

Redding Consortium Planning Meeting
March 5, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The virtual meeting was convened at 10:35 a.m. Matthew Denn, Co-Chair of the Redding Consortium, welcomed all in attendance.

I. April Consortium Meeting Date

April 22 and 29 were discussed as the final two options for the next Consortium meeting, pending a final decision from the co-chairs.

II. Work Group Updates

The Settlement Work Group had a meeting on March 1, and they are currently surveying members to get input about next steps. Concerns that funding must be matched with quality for all students, and especially students with the highest need. There were conversations about how the three supported bills could work together to create the best outcome. Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha, co-chair of the Funding & Governance Work Group, added that there is an amendment in the works to address the need for flexibility and to address overlap between a mental health unit and the opportunity fund. The next meetings of the Settlement Work Group will feature presentations from the other work groups in order to have their recommendations heard and how they align with the settlement.

The Funding & Governance Work Group has a new draft of the referendum reform bill that incorporates member feedback.

The Social Determinants Work Group will meet next week on March 8.

The Educators Work Group has nothing to report. Matt Denn said that he and Senator Elizabeth Lockman, co-chair of the Consortium, had great conversations with the Department of Education to have some of the group's recommendations written into the budget epilogue.

III. Public Engagement

Jason Bourke, Delaware State University, said there is one new sign up on the Google Form and he has been working on new testimonials. Videos from the press conference have been cut and are ready to be distributed. Haley Qaissaunee recommended that members share the videos on their personal pages to increase engagement. Haley Qaissaunee later added that the form for testimonials could be resent through the March newsletter.

IV. Public Comment

Sarah Bucic, Lead Free Delaware, brought attention to the issue of lead poisoning in Delaware schools as an equity issue, with disproportionate cases in Wilmington and New Castle County. Lead testing needs to be increased in these communities to meet the law's requirements.

Matt Denn asked what steps need to be taken to accomplish this, and asked about funding. She noted that there are a number of barriers for lead testing, such as a lack of materials for pediatricians, and that public engagement & education is the pathway to improving the situation. Denn said that it is disappointing that the statute is not being enforced properly, and said he would follow up.

Matthew Denn adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Redding Consortium Members

Matthew Denn, Co-Chair

Aaron Bass

Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha

Tika Hartsock

Chuck Longfellow

IPA/DSU Staff

Jason Bourke

Brendan Laux

Cimone Philpotts

Haley Qaissaunee

Kelley Sherretz

Members of the Public

Sarah Bucic