

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
September 12, 2019
Office of Emergency Management, Wilmington, Delaware
Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Consortium Co-Chair Tizzy Lockman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She opened up the floor for introductions from Consortium members and members of the public.

Mandates

Lockman and Co-Chair JJ Johnson reviewed the Consortium mission to achieve educational equity and improve educational outcomes of all Pre-K to grade 12 students in the City of Wilmington and Northern New Castle County (NCC), and recommend policies and best practices to the Governor, the General Assembly, and Secretary of Education. To fulfill its mandate, the Redding Consortium will focus on action; it will monitor educational progress and outcomes of at-risk students, identify barriers to equity, evaluate facilities and resource allocation, and advocate for effective implementation of best practices through collaboration among district and charter schools.

Facilitated Discussion

Leann Moore, Institute for Public Administration, began a facilitated discussion on Consortium members' vision for the future of public education in Wilmington and Northern NCC. Members shared their ideas on the question, "What does educational equity look like to you?" Some common themes included outcomes, fairness, quality, excellence, and support.

Consortium members and members of the public broke into small groups to discuss *barriers* to achieving educational equity in Wilmington and Northern NCC. Members reconvened and agreed that this conversation about barriers felt familiar. The group shared common themes including fear in addressing issues, unequal starting points for children, lack of data and resources, geographic boundaries and school segregation, lack of stability in the education system, and avoidance of uncomfortable conversations.

Members formed small groups again to discuss *opportunities* for creating educational equity in Wilmington and Northern New Castle County. Members reconvened and all groups went around the table to share areas of opportunity for improving educational outcomes. Member's ideas focused on the bulleted items listed below. For a detailed list of the ideas discussed, please see the attached document below.

- Teachers & Educators
- Family & Community Engagement
- Funding
- School Programming and Enrollment
- Data Collection and Services

Based on the ideas shared, members agreed to vote on their top three priority opportunities and report those priorities back to Moore.

Support Team Introductions

Lockman introduced support team staff at the Institute for Public Administration (IPA), Dr. Dan Rich, Kelly Sherretz, Haley Qaissaanee and Jason Bourke from Delaware State University.

Dan Rich communicated that IPA's role is to help the Redding Consortium meet its goals—as listed in SB 148 and HB 222—in terms of operations, resources, research, and deliverables. Kelly Sherretz explained how IPA staff would be involved in the evaluation of additional or alternative educational facilities, development of policy proposals to improve teaching and learning, and the creation of a redistricting plan in the City of Wilmington and Northern New Castle County. Haley Qaissaanee informed members of available resources from the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and she highlighted new website details. Dan Rich reported that updated data on Wilmington students are in the works and urged Consortium members to identify additional ways to best utilize the support team.

Lockman announced that recurring meetings will be the second Thursday of the month until December 2019 and will change once the legislative session starts in January 2020. She encouraged members to fill out the “Feedback” section on the back of the Facilitated Discussion sheet. Johnson stated there is opportunity for statewide improvements, but stressed that the “bottom line” is action from legislation and legislators.

Public Comment

Dorcas Olatunji, Delaware State Board of Education's student representative from Charter School of Wilmington, urged the Consortium to leverage Delaware's small size to improve existing networks and resources. She was disappointed to hear there was no student involvement in the Consortium, and mentioned that students' perspectives could be especially helpful in examining teaching staff. She would like to see the Redding Consortium create an avenue for student voices and input moving forward.

A parent expressed that parent input should hold equal weight with other key decision makers, educators should bring books back into the classroom, and schools should keep detailed accounts of classroom resources.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
Thursday, September 12, 2019

Consortium Members:

Raye Jones Avery
Dusty Blakey
Ted Blunt
Susan Bunting
Alfreda Butcher
Nnamdi Chukwuocha
James DeChene
Anthony Delcollo
Lossie Freeman, for Mayor Purzycki
Rick Geisenberger
Dorrell Green
Richard Gregg
Tika Hartsock
Mark Holodick
JJ Johnson, Co-Chair
Joseph Jones
Ty Jones
Tizzy Lockman, Co-Chair
Maria Matos
Noelle Picara
Michael Smith
Jeff Taschner, for Stephanie Ingram
Margie López Waite
Mary Nash Wilson, for Mike Jackson
Danya Woods
Eugene Young

Members of the Public:

Jenna Ahner
Gwen Angalet
Dwayne Bensing
Tammy Croce
Kristin Dwyer
Karen Eller
Edward Freel
Yvonne Johnson
Nicole Kennedy
Vince Lofink
John Marinucci
Cindy McDaniel
Maggie Nelson
Dorcas Olatunji
Willie Patrick
Rev. Provey Powell
Wali Rushdan
Mary Schorse
Jon Sheehan
Jim Simmons
Alethea Smith-Tucker
Whitney Williams
Elizabeth Lewis Zubaca

IPA Staff Members:

Abigail Armstrong Jason
Bourke
Sarah Bruch
Chester Holland Jerome
Lewis
Leann Moore
Fran O'Malley
Joseph Pika
Haley Quissaunee
Dan Rich
Kelly Sherretz Leighton
Trimarco