

MEETING SUMMARY

Minnesota P-16 Education Partnership Roundtable

June 27, 2007

1. President Bruininks welcomed members and provided opening remarks. Each participant gave a short introduction.
2. Results of 2007 legislative session

K-12: Alice Seagren provided a handout with highlights of the 2007 legislative session.

The \$1.5 million appropriation will go to the Science Museum for training teachers. MDE is working with the education service cooperatives and libraries to be possible training sites. President Bruininks suggested the University's Regional Outreach Centers as well (formerly Agricultural Experiment Stations).

MDE received \$500,000 from NGA to enhance teacher/math & science academies. Alice thanked everyone who wrote letters of support.

MDE appealed to NGA to fund a clearinghouse that connects kids, teachers and parents to businesses and programs of higher ed but NGA was concerned about how it would be sustained. Fortunately, Thompson West and Higher Tech Association will provide support.

Discussion points:

- Cyndy Cryst shared that while attending a recent standards meeting, a K-12 co-chair emphasized her hope for higher ed to be at the table. She stated that it sounds like we are on the same page—now we need to leverage the strengths that we bring to the table.
- A participant stated that 3 out of 4 new jobs need math and science—we need strategies to help parents realize they need to push kids harder.
- Jennifer Godinez shared that MCAN is partnering with the High Tech Association
- A participant asked Alice Seagren “have we done any research on the effectiveness of PSO, CIS, APIB programs, what courses student take?” Alice responded that they have a fairly good idea of this. But regarding students of color—this needs a deeper look.
- President Bruininks stated that we need a long term strategy to do it right and do it well.
- Cyndy Cryst noted that nationally they are saying a lot about participation but very little on impact.
- Bill Blazar asked Alice if there is an expectation on behalf of the legislature or NGA on the results and outcomes of these new funds.
- Alice responded that we know that when more students engage in rigorous and appropriate courses, we'll have a higher success rate. But the question is how do we go to the next tier of students? The Governor's Education Council spent a year and a half setting goals and benchmarks such as graduation rates, grades in colleges, core proficiencies. The report raises questions and issues.

- President Bruininks noted that we might want to form working sub committees that meet in between our larger meetings. And how do we align ourselves in light of other initiatives such as the Higher Ed Advisory Committee? Let's bring resources together.

Higher education: Susan Heegaard provided a summary of the 2007 Higher Education Appropriations Bill. Various points: reciprocity with Wisconsin has been resolved. Another update of the Accountability Report is in process. K-12 and higher education leaders will receive a letter regarding student IDs soon. E-transcripts are in process—they will enable high schools and colleges to have electronic transcripts. Achieve Scholarship program received \$10.8 million. Three million of this can be spent on ICAP, TRIO, retention programs, get ready, gear up. We would spend money determining how effective various programs are.

Discussion points:

- President Bruininks noted that what is most important is the relationship between cost and outcome.
- A participant noted that we should consider a flat rate as a direction—it's an increasingly important issue.
- President Bruininks stated that the question is how do you price education in a global economy?
- Jim McCormick commented that there's a big interest in this tuition policy issue being brought back to the legislature. We will need educated workers—out of state or otherwise.
- Charlie Kyte posed the question: what are the incentives that will lead students to be successful?

3. The Bridge to Higher Learning: A white paper from the Future of High Schools Task Force

Joann Knuth said that the report is a partnership between the Secondary School Principals Association and the Consortium for Postsecondary Academic Success. A group of principals and the Consortium asked the question—currently, what are high schools about and what do we want them to be in the future? The vision is simple and profound (see p. 3 of the report). Kudos to Kent Pekel for his excellent work on the report.

Questions Joann posed to the group:

- a) How do we operationalize it? What are the strategies to make the vision a reality?
- b) How do we organize elements of the school district, post secondary institutions and programs into alignment to achieve student success?
- c) The issues of congruence and alignment
- d) The cost of education—what do we do about the cost being so out of reach
- e) How do we ensure all students are prepared—not just the ones we know are already college bound (see page 7)

Discussion points:

- A participant asked which building blocks are we fulfilling—where do we strike first?
Joann Knuth responded that relationship is at the heart of every block. Frequently it's not on the table. It's about creating culture in a school. We used to have it in our family—of course you'll go to college. There was an expectation.
- Kent Pekel shared that we've heard the phrase “she is college material.” (or not) College is not genetic.
- Jennifer Godinez noted that information is not equal to all communities. We need to increase marketing efforts—what kind of materials are being sent out to families of color? There are some practical things not happening—for example, what teachers are or are not saying. The options are not being displayed to everyone. Kids of color being encouraged to go to two year college, etc.
- Cyndy Cryst stated that kids are looking for a sense of relationship.

4. P-16 Planning for 2007-2008

President Bruininks stated that the Roundtable needs to determine what its agenda should be for the next couple of years.

Kent Pekel posed the following questions: What matters to us as a partnership? Where is the intersection? What could we do that would add value short term and long term? Kent asked participants to complete a P-16 Working Group feedback form. The Executive committee will review the feedback and use it to decide which working groups to convene and formulate an action-oriented charge to each group. The form will be emailed to all members as well. In addition, Suzanne Tacheney will interview various members in the next couple of months.

Discussion points:

- A participant shared that he'd like to advocate for preschool standards and early childhood education.
- President Bruininks noted that the Itasca findings should be shared with this group.
- Jim McCormick stated that this group has operated well in spite of no funding. We have a common interest. It's time to ask the hard questions. We could be a powerful force as to what we do as a state.
- President Bruininks stated that he will set up meetings with other organizations that have education committees and are working on similar issues—we might want to add them to our interview list—especially key business leaders in the state. President Bruininks will send all of the Roundtable members a letter asking when we should schedule our upcoming meetings. They will be on the UM campus and likely some on the St. Paul campus.

Our path is: Hone our agenda

Set our priorities

Revisit past work

Form working groups if necessary

A special thanks to Alice Seagren for her leadership to the P-16 Roundtable. And also a big thank you to Judy Schaubach and Larry Wicks of Education Minnesota for their contributions. Jim McCormick added that we started in a very fragile way but NEA gave us important support.