

**Redding Consortium Full Body Meeting
February 10, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

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

I. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Denn, Co-Chair, moved to approve the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Maria Matos seconded. **The minutes were approved as submitted.**

II. Remarks from Secretary of Education, Mark Holodick

Sec. Holodick shared his priorities for the Department of Education. The top priority of the department is to continue supporting schools and the greater community through the COVID-19 pandemic by making sensible decisions to keep kids in school and learning.

One priority for the department is improving systems to address academic success. Immediate interventions are needed to keep kids active and engaged through the summer months and address the impact of COVID-19. At a systematic level, there is a need for improvement in Tier 1 schools in terms of how content is delivered, what instruction looks like, and how growth and achievement are measured.

Another priority for the department is working to make the Wilmington Learning Collaborative (WLC) a reality. Wilmington City schools should become community hubs that are active before, during, and after school. The collaborative needs significant support from the mayor's office and the community to be successful.

There is a need to diversify teacher and educational leader candidate pools. The lack of teacher and leader retention in high-needs schools is particularly problematic. It is wasteful to spend resources on specialized training for these educators only for them to leave. There needs to be innovation to improve retention across the board.

Finally, there is work to be done to implement House Bill 198 (HB 198) successfully. HB 198 requires each school district and charter school to establish an implement a curriculum on Black History for students grades K-12 and incorporate contemporary events into discussion of Black History. It will be important to listen to regular people and experts who have different experiences than the teachers to implement this new law properly.

Tika Hartsock asked how the department plans to engage with families about what additional educational programming is appropriate, and allow them to engage in the planning process? Sec. Holodick said that families and teachers know best. There is an opportunity now to review what districts accomplished last summer, though attendance was low, and make strategic decisions to improve the outcomes from those programs. Schools also need to be strategic

about how they communicate summer program availability to families. Participation in these programs should lead to measurable growth in learning outcomes. Maria Matos added that the Wilmington Learning Collaborative allows the type of parent and school collaboration on programming that Tika asked about.

III. Consortium Updates

Matt Denn provided an update on the Consortium's funded Pre-K and wraparound services initiatives. Four Pre-K programs were able to grow from half-day to full-day programming. The Bancroft School, The Bayard School, and Kuumba Academy also received funds for wraparound services. There is now an opportunity to see how these programs play out and make recommendations to the Joint Finance Committee to adjust funding levels if necessary. Uncertainty about the long-term continuity of funding was an obstacle for some schools and districts applying for the grants.

Sen. Lockman provided an update on the Governor's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2023. There was a particular attention to education initiatives like the WLC and the Redding recommendations. The recommended budget includes \$10.2 M in operating budget funding and \$2.6 million in one-time funding, for a total of \$12.8 M, towards Redding Consortium initiatives. The challenge now is allotting those funds to the appropriate programs as recommended by the work groups.

Maria Matos moved for the Consortium to delegate to the chairs of its work groups responsibility for working with relevant state agencies and the General Assembly to refine program language, RFP language, and budget epilogue language arising from recommendations that originated with their respective work groups. Tika Hartsock seconded.

Motion passes, 16-0-7

IV. Work Group Updates

The Settlement Work Group submitted the Consortium-approved feedback on the independent funding assessment RFP. The RFP was released on February 7.

Aaron Bass and Chuck Longfellow, Co-Chairs of the Settlement Work Group, presented the Educational Equity Settlement [Progress Report](#) drafted and approved by the work group. The progress report displays the substantive progress made towards each area of the settlement. It also grades the timeliness of implementing each provision, and alignment with the work group's expectations for what's needed to improve educational equity.

The Social Determinants Work Group is currently building an Equity Data Dashboard to increase transparency of equitable outcomes for students. The next meetings of the work group will focus on building the dashboard and monitoring grant outcomes and future opportunities.

The Educators Work Group is creating a spending plan to use outstanding funds to actualize their goals.

The Governance Work Group is filing a bill in the legislature to renew its redistricting powers.

Sen. Lopez thanked everyone from the Consortium and the work groups for their efforts and noted that improving educational equity is a bipartisan effort in the legislature.

V. Public Comment

The next full-body meeting of the Consortium will be on April 7, 2022 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Sen. Lockman adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Attendance

Redding Consortium Members

Sen. Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair
Matthew Denn, Co-Chair
Raye Jones Avery
Aaron Bass
Tika Hartsock
Lincoln Hohler
Rep. Ernesto Lopez
Maria Matos
Xavia Mills
Noelle Picara
Rep. Michael Smith
Margie López Waite
Secretary Mark Holodick - *ex officio*
Secretary Rick Geisenberger - *ex officio*

IPA/DSU Staff

Cimone Philpotts
Haley Qaissaunee
Shelley Rouser
Kelly Sherretz

Members of the Public

Gwen Angalet
Kia Baker
Kathy Denhardt
Bill Doolittle
Emily Falcon
Jamie Forrest
Shannon Griffin
Nick Konzelman
Gary Henry
Chuck Longfellow
Richard Morse
Mayor Mike Purzycki
Lisa Ramone
Shanta Reynolds
Cora Scott
Jon Sheehan
Regina Sidney-Brown
Deb Stevens