

**Wilmington Education Improvement Commission**  
**May 22, 2018**  
**Delaware State University, Wilmington Campus**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

Commission Vice-Chair Tizzy Lockman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Quorum was not met, therefore, meeting minutes from January, February, and April have yet to be approved.

**Office of Innovation and Improvement Updates**

Dorrell Green, Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) and Rick Gregg, Superintendent of the Christina School District (CSD) provided the Commission with updates on the partnership between OII and CSD.

Dorrell Green explained the goal is to improve outcomes at schools Elbert-Palmer, Pulaski, Bayard, Bancroft, and Stubbs. Dorrell outlined all of the outcomes that will be addressed in the partnership among the Governor's Office, the school district, Christina Education Association (CEA), and the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), such as strategies for improved student outcomes and teacher turnover. Green stated that a core principle of the Office is state support of students and schools.

Rick Gregg informed the Commission that negotiations between the District and CEA are taking place. Gregg gave a presentation to the Commission outlining upcoming changes in CSD that would affect Wilmington students. Christina and the State will create implementation timelines with DDOE. Gregg noted the important fact that many different stakeholder groups were consulted throughout this process. He included some implementation details below:

- An 80/20 funding split between the District and the State
- School-based health centers, wraparound services, and community need-based programming to be improved
- Opportunities for philanthropic funding
- Preschool classrooms operating in (currently) Stubbs as early as September 2018

Dorrell Green stressed the need to create centers that support each other, rather than competition.

Commission Member Yvonne Johnson asked how families are being engaged throughout this process. Dorrell Green shared that a community engagement team is out in the community working with teachers and a community liaison is working with parent focus groups. The Office found that town hall meetings are not an effective engagement strategy for parents and families served by CSD.

Gregg explained that community advocates are identified within the Teacher Leader teams to speak with and engage parents at these events. Event calendars have also been created and shared with the public and the CSD website has an update mechanism for the Wilmington reconfiguration.

Commission member Karen Eller directed the Commission's attention to the "Teaching and Learning Impact" slide of the presentation and noted that more educators need to give feedback on these efforts. Gregg affirmed that sentiment and pointed out that some of these teams have teachers on them. He invited interested teachers and community members to participate.

Commission member Eve Buckley wondered if there will be a reduction in Newark High School facilities. Gregg shared that this has not been discussed.

Gregg went on to say that the work of the Commission provided a lot of foundational information for the MOU. Dorrell Green also added that there was guidance from the Every Student Succeeds Act and the CDC report that drove them to support individuals based on need. The teams involved in this reconfiguration take great care in determining differentiated needs as well as providing opportunities for educators. Dollars are to be maximized to meet the needs of students. Green emphasized that meeting the needs of children in poverty, parent educator and community engagement, and collaboration between charter and public schools are all focus points in this effort and originated from WEIC's work and research. Dr. Rich added that the asset mapping project is essential in understanding the distribution of resources and encouraged everyone to look at the graphics in the brief.

### **Committee Updates Charter District**

Co-Chair Eve Buckley explained that in preparation for the Charter District Collaborative Compact, numerous New Castle County public, district, and vo-tech leaders have been engaged in ongoing effort to build a network of collaboration. Areas of collaboration these leaders identified were: opportunities for sharing best practices, opportunities for shared professional development, and trauma-informed classroom instruction were all topics discussed. She also explained this committee will host a professional development event focused on collaboration over the summer.

Haley Qaissaanee provided some insight on the 2018 Visions Coalition Conference. She added that the focus of this Conference, which will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, is collaboration.

### **Family Services Cabinet Council**

Dr. Rich shared with the Commission that Megan Wallace plans to give an update at the next Commission meeting. Dorrell Green explained that families, parents, and children, as well as leadership from the community centers are included in this effort.

Dr. Rich reminded the room that the Commission originally advocated for the revitalization of the Family Services Cabinet Council, so the reestablishment of the Council is an achievement.

### **Institute for Public Administration (IPA) Research Updates**

Dr. Rich provided research updates outlining the support IPA provides to the Commission. Analysis is taking place concerning student measures of success in the City. He spoke to enriching the data set and delving deeper in analysis. Truancy and absenteeism are also aspects that will be explored.

Yvonne Johnson shared some good news that the K-3 basic Special Education Bill was appropriated by the Joint Finance Committee. \$2.9 million is being appropriated, as well as K-4 reading specialists for \$3.9 million. These were also recommendations that the Commission

made in the past. It was confirmed by Commission Member and Senator David Sokola that this funding is a one-time appropriation, unless otherwise noted in the bill.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission  
Tuesday, May 22nd, 2018

**Commission Members:**

Tizzy Lockman, Co-chair  
Adriana Bohm  
David Sokola  
Eve Buckley  
Frederika Jenner  
Harrie Ellen  
Joe Pika  
Karen Eller  
Margie Lopez-Waite  
Mike Matthews  
Tim Foxx  
Yvonne Johnson

**Members of the Public:**

Gwen Angalet  
Erin Goldner  
Tom Driscoll

**IPA Staff Members:**

Dan Rich  
Kelly Sherretz  
Haley Quassaunee  
Chester Holland  
Melissa Micek  
Stephanie Becker  
Cimone Philpotts