

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission- Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee (PEaCE)

Conrad Schools of Science

Minutes- March 15, 2016

Co-chair Chandra Pitts called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Chandra Pitts asked that everyone introduce themselves and discussed the progress that occurred during the break.

Commission Update, Path Forward

Chandra Pitts began by discussing the current status of the redistricting plan, in particular the events involving the State Board of Education. She highlighted the conditional approval from the State Board, the commission's vote to resubmit the original plan, the State Board's refusal to approve, the Governor's intervention, and the new vote by the commission to approve the Governor's solution of removing the State Board from the resolution. She emphasized that at the time, redistricting was the most important aspect due to the timeliness revolving around it; however that portion of the plan was just one aspect of the entire mission and vision of the Commission.

Chandra Pitts reiterated that no matter the outcome of the redistricting plan, the work of PEaCE will continue and that there is a need to create a package with infrastructure pillars to ensure parent, educator, student, and community needs are met.

The committee and Chandra Pitts then discussed the fact that the commission has a five year sunset and that work of WEIC will continue with or without the redistricting plan.

PEaCE Presentation

Kelly Sherretz then went over a presentation on the work plan for PEaCE.

Committee Path Forward

- Overview

Step 1: Identify Holes

- Parent Engagement
- Educator Engagement
- Community Engagement

Step 2: Envision Success

What does success look like?

Chandra Pitts said that the committee needs to not only identify issues but to also identify the answers or solutions to those issues. She stated that as a committee, they needed to create an end-game approach though the development of an overall vision for what education looks like for all of those

involved. She emphasized the need for strategic action in achieving that vision as they make decision revolving the committee's efforts.

Path Forward

- Create a document to depict path forward
- A way to show that everyone is on the same page

Chandra Pitts hopes that once a vision is developed to communicate it with all of those involved including those accountable in ensuring the voices of parents, educator, students, and the community is heard.

Committee Recap

Our Vision

Centralizing Communication

Pati Nash began the discussion on the committee's vision and infrastructure pillars (which Chandra Pitts highlighted as a significant contribution to education) with a discussion on centralizing communication. She mentioned how she is the manager of the state's only 24/7 TV education channel: EDTV (Comcast: 965, Verizon, 30). She wants to see EDTV as central source of information for parents and families. She emphasized that EDTV is not Red Clay specific. She also mentioned what could be broadcasted on it: PSAs, community announcements, programs, interviews (such as the one done with Dr. Allen earlier this year). It is all commercial free. Anyone can send in programming; however the studio is reserved for students during the day.

A conversation then proceeded on how to advertise the channel to community members, families, educators, and students as well on how to increase interaction through sent in materials.

Donovan Alderman mentioned reaching out to Athletic Directors, Yearbook Clubs, student-run newspapers, and homework help. He explained the importance of having the students excited to watch and be involved, not to just rely on the administration to send in materials.

Pati Nash mentioned the summer drama program called "The District" which will be holding an open casting call to all students.

Chandra Pitts, Pati Nash, and Angela Wilson then discussed the use of social media to advertise EDTV such as YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and the EDTV page. The Bow Wow concert was mentioned and praised.

Vision of Committee:

- What will education look like for our children?
 - Through discussion amongst those who attended the meeting. Ultimately, the committee realized that the need for the vision will produce a thought process towards and end game result (puzzle box picture, North Star). They hope to create a vibrant and cross-sector community that will produce exposure and relevant activities so students are ready for the world through demonstration, literature, competent and motivated personnel in fabulous schools with the aid of powerful parents.

- Henry Harper discussed his own experience as a student in a vibrant community and strong learning atmosphere. He mentioned his own experiences traveling America to learn from other schools to create a strong school in Middletown, Delaware.
- Angela Wilson mentioned the need for power and empowerment.
- Donovan Alderman discussed the need to make parents feel comfortable to use schools as resources of information.
 - Pati Nash added that there needs to be several points of entry.
 - Tizzy Lockman reiterated the need to make them accessible.
- A conversation then continued on welcoming parents and the issues that occur between the parents' desires (want to see their child in the classroom), teachers requirements (parents can disrupt the classroom), and school administration rules (security).
- The Mission Statement
 - Meredith Griffin emphasized the need to highlight the interweaving of separated parts to create the best education for a student, especially the students in the City of Wilmington. His mission statement reads: **The needs of Wilmington students being met through the interweaving of parent, educator, and community assets toward that unified end**
 - Tizzy Lockman described the complex ecosystem of interweaving the separate parts due to resentment and stagnation.
 - Meredith Griffin replied by stating there is a need to foster two-way communication better between parents and teachers.
- The Round Table
 - Henry Harper stated the need to have the right people at the table, a representative group.
 - Chandra Pitts mentioned inviting teachers and students and how this could foster a welcoming environment beyond the committee room.
 - She also mentioned the Parent Liaison position at that Stubbs, Warner, and Palmer. She emphasized the need to have a trained individual to reach out to parents
 - Donovan Alderman mentioned the need for a safe space for parents.
 - Angela Wilson mentioned the Safe Haven Parent Center.
 - Tizzy Lockman, Pati Nash, and Chandra Pitts mentioned the need to establish relationships and to have it consistent throughout all the schools.
- Students
 - Chandra Pitts wants students to be added to the vision and the PEaCE acronym.

Defining Pillars of Success

The Process: Vision → Mission → Pillars → Specification

Current Pillar: Communication

Final Thoughts

- Meredith Griffin offered a new acronym that includes students: ESCAPE – educator, student, community, and parent engagement

- Escape to Educational Excellence
- Henry Harper mentioned the need to just Do One (#DoOne) and start somewhere with one thing.
- The Co-chairs will determine a standing meeting time.

Co-chair Chandra Pitts adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Attendance at the 3/15/16 Meeting

Committee Members Attending

Chandra Pitts, Co-chair
Donavon Alderman
Meredith Griffin
Pati Nash
Angela Wilson

Members of the Public

Henry Harper
Tizzy Lockman

Institute for Public Administration Staff

Kelly Sherretz
Chester Holland
Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez