Date: October 13th, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.

Task Force Members Present: Josue Tamarez Torres, Alexandra Fain, Ashley Osborne, Brandon Chandler, Brian Kruk, Chane Rascoe, Chris Tatum, Christie Volmer, Cynthia Hopkins, Dave Lewis, Diana Barrera Delgarte, Hale Tamarez Torres, Shared Background and Task Force Charge

th there was the House Committee on Public Education Joint Hearing on the Texas Workforce. He introduced the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) chair Jean Streepy and Deputy Commissioner Oeser who were also on the panel. He reviewed the initial trends from discussion and then SBEC chair Jean Streepy shared a summary of her testimony. Deputy Commissioner Oeser shared a summary of policy considerations and introduced Commissioner Mike Morath

Remarks from Commissioner Mike Morath

Commissioner Morath thanked the Task Force for their efforts and contributions. He emphasized that he is frequently sharing the Task Force trends. He shared some additional considerations for the Task Force around increasing compensation for teachers not only through overall funding increases, but also through more strategic staffing support. He highlighted some trends seen in both data across our state, as well as across other states. He reviewed how school funding over time has increased based on per pupil funding. He discussed an overall cut of education in 2011-2012, and how since then there has been a significant and sustained increase in per pupil spending each year. He discussed how when school budgets increase the district decides how to spend the money based on the needs of the district, and that the funding increase may not always translate into higher pay. He shared how when we look at our trends as a state we have hired more teachers per pupil as funding has increased and we currently have the lowest student to teacher ratio in

our recent history. He reminded participants that average teacher to student ratios are not the same as class size, and that these ratios may be low due to a number of factors, including hiring teachers who co-teach classes, or adding some smaller classes while other class sizes remain high. Commissioner Morath shared that Texas employs more teachers than other states. He shared a comparison of Texas to California. Texas has fewer students than California, but far more teachers and lower pay. The Commissioner discussed that the legislature is interested in increasing teacher pay but discussed the trade-off between hiring more teachers and paying teachers more. He shared that if student and teacher ratios would have been maintained at the 2012-2013 ratio, teachers would have an average pay increase of $4,000. He shared that there are always trade-offs that decision-makers and policymakers must consider.

Q&A Panel Discussion

Mr. Tamarez Torres started the Q&A discussion with questions submitted by Task Force members in advance. A Task Force member asked questions about State Board of Education (SBOE) concerns around TPA. The Commissioner shared that different stakeholders had different concerns, but that one concern that was voiced was how the shift could potentially impact vacancies. He discussed that TPA is a performance assessment aligned to what new teachers need to do, and that Texas had a six-year transition plan to monitor data, phase in implementation, and ensure no negative impact to teacher supply. Jean Streepy added that SBEC recognized the increase in alternative certifications candidates and the vaioif do