

Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership

September 21, 2009 (10:00 a.m. – noon)
Conference Center A—Room 14
Minnesota Department of Education

Meeting Notes

Present: Bob Meeks, David Metzen, Linda Baer, Gen Olson, Chuck Wiger, Jennifer Godinez, Sean Kershaw, Dirk Mattson, Gene Piccolo, Cyndy Crist, Fred Storti, Bruce Monson, Maureen Prenn, Garnet Franklin, Brian Siverson-Hall, Jim Meffert-Nelson, Joann Knuth, Charlie Kyte, David Laird, Joellen Gonder-Spacek, Geoff Maruyama, Cathy Wagner, John Slama, Larry Litecky, Kent Pekel, Karen Klinzing, Alice Seagren, Beth Aune, James McCormick

Commissioner Seagren is the new P-20 Partnership Chair and Chancellor McCormick is the Vice-Chair. Commissioner Seagren thanked former Chair President Robert Bruininks for his service and welcomed new and returning members to the Partnership. Commissioner Seagren proceeded through the agenda as follows:

1. Race To The Top Guidelines

Commissioner Seagren presented information about the \$4.35 billion *Race to the Top* competitive federal grant program. Up to \$175 million is available for Minnesota with half of the funding going to LEAs. The program is designed to encourage and reward 10-15 states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and career; and implementing ambitious plans in four core reform areas:

- Adopting internationally-benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers and principals;
- Building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices; and
- Turning around our lowest-performing schools.

There are 19 selection criteria that states must address in their applications. The criteria are organized into the categories of Standards and Assessments, Data Systems to Support Instruction, Great Teachers and Leaders, Turning Around Struggling Schools, and Overall criteria. Some of the criteria include adopting and implementing common standards and high-quality assessments, a statewide longitudinal data system, providing alternative pathways for aspiring teachers and principals, differentiating teacher and principal effectiveness based on performance, and intervening in the lowest-performing schools and LEAs.

MDE will be developing the state's application in consultation with many stakeholders groups. More information is available at this link:

http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/About_MDE/Race_Top/index.html

2. Longitudinal Data System (LDS)

Commissioner Seagren distributed the September 18, 2009 version of the *Minnesota Education P-20 Longitudinal Data System Charter*, emphasizing that this is a draft document. This statewide LDS will match student data from pre-kindergarten through completion of postsecondary, enabling educators and policymakers to answer a range of program and policy questions to gauge the effectiveness of programs and design targeted improvement strategies. The data in the state's system will not have information that identifies individual students. The Minnesota Office of Higher Education and Minnesota Department of Education have signed a memo of understanding for the exchange of data between the two systems. The final draft plan will be presented to the Partnership for its review in January 2010.

3. 2009 ACT Data

Rae Jones, Director of Elementary and Secondary Services at ACT, presented the assessment results for Minnesota's graduating class of 2009. Minnesota's average composite score (22.0) was the highest in the nation. The national average composite score was 20.6. Of those who took the exam, 32% of Minnesota students met all four benchmarks of college readiness (English, Math, Reading and Science) compared to 23% nationally. Discussion included the suggestion to review these data in conjunction with the P-20 Developmental Education study and the need to provide students of color with appropriate supports in addition to rigorous course work.

4. Review of Previous P-16 Partnership

Kent Pekel described the recently concluded activities of the Partnership's four workgroups on 1) College and Career Readiness (definition, assessment and pathways), 2) Science Readiness, 3) STEM Instruction, and 4) Data. Summaries of the conclusions reached by each group are available at the Partnership's website at http://www.mnp16.org/documents/summaryreport_small_000.pdf. The suggestion was made to consider these reports as the Partnership develops its next round of projects.

Other Items

Charlie Kyte shared information about the Rural K-14 Forum which is studying barriers to college and career readiness that confront rural students and their schools. Larry Litecky shared information about the desire of MNSCU's two-year institutions to expand their collaboration with local area high schools.

Next Steps

More than four areas are under consideration for potential P-20 work groups including the following—

- Continued development of the P-20 longitudinal data system
- Public engagement campaign based on *The Road Map to College and Career Readiness for Minnesota Students*—to inform students, families, educators

and others of the Why, What and How of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness

- Statewide STEM gap strategy to close readiness gaps among student groups in the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Statewide strategy to promote implementation of the Early College model and other strategies for connecting K-14 learning
- Statewide strategy to ensure that all students take rigorous courses
- Development of STEM curriculum frameworks

It's possible that one or more of the above areas may be addressed by Minnesota's RTTT grant application. At its next meeting, the Partnership will decide which of the above areas should be the focus of new workgroups.

The next meeting of the Partnership is scheduled for **January 12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Conference Center A, Room 14** at the Minnesota Department of Education, Roseville.