

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Full Body Redding Consortium Meeting

June 2, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Co-chair Matthew Denn welcomed all in attendance.

Budget Update

The Consortium asked for and received \$12.8 million from the Governor in FY23. Eighty percent (\$10.2 million) is for the recurring operating budget and twenty percent is one-time funds. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for wrap around services and wellness centers, which makes up half of the allocated money, is already available for schools to submit proposals. Three schools will get 2.4 million for a three-year period for funding wraparound services and wellness centers. There is also \$800,000 in grants for schools that need to make permanent physical renovations to support these services.

Staffing funds were moved into epilogue making it easier and more transparent to get funding from the Department of Education and Office of Management and Budget to the University of Delaware and Delaware State University so that work can happen more efficiently.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Denn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April Meeting. They were approved unanimously.

DDOE Update

Secretary of Education Mark Holodick answered questions about the future of learning related to COVID-19 and school supports.

What supports and resources are needed to counter system wide fatigue and shortages for educators?

Secretary Holodick stated that all levels of the system are fatigued and DDOE should listen to different groups of workers and thoughtfully respond to their feedback. Secretary Holodick shared these comments:

- Staffing shortages and substitute teacher turnover are major problems adding to teacher burnout and workload.
- An executive order allowed for retirees to return and earn more before affecting their pensions.
- To tackle the need for more substitutes, it may be helpful to create more connections with higher education institutions and allow students to gain more experience in classrooms.
- The school districts and charter schools have been working with the Joint Finance Committee to get \$11M in funding for bus driver salary increases.
- Opportunity Funding adds value to the education system

- Public education compensation committee requires DDOE to review educator compensation structure and the ability for Delaware to compete regionally

Jim Simmons and Cora Scott added that working with Institutions of Higher Education can help Delaware think about how to attract people to the profession. Cora mentioned year-long residency grants, which may entice more pre-service candidates to enter the field.

Describe what “after” COVID learning looks like for DDOE regarding students below, on, and above grade level

The number of students below grade level are expected to increase. DDOE and schools need to consider different factors such as attendance, school performance, school climate, etc., and determine how to best help individual students while using resources the effectively. Intervention plans are available on DDOE’s website. Every district and state developed ESSER plans, which are also published online for use. For students at or above grade level, operations will continue similar to pre-covid instruction with differentiated instruction and unique district and school level programing.

Margie Lopez Waite, Consortium member, asked what does accelerated learning look like in Delaware Secretary Holodick explained that accelerated learning is to help prepare students with less opportunities to accelerate learning before a lesson begins. However, this type of instruction requires a lot of preplanning and engagement. Scott also mentioned that the plans will look different depending on the classroom and the pre-assessed needs of the students.

What type of supports is DOE providing to LEAs to implement and evaluate learning opportunities?

Tika Hartsock, Consortium member, asked about family engagement over summer learning because she wanted to hear about new or innovative opportunities. She stated not all families have the resources or time to research summer programs and it seemed a person had to be in the know about programing. She pointed out that this is a barrier to equity.

Secretary Holodick mentioned they are trying to engage students that had not been previously engaged over the summer in school or in other programing. DDOE sent out a survey to the school districts and charters to see what they were doing to engage students. DDOE is pushing for summer learning and growth for all students especially those who do not have access to traditional summer programs. However, it is hard to find staffing to complete these goals. The support and promotion of the Consortium could help bridge this gap.

Work Group Updates

Noelle Picara, Co-chair of the Educator Work Group, presented that work is progressing as planned. They are first focusing on the scholarship program for the Grow Our Own program because it is the easiest to accomplish because it requires providing funding for existing programs. They are outlining criteria for who should receive scholarships and the focus is on the critical shortage areas described in the recommendations: black and brown male educators. The whole school professional development plan should start in the summer of 2023. The Educators Work Group may reconvene after July 1, 2022.

Aaron Bass, Co-chair of the Settlement Work Group, presented a budget breakdown for items related to the settlement. There is \$7 million allocated for the Wilmington Learning Collaborative, \$1 million for the Ombudsperson program, \$1 million for Independent Funding Assessment (RFP closed April 14, 2022;

Bidders were WestEd and AIR), \$4 million for teacher recruitment and retention and \$38 million for Opportunity funding. The next meeting Work Group should be in September 2022. Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chair, presented a chart showing the settlement requirements for individual programs. The settlement for FY23 is all in the governors proposed budget as well as money exceeding the settlement requirements for certain projects.

Raye Jones Avery, Co-chair for the Social Determinants Work Group, presented that they are working with DDOE, the Data Service Center, and other school officials to create the Equity Data Dashboard. The dashboard is supposed to answer how investments are impacting student outcomes. Data points for the dashboard to measure equity, both qualitative and quantitative, need to be defined, refined, and collected in collaboration with the Data Service Center.

Legislation Should Redding Support?

Chuck Longfellow put a motion to approve supporting the nine bills (HB 129, 300, 301, 303, 304, 317, 400, HS 1 for HB 144, and HS 1 for HB 377) closely related to the Consortium *except* for HB 304, which was debated and voted on separately. Lopez Waite seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

HB 304: Hartsock was concerned because students with disabilities can sometimes need different curriculum or programing, and the bill supports a prepackaged curriculum from a for-profit company. This curriculum does not allow for flexibility for students with disabilities or give supplemental resources for staff. Lopez Waite was concerned that the system was overburdened and that more assessments might be harmful and overstepping. Aaron Bass is concerned that a prescribed curriculum being legislated is questionable. Jones Avery mentioned that there were also concerns at the work group but overall, it did get approved. Stephanie Ingram mentioned that there would not be a prescribed curriculum schools were required to use.

There was no motion to support HB 304.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded.

Attendance

Consortium Members

Matthew Denn, Co-Chair
Raye Jones Avery
Aaron Bass
Dorrell Green
Tika Hartsock
Sen. Ernesto Lopez
Margie Lopez Waite
Stephanie Ingram
Joseph Jones
Noelle Picara
Jennifer Thompkins
Secretary Mark Holodick - *Ex-officio*
Secretary Rick Geisenberger - *Ex-officio*
Nick Konzelman for Secretary Cerron Cade - *Ex-officio*

Members of the Public

Raina Allen
Kathleen Baker
Angelia Cright
Steven Davis
Paul Dunford
Karen Eller
Brian Erskine
Jon Sheehan
Krystal Greenfield
Gary Henry
Chuck Longfellow
Rachel Scott McNeill
Joann Miller
Xavia L Mills
Sandra Morelli
Lucinda Ross
Cora Scott
James Simmons
Sen. Dave Sokola
Cara Gannon
Kathryn

IPA/DSU Staff

Brendan Laux
Jerome Lewis
Cimone Philpotts
Haley Quissaunee
Shelley Rouser
Kelly Sherretz