

P-20 COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Buena Vista Conference Center

August 11, 2009

- Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President of the State Board of Education and co-chair of the Council, welcomed council members and introduced herself. Dr. Gray was appointed by Governor Markell and confirmed by the Senate 65 days ago to assume the role of President of the State Board of Education. She shared that the State Board was not immune to the transition being experienced elsewhere in the state. There have been five new State Board of Education members appointed in the last two years. The Board does not see this as a disadvantage, but rather as an opportunity to create something new and redefine the Board. The Board is taking on a more dynamic and open position with the common purpose of preparing Delaware children to be self-sufficient, contributing members of our society. Dr. Gray plans to lead the Board as they work collaboratively with the DOE and other stakeholders on big things in big ways.
- Dr. Lillian Lowery, Secretary of Education and co-chair, introduced herself and welcomed council members. The Secretary's stated that she was pleased with the new approach of the State Board of Education and welcomes the productive tension. She went on to state that Delaware is often leading the nation on many fronts. Our state has several pockets of excellence that can be examined and scaled up to create systems of excellence and have a positive impact on education. She spoke of the Governor's Education Reform Blueprint that evolved from information and feedback gleaned through public forums that were held by the Governor to seek citizen input.
- Dr. Lowery then spoke of the Innovation Action Team and the work being done around strategic planning for the DOE. The first four goals of the DOE strategic plan comport with the four assurances of the ARRA/Race to the Top Grant Application. The DOE strategic plan focuses on five high level goals:
 1. College and career ready standards and assessments, led by Nancy Wilson
 2. Design and implementation of data tracking systems, led by Bob Czeizinger and Alan Phillips
 3. Enhancing teacher effectiveness, led by Mike Owens
 4. Intensive support services for the lowest-performing schools, led by Susan Haberstroh
 5. Engaging stakeholders in redesign of current and planning of future Department services, led by Mike Stetter and John Marinucci

Dr. Lowery explained that Delaware is well positioned to move forward in many of these areas. She provided several examples to illustrate this point. For example, directly related to goal one, Delaware has joined in a 46 state collaborative to work on the Common Standards Initiative and we are working on an RFP for our new student assessment system. We are also working in a multi-state collaborative developing a collective item bank. In the area of data, thanks to the work of the P-20 Council and the Data Subcommittee, Delaware has been recognized by the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) as one of six states who have met all ten of

the DQC elements for a state Longitudinal Data System. Delaware also has in place legislation that allows for Alternative Routes to Certification (ARTC) through options such as a program at UD, the Teach for America Program and Teacher Residency Programs. Related to goal five, the Department is proposing a study to consider the consolidation of districts. The current structure may not be in the form that we think it should be, so DOE will study the possibilities and the public will help to make the decision. There is currently a plan for regionalization and consolidation of services through a service center delivery model. Proposed sites for the centers are Baltz Elementary in RCCSD for northern New Castle County, Appoquinimink District Offices for Southern New Castle County, DOE for Kent County and Frankford Elementary for Sussex County. The Governor is also proposing a PreK/Early Care Center to be housed at DOE.

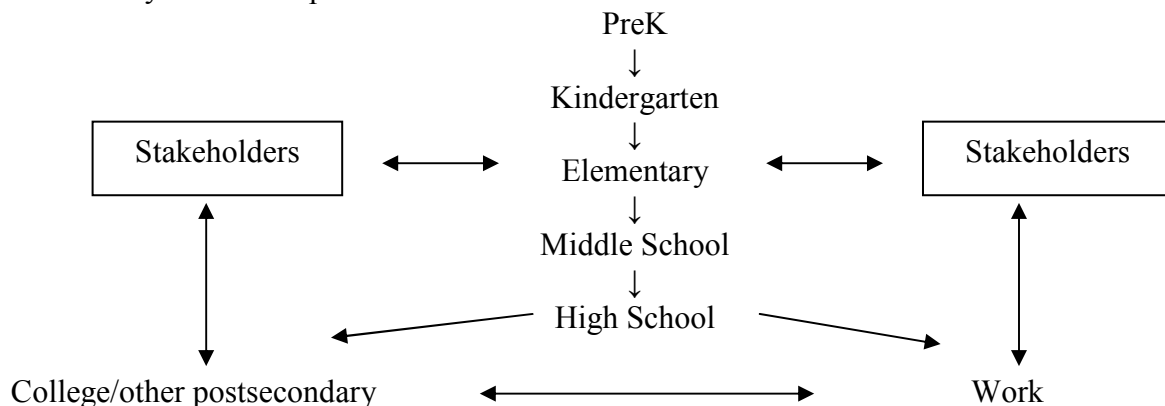
In summation, Dr. Lowery stated that she is excited about putting a bold plan on the Governor's desk on August 28th. Copies will be forwarded to the Council members after the document has been presented to the Governor.

Strategic Planning

Dr. Lowery and Dr. Gray then led the group in a discussion around the P-20 Council's strategic planning. Dr. Lowery posed the following questions: Who are the P-20 Council's customers? What are our customer needs, motivations and characteristics? How do we uniquely provide value to our customers? Responses were captured on chart paper.

Chart 1: Customers

- Data- we need milestone/benchmarks related to outcomes
- Early childhood
 - Children
 - Workforce (childcare teachers)
 - rewards, incentives, compensation
- Children/students
- Parents
- Industry
- Key transitions points



- Role that Higher Ed can play in the “loop”
 - Prepare the workforce (child care providers, teachers, etc.)
 - Beyond “supply”
- We are not the customer; we are service providers

Chart 2: Role of P-20 Council

- Force to help make changes
- Share studies and data
- Collaborate, communicate and share best practices
- Globally competitive workforce
- “all in this together”...no blame
- Students see no transitions → adults have a silo mentality
- Look for common opportunities to intervene- re: data, we need a comprehensive, linked system to track progress and analyze to identify problems...then act upon the issues based upon best practices.
- Bring higher education and business more directly into the conversation
- Take hold of (“ownership of”) some problems
- Recommendations/Guidance
- Standing Agenda Item: What’s new & hot?
- *What is the “end game” of the Council?*

Chart 3: Race to the Top (RTTT)

- Connect Early Childhood and workforce (Head Start)
- Reach out to community organizations
- Higher Education and Workforce (re: success)
- Credentials of Providers- collaborate with the Children’s Department
- Children with disabilities
- DATA INTEGRATION

Chart 4: Questions

- What does it take to make early childhood work well?
 - Get the system working well at the outset
 - Cannot wait for 1-3 year olds to work their way through the system...urgency to address issues along the pipeline (across the P-20 continuum)
 - Providing supports early on, while important, is not enough...students continue to struggle when the supports are removed (supports removed or not provided typically at the Middle and High School levels- e.g.: Minner Reading Teachers)
- How efficient is the early childhood system?
 - How do we make them more efficient?
 - Full-day K Study: 25% were found to be harmful
 - Professional development/training is key
 - Many programs do not have developmentally appropriate programming

Dr. Gray then proposed that based upon the discussion, we should move the WHAT, HOW, WHO and WHEN portion of the strategic planning conversation to the November meeting when we have more details about the DOE strategic plan. Council members agreed that the goal is to have a strategic plan in place by the April meeting.

P-20 Council Membership

A copy of DE Code (Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1 § 107. P-20 Council) that establishes the P-20 Council and its membership was distributed along with a copy of the bylaws. It was noted that the House and Senate Education Chairs have not been in attendance at recent meetings. Dr. Gray and Dr. Lowery will reach out to those members to re-engage in the work of the Council. The P-20 Council is a public body and as such is subject to the open meeting laws. All meetings and agendas will be posted on the state activities calendar. Meeting minutes will continue to be posted on the P-20 Council website at:

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/P20council/default.shtml>.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.