

P-20 Council Meeting Notes

Buena Vista Conference Center
April 27, 2010

Attendees: Lillian Lowery, Department of Education; Teri Quinn-Gray, State Board of Education; Jim Wolfe, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce; Kirsten Brown, University of Delaware; Stephanie Smith, Delaware Technical & Community College; Jim Wilson, Wilmington University; William Allen, Delaware Business Roundtable; Ronald Blackmon, Delaware State University; Patricia Dwyer, Wesley College; Paul Harrell, Department of Education

Overview of RTTT

Dr. Lowery, Secretary of Education and co-chair of the Council, welcomed council members and thanked everyone for making Delaware's Race to the Top (RTTT) a success. The success was the result of a statewide effort of business community, higher education, K-12 and the larger community. Now all efforts must be focused on making the most of being the number one state. It will take the help of everyone.

Dr. Teri Quinn-Gray, President of the State Board of Education and the co-chair of the Council, reiterated that winning RTTT means everyone is still racing. One of the challenges that must be met is the state has 90 days to outline how it will implement the plan. The 90 day period began March 29, 2010 and ends June 12, 2010. There will be a meeting with the LEA's on May 4 to discuss the scope of work (SOW), what is non-negotiable, review the accountability measures, evaluations, incentivizing, etc. and to set the State's expectation of what is to be accomplished by 2014-2015. The teams from McKinsey will assist LEA's through the 90 day SOW which is due by May 15th. Completing this task may result in obtaining up to \$119 million.

The following overview was explained: the Mackenzie Group conducted interviews and wrote a succinct plan. Jim Palmer has been hired to oversee DOE's business management office. He will make sure the appropriate metrics are in place as well as project work with the teacher-leader effectiveness unit and the turnaround office.

RTTT funds will be available by the end of May, but the exact total of money is not yet known.

Longitudinal Data Systems

DOE applied for a longitudinal data systems grant, but is not expected to receive it as Delaware's system is quite good. Data coaches will work with teachers each week and look at trends and levels of performance. Development coaches will be working with district offices and school leaders to ensure the new DPAS II appraisal is being implemented correctly.

The LDS will assist in tracking student achievement to preparation programs and in the future the tracking will be linked to child care facilities. The issue regarding FERPA is still being examined.

Delaware had collective bargaining representatives at the table that made a commitment to tie teacher effectiveness to student achievement/growth. What P20 will have to reconcile is that the students have to show growth but also meet a standard. There will be other indicators of success and there will be national conversations. Part of the grant will be paying for every 11th grader taking the SAT, elementary school indicators of literacy, and common assessments at middle and high school. We have to make sure these measures stay quantitative rather than subjective. The State wants to see growth but also wants to see readiness for college and career after graduation.

Dr. Lowery stated that the Governor is considering an Executive Order to make P-20 Council the over-arching authority and advisory board regarding data.

Strategic Planning and the Role of P-20 Council

Fran Fletcher, facilitator from the University of Delaware, gave a brief overview of the strategic planning process and results from the meetings in February and March. As stated by Dr. Quinn-Gray, via the examination of the Council's vision, mission and the Governor's Blue Print in conjunction with the RTTT, Dr. Quinn-Gray and Dr. Lowery see the future focus of the Council to be:

1. Research
2. Advocacy
3. Accountability

Dr. Quinn-Gray stated that committees of DECAN, Early Childhood Data Cube and Delaware's Promise Dropout Prevention will be complementary to the existing plan as it relates to the transition points. There is the possibility of developing additional committees if the Governor completes the Executive Order.

Dr. Lowery gave an overview of Delaware's Promise program.

Early Childhood Data Cube

Paul Harrell described Policy Matters as a group who is concerned with early childhood and education. He noted that RTTT offered little federal money. Dr. Lowery stated because Delaware has little money for this program, they are seeking public/private partnerships to help with this initiative. Mr. Harrell emphasized the need for data to support the request for funds. Dr. Quinn-Gray suggested inviting the Council into the discussion to hear their recommendations. Dr. Lowery announced the formation of the Early Development and Learning Resource Department within DOE. This department is lead by Jim Lesko who will work collaboratively with Dr. Lowery and other top level Cabinet Secretaries to consider options for combining services to better serve children.

DECAN

Dr. Lowery stated Joe Pika will be stepping down as the chair of this committee and will need a replacement. She stated this committee will need assistance from the provosts and is hoping the chair can be found from higher education. The provosts will be very helpful with gathering the data in regard to identifying the transition points for college access, defining what is needed and why it is important and how to capture meaningful data. DECAN will need to assess its current areas of focus and decide what areas it will focus on going forward.

The attendees asked questions and voiced their agreement in focusing on the area of transition within the three focus areas as well as gathering data and looking for methods of interventions.

Next Steps

DECAN, Delaware Promise Dropout Prevention and Early Childhood Data Cube will present a 20 minute overview of their committee work to date including their accomplishments and a gap analysis. The Council will have a ten minute opportunity to ask questions. A debriefing will follow as the Council examines each committee's relevance to the Council's three priority areas.

The next meeting will be planned for a July date which will give the committees time to prepare.

Quarterly meetings will be planned for the remainder of the year.