

**Wilmington Education Improvement Commission
Charter District Collaboration Committee Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2017

Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Eve Buckley, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Carey Corbin introduced herself to the Committee and explained that she is stepping in for Committee member Yvonne Johnson.

Approval of Minutes

Eve Buckley, co-chair, motioned to approve the minutes from March 2017, April 2017, and May 2017. The motion was seconded; minutes from March, April, and May were approved.

Commission Updates

Kelly Sherretz, Institute for Public Administration (IPA), provided Commission updates and explained that Governor Carney has a vision for his plan to enhance the Christina School District, but there is not a concrete plan yet.

Harrie Ellen Minnehan stated that the Governor released a letter of intent on October 12, 2017 that stated the Governor has formed an agreement with the Christina School District, Christina Education Association, and the Delaware Office of Innovation and Improvement. Harrie Ellen stated that there is supposed to be a meeting on October 18th where the Governor will discuss this partnership. She stated she believes this meeting is open to the public.

K. Sherretz provided IPA project updates. She explained that IPA is currently working on a brief on behalf of the Parent Educator and Community Engagement Committee (PEaCE) and working on the Parent Choice Pilot Project with Tizzy Lockman and Devon, a public ally, on this project. She stated that IPA is also working on a parent survey project that identifies and measures political efficacy of parents in schools and why parents do or do not engage in certain school programs.

H. Ellen stated that Rick Gregg, the Christina Superintendent, plans to hold town hall meetings, but she is not sure about the schedule of those meetings yet.

Chair Updates

E. Buckley discussed the draft of their work plan document for the Committee and explained that, dependent on new information, there is a shift from the original work plan. Originally, the idea was to develop a Compact, premised on the hope that the Governor and Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) would support the Compact idea and provide financial incentives in the form of a grant. Eve explained that she does not believe the Committee currently has any tangible support from the Governor or DDOE. Eve stated that after meeting with Dan Rich, and others from the IPA team, they decided the best route of action was to begin having conversations with district and charter school leaders who serve Wilmington students to hear their ideas about the best areas for collaboration under a Compact.

Margie López Waite, co-chair, communicated that dividing and conquering will be more effective and having individual meetings will foster more ideas. Therefore, when bigger meetings are called, the Committee has tangible ideas to present taken straight from major players and school leaders in Delaware.

Committee Discussion

B. Doolittle expressed that the Committee's previous plan would have been challenging in the current political and educational environment.

E. Buckley asked how Committee members felt about having pilot projects and individual meetings with school leaders. She asked for input on the school leaders and Delaware stakeholders that the Chairs should plan to meet with first and if any Committee members want to participate in those meetings.

B. Doolittle wondered if Dorrell Green and Jon Sheehan, Governor Carney's Education Policy Advisor, would come to a Committee meeting and talk with members.

M. Waite addressed the fact that Dorrell Green, head of the Office of Innovation and Improvement, is new in his role and that he may support the Compact initiatives, but has other projects to focus on.

Byron Murphy vocalized that he thinks a meeting with Dorrell and Jon would be beneficial. He also stated that the Committee and Commission need to redefine the WEIC framework and showcase that there are more priorities, aside from redistricting.

E. Buckley stated that WEIC has always included cross-sector collaboration and agreed that people should be reminded of that sentiment.

M. Waite stated that some conversations should start with Merv Daugherty and Mark Hollodick. She also highlighted that the Governor's five points, and a focus on trauma, fits well with WEIC's agenda.

B. Murphy agreed that trauma must be addressed and that ACE scores reinforce this idea. He stated there is no in-depth understanding of what trauma means for different schools and how schools can support students and families experiencing trauma. Trauma is a good area for the Committee to target because collaboration is one way of helping trauma, such as community and child adolescent health centers that provide wrap-around services and have connections to schools.

H. Ellen stated that Christiana District schools are all close in proximity to each other and some are half empty. She stated that the District could take one building and make it an early childhood center, use one building as an arts building, and one building for trauma and health oriented services.

K. Sherretz mentioned that the Governor is thinking of a creating a dual generation building.

H. Ellen stated that she has not seen the plan about a dual generation center. She added that areas like the Harlem Children's Zone turned schools around in Harlem around and that businesses want to be there because schools were better.

B. Murphy stated that all these efforts are challenging because there are so many different operations run by schools and charter schools.

K. Sherretz mentioned the notion of transience and when a child moves across the street there is a chance that child can change districts. She wondered if transience is a collaborative issue that the Committee and Compact work could focus on.

H. Ellen agreed and stated that four kids were not at an awards ceremony because they already moved and it is only October: rearranging the schools would help solve this issue.

M. Waite stated that it would be helpful to reach out to stakeholders from places like the Rodel Foundation, Longwood Foundation, and Community Education Building to engage the nonprofit and business communities.

E. Buckley asked how we bring in stakeholders without them driving the agenda and asked if these organizations will wonder if the Committee only wants to elicit their funds.

M. Waite stated that the Committee reaching out to these organizations shows them respect and acknowledgement of how their agenda fits into the Committee and Commission's strategic plan and, in turn, helps the Committee build capacity. She explained that it is important to meet with people who have influence in Delaware.

B. Murphy added that fixing Stubbs Elementary will not fix the city of Wilmington. He stated that we must build systemic support for kids and that is what will make change. He stated that trauma informed instruction is a good place to start.

E. Buckley explained that they will start scheduling meetings with school leaders. She also added that Karen Eller is interested in joining the Committee.

K. Sherretz added that IPA members will join these Compact meetings to show that our Committee is internally committed to collaboration between district, charter, and community partners.

Haley Qaissaanee reminded Committee members that the next Committee meeting was scheduled for November 9, 2017.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Attendance

Committee Members

Eve Buckley, Co-Chair
Margie López Waite, Co-Chair
Harrie Ellen Minnehan
Byron Murphy
Bill Doolittle
David Davis
Carey Corbin

IPA Support Staff

Kelly Sherretz
Haley Qaissaunee