

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

April 27, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Bayard Middle School

Dr. Eve Buckley, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Minutes & Updates

The committee needs to wait for a quorum to accept previous minutes.

Eve Buckley and Aretha Miller met with Dr. Dan Rich to discuss the goals of the committee, research needs, and the legislative proposal submitted to the committee by Bill Doolittle, regarding having funds follow the children through the school choice process.

Commission Update

The Joint Resolution will be introduced in the General Assembly shortly. It will start in the House Education Committee. This joint resolution will support the State Board of Education's approval of the district boundary changes.

At the last full-commission meeting, the Meeting the Needs of Students in Poverty committee gave an update on their work, and the goals of the three subcommittees: In-School-Supports, Out-of-School Supports and Services, and Early Childhood. The Committee will also be supporting an education symposium that was hosted by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and sponsored in part by United Way on Saturday April 30, 2016. It was noted that this event was in conflict with the City of Wilmington beautification day.

A concern was raised about representation of charter schools on the Meeting the Needs of Students in Poverty committee, and about the exclusion of charter schools from their recommendations.

Kelly Sherretz, UD Institute for Public Administration, explained that each committee was beginning to identify "early wins" as well as long term goals to work towards.

Grants & Partnerships

There are grants and partnerships currently open and available to address student social/emotional issues. The committee discussed some needs for the coming year for which such financial support would be helpful.

- There is an urgent need for school psychologists.
- Children and Family First can share resources.
- A current partnership with UD's College of Health Sciences, involving Registered Nurses in the psych graduate program, allows them to enter Delaware schools for their practicum. This is funded by:
 - Federal trauma grant

- Federal school psychologist grant
- UD's new Partnership for Public Education
 - Connect to UD resources, particularly for grant administration
 - Community Engagement Initiative will become a matchmaker within UD

The Committee had requested data from Dr. Liz Farley-Ripple:

- Dr. Liz Farley-Ripple presented student growth data from the Department of Education, using a longitudinal data set regarding proficiency in reading and math from fall to spring for elementary schools serving the City of Wilmington.
- The graphs showed:
 - Reading scores for all City of Wilmington elementary schools
 - Math scores for all City of Wilmington elementary schools
 - Reading & Math scores for schools with 60% or greater free and reduced eligible students

The Committee then discussed the data interpretation

- Questions that came up during the discussion were:
 - Are there best practices that can be shared across schools?
 - Do schools suppress strong scores in the fall to show growth in the spring?
- Tests shift focus to academics versus addressing social/emotional issues
- Programs & structures within schools impact scores positively
 - i.e. Kuumba Academy Charter School's parent participation requirements that positively impact student outcomes.
- The data satisfies our curiosity, but deliberate action is needed to create collaboration
 - Collaboration is occurring, but only through small conversations among school leaders and staff.
- The committee came up with an idea to create an event to share/facilitate information sharing about issues all schools face. Possibly a *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Symposium*
 - Focused on issues that all schools face, not on "charter-district collaboration"
 - Charter schools and district schools are different but face many of the same issues
 - Workshops would provide school leaders the opportunity to share their knowledge and learn about effective practices used elsewhere
 - School leaders will submit proposals around certain themes
 - Possible Ideas: trauma (not just urban trauma: divorce, political elections, job loss, illness), dealing with a crisis, restorative justice, etc.
 - Resources needed: building, sponsorships, foundation support, workshops/spirit of collaboration
 - Structure
 - Still needs to be fleshed out.
 - Half a dozen topics available to participants
 - Issues divided by high school, middle school, elementary school

The committee then discussed Project Search

- Very few bilingual teachers available
- Not many new teachers are available to Delaware schools
 - Teachers are burning out
 - Need a larger movement to address shortage

Redistricting Joint Meeting Goals

- What is the impact of the Redistricting plan on charter schools? Are there any repercussions?
- Update the Redistricting Committee on the status of Charter-District collaboration and what the committee believes needs to be done
- Academics, not just funding, needs to be considered
 - How are schools restructuring to ensure success?
 - Underutilized buildings
 - Teacher talent

Future Meetings

- Discuss symposium idea
 - Meeting- June 22nd
- Ask Kim Williams to sit in on Charter-District meeting
 - Invite gubernatorial candidates to meetings so commission work can be included in their education platforms
 - David Sokola will also be invited

No Public Comment

The co-chairs gave a meeting recap.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm