

Redding Consortium for Education Equity

Redding Planning Meeting

July 10, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Welcome: The virtual meeting started at 10:30 a.m. Co-chair of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity (Redding Consortium), Tizzy Lockman greeted the attendees.

Next Redding Consortium Meeting

Lockman stated that an agenda must be created for the full Consortium meeting on August 13, 2020 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lockman expressed that she expects the work groups to meet prior in order to provide updates to the full Consortium. She acknowledged that the redistricting work needs a new timeline, but she and Co-chair Matthew Denn would like the Consortium to produce deliverables either through legislative actions or budgetary recommendations by December 2020. Lockman suggested that equity be included in the Consortium's conversations and how the Consortium approaches equity must be clear.

Director of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), Jerome Lewis, asked Lockman about her opinion on the issues surrounding school openings, particularly with connectivity challenges with remote learning. Lockman explained that, as member of the Equity group for the Reopening Schools task force, there are concerns about broadband and access to devices. There were also discussions about the effectiveness of remote learning from the educator's perspective. Lockman mentioned that some of the main issues were connectivity and the impacts of remote learning on engagement and relationship building. She also explained that the state is focusing some of the Cares Act Funding on broadband, but there is a lack of transparency. Tika Harstock added another hurdle was the inability to use devices.

Harstock then asked if the Consortium was on track with the original mandated timeline and if the Consortium should discuss systemic racism during the equity conversation. Lockman responded that the timeline needs to be adjusted legislatively for redistricting, which would occur in January. Co-chair of the Social Determinants Work Group Raye Avery Jones, explained that the Consortium must be explicit and transparent when discussing equity, race, and systemic pressure. She also stated she will share educational practices with Educator Work Group Co-Chairs Michael Smith and Noelle Picara that address teachers who are not prepared to handle issues around racism. Fran O'Malley, IPA staff, added that the curriculum does not allow teachers the space to hold these conversations. Jones agreed and said the Redding Consortium should do the legwork in preparing our teachers. Lockman stated that at the full Consortium meeting they should discuss their definition of equity and how it will be applied.

Redistricting Work Group Co-chair Nnamdi Chukwuocha stated another priority of the Consortium is to re-engage the school districts with the work of the Redding Consortium. Eugene Young, Redistricting Work Group Co-chair seconded this point. He highlighted that with the impacts of COVID-19 and students moving to different districts, it is necessary for the districts to work cohesively or students will fall through the cracks. Lockman suggested the Redding Consortium reach out to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to determine how districts are working together. She also advised that the Consortium should focus on bringing the districts together to guide them to follow the same policies.

Lockman stated the current agenda for the next full Redding Consortium meeting could include: Work Group Updates, strategy to adjust the timeline, an equity/anti-Racism discussion, and LEA policies.

Work Group Updates

Kelly Sherretz and O'Malley, IPA staff, have met with the Educator Work Group Co-chairs Smith and Picara and discussed the agenda and reinforced the decision-making model for the work group's meeting on July 21, 2020 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The work group is expanding membership, including teachers, human resource directors, and students. Potential members will be invited to the meeting. Sherretz explained that the work group is determining what can be accomplished by December with and without legislation.

Chukwuocha and Young explained they will meet soon to establish the date for the funding and governance work group and discuss the direction the work group is headed. Chukwuocha spoke with the Chief Financial Officers of Red Clay, Brandywine, and Christina school districts who have all agreed to be involved. Young has met with individuals regarding equity and reopening schools. Haley Qaissaunee, IPA staff, provided the research update for the work group. She explained that funding resources have been collected to support the work group and that Joseph Pika and Christopher Kelly are gathering information on the New Castle County Tax District. Lockman suggested this information be provided for the work group and later added to the Funding 101 presentation. Qaissaunee agreed.

Jones stated that the Social Determinants Work Group will meet July 23, 2020 from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. with all 15 members. Some of these members are a part of the Consortium and others provide services for the community, students, or parents. Jones explained the meeting will include a brief overview of the Redding Consortium's work and an exercise to shape the vision of the work group.

Research Underway

Lockman asked if there were any updates beyond what Qaissaunee shared.

Jones suggested that the Consortium read the Schott Foundation Report on public education, and Lockman said that it will be sent to leadership. Lockman explained that Denn and herself are working on approving the scope of work and the funding to accomplish it.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting ended at 11:23 a.m.

Attendees:

Consortium Members

Co-chair, Tizzy Lockman

Raye Avery Jones

Michael Smith

Stephanie Ingram

Maria Matos

Tika Harstock

Nnamdi Chukwuacha

Eugene Young

Institute for Public Administration/Delaware State University Staff

Jason Bourke

Sarah Bruch

Fran O'Malley

Jerome Lewis

Joseph Pika

Haley Qaissaunee

Dan Rich

Kelly Sherretz

Alexis Wrease

Members of the Public:

Erin Goldner