
19 be built -- if Ladd does have all those answers, I think you
20 could build them into a document that, you know, we'd be
21 able to see this. I don't know what all these communities
22 have.

1 I know between you and Josh in my office, we
2 weren't able to get all this information today. That's why
3 I chase my own community, because I wanted to see and make
4 sure that we weren't being crazy here.

5 I think this motion should wait until the twenty-
6 seventh to be honest with you, and we have a document that's
7 factual and we can take a look at, to see exactly where we
8 stand, and also get the answer to how ESSER funds played a
9 role in this.

10 Because I do not think anyone's spending between
11 now and then, and I don't see it, anyway. We haven't talked
12 about very many other subjects.

13 So anyhow, if we could do that, I think it's a
14 better way to do it.

15 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Just moving along quickly,
16 Senator -- I mean, and Representative Hinch has his hand
17 raised.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: Yes, thank you Taylor. I
19 agree 100 percent with what Senator Morse just said. There
20 just is no backup for the \$30 million dollars, it's just a
21 number.

22 And I don't mean to be disrespectful, but I think

1 we need to have some concrete documentation that leads us in
2 a direction of is \$30 million the right number or is \$20
3 million the right number?

4 I don't know at this point, but I would not be in
5 support of this motion at this time, until we have some
6 concrete backup that can guide us in the right direction. I
7 think the motion's premature.

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Representative. Are
9 there any other members that would like to address this
10 issue? Is there any willingness -- I'm sorry, Senator
11 D'Allesandro?

12 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Senator?

13 [Pause]

14 TAYLOR CASWELL: Check your mute button, Senator.

15 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. Am I okay?

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yeah, you got it, thank you.

17 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Okay. I think it is quite
18 clear that the demonstrated need out there is there. And it
19 will exceed the \$10 million that has been set aside. I
20 think we know that based on the discussions that we've had
21 today.

22 But I think to defer it at this point in time,

1 there may be -- there may be other items that are taken --
2 the Governor may make other decisions that take the money
3 that we need here. I think the set aside -- you're just
4 setting it aside so that when the paperwork comes in,
5 there's money to take care of it. So I think it's the right
6 move at the right time, to set that money aside.

7 But we just know -- again, just take Manchester,
8 which had a need of \$11, they're getting \$2, so you know
9 that there's a \$9 million-dollar differential right there.
10 And that setting aside \$10, if you did this on an
11 extrapolation basis, you would exhaust all of the money.
12 Anyway, that's my point. Thank you.

13 TAYLOR CASWELL: Thank you, Senator. Is there any
14 other discussion on this motion?

15 ERIN HENNESSEY: Director?

16 TAYLOR CASWELL: Yes.

17 ERIN HENNESSEY: This is Erin Hennessey. Sorry.
18 I don't think my hand raise thing is working today. But I
19 do want to follow up on the ESSER funds, to find out -- I
20 don't know if somebody from the Manchester School District
21 or somebody representing them is here, if they can tell us
22 of the \$11 million dollars, what --

1 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Have we lost her?

2 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative, are you still
3 there? You've cut out.

4 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, I think she's gone.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: Well, we sort of got the gist of
6 her question.

7 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah. But I think we could
8 get the Manchester Superintendent in order to address that
9 situation or to get the Finance Officer from the City of
10 Manchester to address her question, and we could do that
11 without a great deal of difficulty.

12 TAYLOR CASWELL: Okay. Thank you, Senator. Any
13 other discussion on this subject? If not, I think we will
14 jump to a roll call vote. So we'll start with Senator
15 Soucy? Senator Soucy?

16 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy, I vote yes.

17 TAYLOR CASWELL: Speaker Shurtleff?

18 SPEAKER SHURTLEFF: Steve Shurtleff, I vote yes.

19 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator Morse?

20 SENATOR MORSE: No.

21 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Hinch?

22 REPRESENTATIVE HINCH: No.

1 TAYLOR CASWELL: Senator D'Allesandro?

2 SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: I vote yes.

3 TAYLOR CASWELL: Representative Wallner?

4 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes.

5 TAYLOR CASWELL: And Representative Hennessey, are
6 you back? Kind of important.

7 [Pause]

8 TAYLOR CASWELL: Oh, let's just hold on one
9 minute. Representative Hennessey, have you joined us? I
10 see your name there. I want to make sure she has an
11 opportunity to vote. Just hold one minute, everybody. I
12 want to make sure she has -- I can see her name here.

13 Representative Hennessey, are you on the
14 line?

15 Unfortunately, I think she's having connection
16 difficulties. So at this point what I'm seeing is a vote of
17 4:2, which just need to represent a quorum, and even with a
18 negative vote from a negative vote from Representative
19 Hennessey, if that was how she voted, I think the motion
20 would still pass. So I think we'll go with that at this
21 point.

22 If we need -- maybe I might ask you,

1 Representative Wallner, to draft something up in writing for
2 us?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WALLNER: Yes. I will do that.

4 TAYLOR CASWELL: Very good, thanks. And I think I
5 also need one of those for Mascoma as well, now that I'm
6 thinking of it. Maybe Senator D'Allesandro or Senator
7 Morse, if you could help us with that?

8 SENATOR MORSE: Sure. We'll work it out together.

9 TAYLOR CASWELL: Great. Thank you,
10 representative. Okay. Are there any other items that
11 people would like to raise at this point? If not, I think
12 I'll just remind everybody that once again, our next meeting
13 will be on October 27, which is a Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

14 And in the meantime, if there are any issues or
15 questions or concerns that you have, of course direct them
16 to me or anyone here at GOFERR, we're happy to help however
17 we can, and I look forward to talking to all of you on the
18 twenty-seventh, and have a nice weekend.

19 COLLECTIVE: Thank you, goodbye.

20 [End of Proceedings]