

**Redding Consortium Full Body Meeting**  
**April 7, 2022**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The virtual meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. Matthew Denn, Co-Chair of the Redding Consortium, welcomed all in attendance.

**I. Early Childhood & Wraparound Services**

Through work with the Redding Consortium, the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) awarded four vendors with the ability to provide 110 full-day preschool seats. The four vendors are Kingswood Community Center, Latin American Community Center, A Leap of Faith Child Development Center, and Saint Michael's School and Nursery. There was hesitancy among vendors to submit proposals due to funding uncertainty in the long term. The Governor's recommended FY 23 budget moves funding for full day pre-school to the operating budget, with the intention to secure the funding for this program.

DDOE also awarded grants for outside school time services and in-school health services to the Christina School District, for the Bancroft & Bayard Schools, and to Kuumba Academy Charter School. The volume and scope of the proposals were only partially aligned with the Consortium's expectations, again due to funding uncertainty. The Governor's recommended FY 23 budget includes \$7.1 M for wraparound services in the operating budget, with the intention to secure the funding for this program.

**II. Wilmington Learning Collaborative (WLC) Update**

Jon Sheehan, Special Assistant to Governor Carney, provided an update on the Wilmington Learning Collaborative. Since the last update, three school boards formally voted to explore the WLC and negotiate an MOU. The Governor's recommended budget includes \$7.0 M for the WLC. The Governor's office held six public engagement sessions in Wilmington, and received feedback from Safe Schools that they should make the engagement sessions into community events with childcare, food, and small group discussions.

Secretary of Education Mark Holodick added that students and staff have given a lot of informative feedback that will be included in the WLC plan. The department is trying to be as transparent as possible in the MOU negotiations and incorporate the communities that will be committing to the collaborative wherever possible.

Maria Matos, Consortium member, asked if wraparound services will formally be part of the MOU. Jon Sheehan confirmed that wraparound services have come up in every engagement session, and will absolutely be part of the MOU. The goal is to push resources and flexibility to the school level.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Margie López Waite, Consortium member, moved to approve the February 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Tika Hartsock, Consortium member, seconded. **The minutes were approved as submitted.**

#### **IV. Work Group Updates**

The Settlement Work Group heard from Shannon Griffin and the ACLU about a bill and resolution related to the Educational Ombudsman program. The bill legally establishes the Ombudsman program as a permanent fixture with a defined scope of work. The resolution would reconstitute the Delaware State Parent Advisory Council (DESPAC) as a stakeholder educational equity Council to provide independent oversight for the ombudsman program, and to support the effectiveness of Delaware's data system for the purpose of enhancing educational equity. Both pieces of legislation are being discussed within the Work Group.

The Governor's recommended FY 23 budget includes sufficient funding to meet the obligations of the settlement, including \$1M for the Ombudsman program, \$1M for the Independent Funding Assessment, \$4M for teacher recruitment and retention programs, and \$38M for the Opportunity Fund.

Margie López Waite asked about whether the funding for the Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP) is doubling this year. Aaron Bass, Co-Chair of the Settlement Work Group, clarified that the settlement requires a doubling of ECAP funding by FY 2024, not FY 2023.

Wilmington Councilman Jea Street clarified two pieces about the settlement. He said there is no explicit amount of funding required for the Ombudsman program, and that the \$1.0 M funding is not enough. He also clarified that when the ECAP funding doubles, half of the seats must also be in community-based organizations.

The Social Determinants Work Group is currently building an Equity Data Dashboard to highlight how Wilmington students are performing. The intended outcome is to act on the data to create equitable opportunities. The audience of the dashboard is parents and other community members. The next meetings of the work group will focus on building the dashboard and creating a definition for a City of Wilmington student.

The Educators Work Group Co-Chairs met with DDOE to ensure that FY 22 and FY 23 funds and write-ups capture the work group's recommendations. They discussed combining FY 22 carryover funds towards scholarship funds for Critical Shortage Teachers in high needs schools. They also discussed reserving funds for whole school professional development to be rolled out in summer 2023. The Work Group will reconvene over the summer to develop an RFP and release it in fall 2022.

The Redistricting/Governance Work Group is now chaired by Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Councilman Jea Street. They are filing a bill in the legislature to renew the Consortium's redistricting powers. The focus of the work group will be on research and data and information

collection. The Co-Chairs are also building a list of stakeholders to consult with. The Work Group does not currently plan to have a standing list of members like the other work groups.

Shelley Rouser, Delaware State University, emphasized that maintaining an open line of communication with the community will be essential to the success of the redistricting effort.

## **V. Legislation Discussion**

Sen. Lockman said that Consortium members should bring pieces of legislation to the Settlement and Social Determinants Work Groups for consideration if they believe the Consortium should take a formal position. The Work Group can make a formal decision and elevate the legislation for consideration by the full Consortium.

## **VI. Public Comment**

Bill Doolittle, a contributor to the Ombudsperson bill and resolution under consideration in the Settlement Work Group, clarified that DESPAC is the Delaware State Parent Advisory Committee, not the Delaware Special Education Strategic Plan Advisory Council as originally presented. He also clarified that that while \$1M has been appropriated for the Ombudsperson program, less than half of that amount was contracted.

**Sen. Lockman adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

## Attendance

### Redding Consortium Members

Sen. Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair  
Matthew Denn, Co-Chair  
Raye Jones Avery  
Aaron Bass  
Dorrell Green  
Tika Hartsock  
Lincoln Hohler  
Rep. Ernesto Lopez  
Maria Matos  
Jeffrey Menzer  
Noelle Picara  
Dan Shelton  
Margie López Waite  
Danya Woods  
Nick Konzelman for Cerron Cade  
Secretary Mark Holodick - *ex officio*  
Secretary Rick Geisenberger - *ex officio*

### Members of the Public

Marissa Alberty  
Dawn Alexander  
Kathleen Baker  
David Davis  
Bill Doolittle  
Angela Harris  
Gary Henry  
Thea Lopez  
John Read  
Jarek Rutz  
Mary Schorse  
Laurisa Schutt  
Cora Scott  
Jim Simmons  
Councilman Jea Street  
Julia Zammith

### IPA/DSU Staff

Jerome Lewis  
Cimone Philpotts  
Haley Qaissaunee  
Shelley Rouser  
Kelly Sherretz