

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission – Meeting the Needs of Children in Poverty
Committee
United Way of Delaware Board Room
Minutes – March 21, 2016

Michelle Taylor, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10pm

Michelle Taylor, noting that the committee did not have a quorum, skipped the agenda item that called for meeting minute approval.

Michelle Taylor continued by stating that the committee leadership had not yet received recommendations for a new committee name and asked that another prompt for recommendations be sent out.

Jackie Jenkins, Co-Chair, gave a recap of the status of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC) plan and the commission's experience with the State Board of Education.

Michelle Taylor asked if the committee had identified any "early wins," short-term goals and achievements indicative of progress toward the committee's mission.

Michelle Taylor talked about two items that members of the committee were working on. The first of these was the United Way of Delaware's recently announced partnership with the University of Delaware, which would serve to conduct resource and asset mapping in the city of Wilmington. The second item was an upcoming parent education and advocacy symposium hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated ($\Delta\Sigma\Theta$) with the United Way of Delaware and the City of Wilmington scheduled for April 30, 2016. Some of the goals of the program are to provide parents in the City of Wilmington information regarding the process that the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC) and WEIC has been involved in, to get input from families in Wilmington regarding their needs, and to provide parents with tools that will help them become stronger advocate for their children.

Dr. Nikki Castle asked about possibly conducting a study that assesses existing needs rather than assuming needs are being met and if there would be any focus on school climate and out-of-school suspensions.

Vi Cade responded, saying that Christina SD (CSD) is looking into alternate programs that reduce out-of-school suspensions and how to implement programs that deal with socioemotional issues and trauma related to poverty.

Kenny Oates noted that addressing school climate should be important to all of the committee's work; and added that schools do not know what to do with children suffering from these types of issues. He concluded his statement by highlighting that cultural competency is lacking in many situations.

Michelle Taylor asked if Dr. Nikki Castle, Kenny Oates, and Vi Cade could get together and determine steps that the committee could take to address issues related to school climate.

Vi Cade asked what steps the committee is taking in addressing the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and educating parents on how to advocate/lobby for funding and support from the state.

Jim Purcell, from Communities in Schools, offered some resources about ESSA for the Committee.

Public Comment

- Bill Doolittle
 - Gave public comment about the committee to be working to provide a foundation for lobbying legislature by showing what is known and building around the work that has already been done or is ongoing. He said that the WEIC plan is very much in line with ESSA.
- Jim Purcell
 - Gave public comment about Communities in Schools and ESSA.

Jackie Jenkins closed the meeting by noting that the City of Wilmington and the Office of Vital Statistics have partnered and will be launching a pilot program in Wilmington beginning in June where Vital Statistics will begin issuing birth certificates to Wilmington residents. This partnership will remove one barrier for parents when completing the school registration process.

The meeting was adjourned by Michelle Taylor at 4:55pm

**Meeting the Needs of Children in Poverty Committee
Attendance
March 21, 2016**

Michelle Taylor
Jackie Jenkins
Madeleine Bayard
Patricia Belle-Scruggs
Vi Cade
Nikki Castle

Karen Eller
Gloria Grantham
Terrance Newton
Kenny Oates
Monique Taylor-Gibbs

Members of the Public

Gwen Angalet
Bill Doolittle
Jim Purcell
Orrin White

Institute for Public Administration Staff

Elizabeth Burland
Chester Holland
Kervin Zamora