

1 Assessing Standards Board
2 Equalization Subcommittee

3 **Draft**

4 **DATE:** April 10, 2023 **TIME:** 12:45 p.m.

5 **LOCATION:** Department of Revenue - Training Room, 109 Pleasant Street, Concord NH

6 **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS**

7
8 Robert Gagne, Chair Betsey Patten ~ *Excused*
9 Sam Greene Loren Martin
10 Joe Lessard Linda Kennedy
11 Representative Joe Guthrie

12
13 **MEMBERS of the PUBLIC**

14
15 Mr. Gagne opened the subcommittee meeting at 12:50 p.m.

16
17 Representative Joe Guthrie was introduced replacing Representative Tony Piemonte on the
18 subcommittee.

19
20 Minutes

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22 Ms. Martin *motioned to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2022, meeting*; Mr. Lessard *seconded*
23 *the motion*. No discussion. Chair Gagne called the motion to approve the minutes of October 31, 2023,
24 as written. All approved. *Motion passed unanimously*.

25
26 Annual Review of Equalization Policies and Procedures

27
28 Pursuant to RSA 21-J:14-b VI., the ASB shall review prior year’s ratio studies conducted by the
29 Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) used for equalization purposes and recommend changes
30 to the ratio study process.

31
32 Mr. Gagne reported that the committee had discussed increasing the threshold change from \$3,000 to
33 \$5,000 and brought the suggestion to the 2022 Equalization public forum for comment. He added that
34 he has spoken with Mrs. Kennedy from the DRA, and she agreed this change was reasonable due to the
35 market increases.

36
37 Mr. Lessard *motioned to increase the threshold change from \$3,000 to \$5,000*; Ms. Martin *seconded*
38 *the motion*. Chair Gagne called the motion. *Motion passed unanimously*.

39
40 Discussion followed about the use of bankers rounding versus standard rounding in the calculation of
41 equalization statistics; a method continued from Real Data. Standard rounding means a decimal of 1-to-
42 4, rounds the number to the left down; a decimal of 5-to-9, rounds the number to the left up. Bankers
43 rounding is a decimal of 5, goes down one and up the next; it alternates. This makes sense for banking
44 however for statistics, standard round is more applicable.

46 It was suggested that this could cause a slight difference in statistics DRA calculates and those
47 assessors calculate. Mr. Gagne spoke with Pat Santoso of Axiomatic, who thought standard rounding
48 made more sense but mentioned it would be a significant program rewrite. Mr. Santoso also stated the
49 system is due for an upgrade and that it would be difficult to make that change without making the
50 other necessary revisions.

51
52 Mr. Lessard *motioned for standard rounding to be used and implemented with the next scheduled*
53 *system upgrade*; Ms. Martin *seconded the motion*. Mr. Greene explained this is a new change and a
54 significant one from a programming standpoint. Mr. Santoso found the request odd as the use of
55 banking rounding, which was used in the old Real Data system, was requested by the Department to
56 remain the same when the new system was built and implemented by Axiomatic.

57
58 Mr. Gagne suggested if there is a history to this with a legitimate reason to continue with it, he would
59 entertain a discussion, otherwise, he does not feel rounding for this purpose should be any different than
60 everything else they do. If the change is an issue, he suggested a footnote explaining the change in the
61 report for that year or in the letter the DRA sends to the municipalities.

62
63 Mr. Lessard asked if Mr. Greene might be able to have an answer for the next full board meeting. Mr.
64 Greene stated he would look into the history and reasoning to use the banking rounding.

65
66 Mr. Michaud added using a different rounding system could have a material impact on a municipality
67 or school.

68
69 Mr. Gagne called the motion for standard rounding to be used and implemented with the next scheduled
70 system upgrade. Mr. Greene abstained; all others approved. *Motion passed with majority vote.*

71
72 Mr. Lessard *motioned to adjourn*; Ms. Martin *seconded the motion*. Chair Gagne called the motion.
73 *Motion passed unanimously.*

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75 Mr. Gagne adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

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77
78 Respectfully submitted,

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80 Stephanie Martel, Clerk
81 Municipal and Property Division
82 NH Department of Revenue Administration

83 All meetings are recorded and available upon request.

84 Documentation relative to the Assessing Standards Board may be submitted, requested or reviewed by:

85
86 Telephone: (603) 230-5096
87 Facsimile: (603) 230-5947
88 Web: www.revenue.nh.gov
89 E-mail: asb@dra.nh.gov

90
91 In person at:
92 109 Pleasant Street, Concord
93
In writing to:
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