

P-20 Council Notes  
November 2, 2005

The meeting was held at the Stanton Campus of Delaware Technical and Community College.

Secretary Woodruff introduced Mrs. Jean Allen, State Board President, as the co-chair replacing Dr. Joseph Pika.

Sec. Woodruff then proceeded to highlight the various elements of the National Governors' Association grant on reforming high schools awarded to Delaware this past summer. She noted the three goals: restoring the value of the high school diploma; redesigning high schools; and setting goals, measuring progress and holding high schools and colleges accountable. For each goal she provided elaboration on the activities that will be taking place.

The SEED (Student Excellence Equals Degree) Scholarship Program was also highlighted by the Secretary.

Ms. Case noted that the Achievement Gap Action Group has been incorporated into the P-20 structure. She reported on the two major initiatives of the Group. They are development the programming and help with the training on the use of the Correlates of Achievement as determined by a report of the Education Testing Service and the publication of an annual achievement gap report that will be presented in some additional formats to more specifically show the progress of schools in closing the gap.

She further noted that the Data Subcommittee is now piloting the higher education data cube using Delaware freshmen attending Wesley College. It was found early on that one weakness is the lack of the student ID number on the high school transcripts. That will be rectified for students graduating from high school this spring. This Subcommittee was formed from some of the members of the Committee on Post Secondary Success. That full Committee has not met since it met jointly with the P-20 Council last February. A meeting of the Committee will be scheduled in the near future.

Mrs. Allen reported on the activities of the High School Graduation Committee. She reviewed the Committee make-up and that the first meeting was devoted to setting out a vision of what a high school diploma should mean to students, parents, employers and colleges. The second meeting of the Committee began to focus on the knowledge and skills in the English Language Arts (ELA) area that a high school graduate should possess. It was determined that the knowledge and skills needed fit into the four strands for the ELA standards but additional specificity would be warranted. The Committee is scheduled to meet monthly with final recommendations going to the State Board of Education for the publication as early as March with discussion and action possible in May 2006.

A draft proposal for measurable goals for the P-20 Council was distributed. Mrs. Wick contributed the measurables for Preschool (Birth to age 5). The P-20 Council will provide support to the endeavors of the Early Care and Education Commission as they work on the various items.

For the Post Secondary goals, Dr. Sessoms volunteered to work with Dr. Rich to more fully detail the skills and preparation students should possess to successfully enter college.

The transitions between the various stages up to post secondary will be the targets of the measurables for K-12.

In discussion by the Council, it was noted that it is not acceptable that our students are not even competitive with students in Indiana with Indiana's new requirements for graduation much less competitive with students from other countries.

To even hold a position on the floor of the auto assembly plants, 2 year degrees are being required and DuPont is requiring many of their technicians to hold 4 year degrees in order to be hired. There is urgency to increasing the rigor of our high school and middle school curriculums.

The next meeting of the P-20 Council will be January 23, 2006 from noon to 4 p.m. Lunch will be served.

**Attachments:**

Policy Brief: Using Correlated of Achievement to Close Achievement Gaps

NGA Redesigning DE High Schools Grant

Delaware SEED Scholarship Program