

MINNESOTA P-16 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

April 9, 2009

Minnesota Department of Education

1-3:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Laura Bloomberg, Karen Klinzing, Cyndy Crist, Jane Gilles, John Clements, Fred Storti, Paula Martin, Joann Knuth, Mary Lou Dresbach, Jim McCormick, Linda Baer, Tom Dooher, Dan Brooks, Charlie Kyte, Jim Meffert-Nelson, Jennifer Godinez, Scott McMahon, Steve Kelley, Liesl Chatman, Beth Aune, Robert Bruininks, Dirk Mattson, Kent Pekel, Joellen Gonder Spacek, Bob Meeks, Alice Seagren, Cathy Wagner, Sean Kershaw, David Laird, Jeanne Hermann, Lois Bollman

P-16 Partnership Chair Robert Bruininks convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and guided the meeting through the following agenda:

1. Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Working Group Report:

Co-Chairs Cyndy Crist, Karen Klinzing and Laura Bloomberg presented the draft report from their working group. The Partnership discussed whether the ACT test should be required for all high school students, which might help identify academic potential in students, and could help motivate better alignment between K12 and higher education. Educators need to be informed of the recommendations in the report. Work samples of college-ready material in different subject areas could be very valuable, so that students and teachers are clear about what college work looks like. President Bruininks praised the report, and encouraged the working group to make the case as to why college is important for all students. He also noted that it is a good idea to revisit all assessments and consider a common scale. He agreed that predicting college success requires a continuum of probabilities. P16 Partnership members are encouraged to read the report and submit comments on the form provided at the meeting and online: www.mnp16.org

2. Science Instruction report:

Co-Chairs Steve Kelley and Liesl Chatman presented the draft report (the third co-chair, Judith Ramaley, was unable to attend.) Ms. Chatman described the connections between science, math, engineering, and technology. The committee believes the study of these fields should be integrated, and focused on the process of learning science. The overall goal is to increase the number and diversity of students interested in careers in STEM fields, and increase the STEM literacy of all high school graduates. Steve Kelley outlined the recommendations, including creation of a state STEM advisory committee to recommend several science curricula, which would then be subsidized by the state to encourage their selection by school districts. Commissioner Seagren brought up the discussion at the last P16 meeting, favoring creation of a framework for math and science similar to what SciMathMN created in 1995. She indicated she was thrilled with both reports. Linda Baer thought the learning repository under development could be useful. Members and the working group co-chairs discussed the need for more science curricula that were culturally inclusive. Commissioner Seagren noted that MDE had hired a STEM specialist, and could consider regional STEM specialists, subject to funding limitations. Ms Chatman noted that there is no clear definition of what STEM integrated instruction looks like, and including that goal in a research proposal might be attractive to funders. Ms. Klinzing noted that the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness report recognized the importance of math and science readiness, reflecting alignment among the working groups. The regional math academies are one example of leveraging local resources.

President Bruininks suggested hitting harder the integration of ideas and resources, and using resources such as the Science Museum, University of Minnesota, etc . P16 Partnership members are encouraged to read the report and submit comments on the form provided at the meeting and online: www.mnp16.org. A vote to accept the report will be held at the June 3 meeting. A few members questioned whether a vote to approve the reports might be difficult for some, as a member might agree with the overall message of the report, but disagree with certain specifics within the long reports. President Bruininks noted that the charter does call for votes on reports, and Ms. Crist noted that the value of the reports would be greatly enhanced by an endorsement by P16, with all the education voices together. Suggestions from members as to the specific wording of the vote are encouraged.

3. Commissioner Seagren was nominated to be chair for 2010-2012, and Chancellor McCormick was nominated to be vice chair. The vote was unanimous in support of the recommendation.
4. Karen Klinzing explained Minnesota's participation in Achieve's College and Career Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI). Achieve is making technical experts available to the state at no cost, and workgroups are being created to recommend goals and targets, an assessment strategy, early indicators, update dual credit policies, and complete a longitudinal data system. Commissioner Seagren said the federal 'Race to the Top' stimulus funding guidance comes out in mid to late June, and so far the overall goals align with the Achieve work. More information on CCRPI can be found on the P-16 website: www.mnp16.org

There was discussion of potential goals for the Partnership's work in the next two years. MCTE wants teacher effectiveness as a priority. Members were encouraged to consider the priorities listed in the agenda, and priorities will be determined in June.

A vote on adding an organization to represent early childhood providers was postponed until June.

5. Charlie Kyte described two projects MASA is working on. One focuses on rural Minnesota, matching high school leaders and rural technical colleges, exploring effective programs, and ways to remove barriers. A second is regional conversation between superintendents and the MnSCU teacher colleges focused on preparing teachers.
6. Joellen Gonder-Spacek described the new 'Wired for 2020' campaign the Mentoring Partnership has participated in developing. A link to the campaign's site can be found at: <http://www.wiredfor2020.com/>

UPCOMING MEETING

P-16 Roundtable Meeting: June 3, 1-3:00 PM, Coffman Union, Mississippi Room, University of Minnesota