

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Full Body Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2021

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Roll Call

The virtual meeting started at 5:00 p.m. Co-chair for the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity (Redding Consortium), Senator Tizzy Lockman welcomed all in attendance. Lockman requested all new members of the Consortium introduce themselves. She explained the meeting will highlight the Consortium accomplishments and the path forward.

Meeting Minutes

The Consortium passed a motion approving the minutes from the previous Full Body Consortium meeting.

Path Forward

Lockman explained the Consortium's recommendations received 10 million dollars in funding. Co-chair Matt Denn provided additional information about the appropriation of the funds and the active request for proposals (RFP's). Denn stated three million of the funds are added to the operating budget and the remaining seven million are for one-time costs. The funds will be distributed either through an active RFP, the Office of Management and Budget, or the Office of the Controller General. Denn stated the implementation of the recommendations will take time. He then reviewed the components of the RFP's. Denn also noted the RFP for the Professional Development Package currently does not reflect the requests of the Educator Work Group. Denn explained he and Lockman are working with the Educator Work Group co-chairs to find a solution. Secretary of Finance Rick Geisenberger suggested the Consortium decide what recurring funding they want included in the Governor's budget before the budget hearings in November 2021.

Work Group Updates

Educator Work Group Co-Chairs Representative Michael Smith and Noelle Picara shared their viewpoints on the funded recommendations related to the active RFP's. Picara stated the current format of the Whole School Professional Learning Package RFP does not focus on the current needs of high needs students. She added her displeasure that the RFP focused on literacy when the work group recommended prioritizing recruitment and retention of high-quality educators and how working on recruitment and retention will improve literacy. Lockman expressed regret regarding the difference between the original recommendations made by the work group and the content and focus of the RFP. Lockman added the Delaware Department of Education will not withdraw from the RFP and plans to decide whether to accept or reject a contract once it is rewarded.

Raye Jones Avery, co-chair of the Social Determinants Work Group stated the work group will be monitoring the implementation of their funding recommendations. The second priority of the work group is to focus on the needs of middle and high school students. Avery explained they will add student and parent voices to their work group.

Chuck Longfellow, co-chair of the Settlement Work Group, gave an update on the work groups' progress. He stated the desire to utilize the work group's expertise to be actively involved in developing the upcoming Independent Funding Assessment RFP. Longfellow added there has been a lack of movement in the implementation of the Ombudsperson program. The work group is developing a rubric to hold accountable those responsible for implementing the recommendations from the settlement.

Lockman explained the Funding and Governance Work Group is sunset. She added a new group will form focusing only on governance and include more Wilmington voices. Geisenberger suggested the Consortium prepare materials that will educate the public about the property reassessment process.

Public Comment

Lisa Wood asked if the Educator's Work Group Whole School Professional Development Package included staff and training for adults with disabilities. Amy Solomon requested more transparency regarding any changes made with the active RFP's. Dean Gary Henry expressed his concerns with the literacy focus of in the Whole School Professional Development Package RFP.

The meeting ended at 6:11 p.m.

Attendees

Consortium Members

Co-chair Tizzy Lockman
Co-chair Matthew Denn
Raye Jones Avery
Maria Matos
Xavia Mills
Noelle Picara
Michael Smith
Margie Lòpez Waite
Danya Woods
Tika Hartsock
Nick Konzelman (Designee for Cerron Cade)
Hanifa Shabazz

IPA/DSU Staff

Jerome Lewis
Fran O'Malley
Cimone Philpotts
Haley Qaissaunee
Alexis Wrease

Public

Deborah Stevens
Paul Baumbach
Laurisa Schutt
Jon Sheehan
Kathleen Baker
Spiros Mantzavinos
Marj Johnson
Gwen Angalet
Shanta Reynolds
Gary Henry
Evelyn Edney
Casey Montigney
Lisa Rice
Amy Solomon
Hugh Broomall
Brandon Cangialosi
James Simmons
Alexus Ramirez
Chuck Longfellow