

**Redding Consortium for Educational Equity
Settlement Work Group
October 25, 2021 5:00–6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

I. Welcome

Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair of the Settlement Work Group, welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the meeting agenda.

II. Delaware Education Update

Secretary of Education Susan Bunting will be leaving DDOE in December 2021. Mark Holodick has been nominated to fill the role.

III. Ombudsperson Update – Shannon Griffin

Shannon Griffin, Work Group member, has been meeting with some Consortium members, members of the general assembly, and members of the public to determine a path forward for codifying the education Ombudsperson as a permanent program. They decided to present a resolution to the general assembly that would resolve to build a framework and oversight structure for the independent program. They are also looking into the possibility of additional funding for the current program being added to the budget epilogue.

Gary Henry, Work Group member, asked if the resolution will be brought to the group for discussion before it is brought to the general assembly. Shannon said yes, and that they want the work group's input to be included.

Kristin Dwyer asked how much of the potential program's scope is aligned with the intent of the settlement: is it a realization of what is intended by the settlement, or an opportunity to establish something new? Shannon said that the intent is to create a system that helps families as intended by the settlement, and to be aspirational by striving to do more than legally required.

Gary recommended that the group drafting the resolution make the scope of services and legal boundaries of the Ombudsperson clear as part of the group's discussions.

Kristin asked why the group opted for a resolution instead of a bill. Shannon said that it was a direct recommendation from the legislators in the group.

IV. Independent Funding Assessment RFP Discussion

Chuck recapped the RFP discussion from the previous meeting and opened discussion to finalize each open discussion topic.

How do we define independent?

Gary Henry said that independent should not be too narrowly defined. "Independent" should be defined as being free of direct influence on the products that are put forward. The group did not reach a consensus on how independent should be defined.

Should the assessment include an adequacy study?

Kristin Dwyer noted that when other states, such as Maryland, do periodic funding assessments, it is from the perspective of what funding is needed to provide an adequate education. Several work group members agreed to recommend an adequacy study be part of the assessment.

Should a funding assessment be done periodically?

The work group agreed that a periodic funding assessment will be necessary, likely every five to eight years.

How can we ensure that the focus is on Delaware's system?

Chuck recommended that the RFP require bidders to describe, at a minimum, how they will focus on Delaware's education funding system.

What should the timeframe be for the study?

At the previous meeting, there was discussion about whether there was enough data to holistically analyze Delaware's funding models prior to 2006, and whether it is necessary to include the funding changes that have happened since the settlement. Gary Henry said that using the most detailed data from the last 5-10 years should be the focus, using that data to project future data. Sarah Stowens said that examining the most recent years and most recent changes to the funding structure, such as the Opportunity Fund, are most relevant to the assessment.

What questions should be considered in the study?

Chuck discussed the list of potential questions to be answered by the assessment. Gary said that the questions need to be more specific and effective research questions to be recommended to the Consortium and for the DOE. Sarah said that the data provided to the legislature through House Concurrent Resolution 24 may be useful in determining focused research questions.

Are there any specific ideas for the RFP criteria?

Gary said that the rubric is missing a component that the bidder should submit a plan for the design and methods they will use to address the major questions in the RFP. Proposals should also indicate how they plan to report major milestones in the study. Costs should be a secondary consideration to the adequacy of the proposals.

Chuck said that there needs to be a way to evaluate each proposal in terms of the organization's reputation for providing actionable products.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The Settlement Work Group will be meeting on November 22, at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Work Group Members

Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair

Kristin Dwyer

Shannon Griffin

Gary Henry

Monique Martin

Shelley Rouser

Laurisa Schutt

Sarah Stowens

Members of the Public

Susan Bunting, DE Secretary of Education

Steven Davis

Matt Denn, Redding Consortium Co-Chair

Brendan Laux

VJ Leonard

Monica Moriak

Haley Qaissaunee

Kelly Sherretz