

## **Wilmington Education Improvement Commission**

Community Education Building

Minutes – February 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by Chairman Tony Allen.

Dr. Allen acknowledged that a quorum was not present and that no formal decisions or approval of minutes would be made, but that they would continue with a discussion. He thanked Aretha Miller for allowing the Commission to hold the meeting in the Community Education Building (CEB). She said that the CEB was very happy to host and would be willing to do so in the future if needed.

Dr. Allen congratulated Elizabeth Burland, Administrative Coordinator of WEIC, on her acceptance into a PhD program at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Allen congratulated Dr. Dan Rich on being named the Director of Community Engagement a newly created position at the University of Delaware.

Dr. Allen began a discussion of the draft that was circulated of the response to the State Board of Education. He explained that the attempt was to be as concise as possible, and to answer questions fully and completely even if it is repetitive from previous responses or from the plan.

Dr. Allen noted that the State Board has committed to taking a vote on February 18, 2016. After the Board acts, the Commission's 60 days to respond begins. He then asked Dr. Dan Rich to walk the present Commissioners through the draft.

Dr. Rich explained the format of the response. It is an addendum with concise answers, with a Compendium which includes additional information if they are hoping to read further. The other information will include letters submitted by each of the five districts.

He walked them through each of the responses and took feedback on each response and how to improve both the answers and the format. These comments and suggestions will be reflected in the final submission to the State Board of Education.

Dr. Allen explained that he drafted a transmittal letter to send to the Board based on the discussion at the meeting held on February 2, 2016 which includes concerns about not being properly engaged by the State Board throughout the process, a lack of recognition of the work

put into this plan, and the unfairness in regard to their concerns about connections to student outcomes.

Though the conversation was an open discussion, including many members of the public, Dr. Allen asked again if anyone from the public wanted to make a comment.

Stephen Brady commented that reconstitution is not a new concept, but it is never easy. The Commission needs to be more confident in stating that what is going on right now is not working, and that we have data to show that we need to do better.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.