

MINNESOTA P-20 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP ROUNDTABLE

June 3, 2009

University of Minnesota

Coffman Union – Presidents Room

1-3:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Present: Robert Jones, Bill Blazar, Jim Bartholomew, James McCormick, Garnet Franklin, Linda Baer, David Metzen, Tom Dooher, Fred Storti, Joann Knuth, Chuck Wiger, Lois Bollman, Jim Meffert-Nelson, Grace Kelleher, Karen Klinzing, Laura Bloomberg, Cyndy Crist, Beth Aune, Geoff Maruyama, John Clementson, Jane Gilles, David laird, Mary Mackabee, Liesl Chatman, Alice Seagren, Robert Bruininks, Jeanne Hermann, Jennifer Godinez, Barb Schlaefer

The P-20 Partnership Chair, University of Minnesota President Bruininks, convened the meeting and proceeded through the agenda as follows:

1. Update on new legislation establishing a P-20 Partnership

President Bruininks noted that legislation formally establishing the Partnership was passed and signed into law during the 2009 legislative session. The legislation largely retains the current membership and structure of the P-16 Partnership with several exceptions: (1) four legislative representatives are added to the partnership – two each from the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate; (2) the name of the partnership is changed from P-16 to P-20, and (3) the Partnership must now provide the legislature with a report each January outlining the organization's accomplishments. Senator Wiger commented that efforts to appoint legislative representatives are already underway and should be complete in time for the fall meeting. He stressed that the goal of the legislation is to help the Partnership continue its efforts to create a seamless educational continuum from early childhood through higher education. When asked why the legislation renames the Partnership from P-16 to P-20, Senator Wiger said that including graduate education in the Partnership's focus was an Education Commission of the States (ECS) recommendation because it emphasizes, for example, the need for professional development into the early years of a teacher's career.

2. Proposal for concluding the 2007-2009 Working Group Process

President Bruininks then presented a proposal for concluding the working group process that has been put in place during his tenure as chair. He recommended and the Partnership generally agreed that the conclusions from four P-16 working group reports should be summarized into a single comprehensive but concise document. The summary document will be created over the summer and distributed in late September, 2009, to interested stakeholders at a "P-20 Town Hall Meeting", as well as disseminated in written and electronic form. In addition, a small group will be convened during the summer of 2009 to review the four reports and recommend options for next steps to the incoming P-20 Chair Alice Seagren and the Executive Team. This group will consist of any interested member of the Partnership Roundtable and interested co-chairs of the working groups. President Bruininks asked, with Commissioner Seagren's agreement, Kent Pikel to shepherd the process of concluding the work done

during his tenure as chair and working with Commissioner Seagren and her team to transition the leadership of the P-20 Partnership.

3. Defining College and Workforce Readiness Working Group Final Report

Co-chairs Laura Bloomberg, Cyndy Crist, and Karen Klinzing presented the final draft of the College and Workforce Readiness working group report, entitled “The Road Map to College and Career Readiness for Minnesota Students.” They reported that their group had collected comments since their presentation of the first draft to the P-16 Roundtable in April, and shared them verbatim with the working group members. As a result, a number of significant changes were made to the report, including adding a name for their recommended process, further explaining the need to define and disseminate the meaning of college and workforce readiness, increasing the discussion of the nature and importance of higher education’s role in defining readiness and emphasizing the need for careful communication with students and families about data such as test scores that highlights gaps in readiness.

During discussion of the report, P-16 Roundtable members noted that communicating the value of postsecondary education, especially given the current high cost at a time of economic distress, is critical, not only for low-income families who may face the greatest economic challenges in our society, but also for moderate-income families. Members also suggested that outreach is needed to help K12 and higher education institutions understand the importance of aligning their systems. Members also expressed appreciation for the fact that the report does not define college and workforce readiness only in terms of the academic content that students must master, but also in terms of the “21st Century Skills” such as collaboration and critical thinking that are essential for success in today’s economy and society. A member noted that the report does not, and was not asked to, address how to pay for the recommendations, but suggested that the report would be more credible if it at least acknowledged the need for sufficient funding to realize the vision outlined in the report. Other members suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on college planning before high school.

After this discussion, the Roundtable voted unanimously to accept the report. Chair Bruininks clarified that acceptance does not mean endorsement of all points within each report, which would not be feasible in this one meeting.

4. Science Instruction Working Group DRAFT final report

Co-chair Liesl Chatman provided the Roundtable with a brief overview of the Science Instruction Working Group’s final report. She said that no major changes had been made since the group’s initial presentation of the report to the P-16 Partnership at its April meeting. She noted that the working did consider some important feedback, but ultimately decided to retain all of its major recommendations for enhancing science instruction across Minnesota. In a discussion of the connection between instruction and testing, members noted that Minnesota’s new computer-based science assessments go beyond multiple choice questions to ask students to complete tasks that should promote and inform higher-level instruction. Members noted that the recommendations in the report regarding the identification of several State-approved science curricula were provocative and interesting, and that at minimum a clearer understanding is needed of what constitutes a high-quality science curriculum, especially at the elementary level. One member noted the distinction between curriculum and text books. Several members strongly endorsed the report’s emphasis on enhancing both equity and excellence in science instruction. Members also endorsed the integration of subject areas – specifically Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) -- called for in the report. Another member

called for even greater attention to the parent's role in promoting and supporting student interest in science and success in school, and suggested identifying high-quality resources that parents can use to help their children develop an interest and succeed in the STEM fields

In response to a question, Ms Chatman confirmed that the working group assumed there would still be a common State science assessment that will be used across schools, but that in the future the assessment might look quite different from our state science tests today.

The Partnership voted to accept this report unanimously.

5. Early Childhood Organization on P-20 Partnership

Chair Bruininks noted that he has felt for some time that the P-20 Partnership needs to better consider and represent the "P" in its name – specifically the diverse world of pre-kindergarten education. With that in mind, during his tenure as chair, P-20 Partnership members were invited to submit names of organizations that could represent early childhood providers on the P-20 Partnership. Based upon these suggestions, the P-20 Executive Team recommended to the full P-20 Partnership Roundtable that the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MNAEYC) be invited to join the Partnership. At the June 3 meeting, President Bruininks moved a recommendation to take this step, which was seconded and unanimously approved. MNAEYC has subsequently accepted this invitation and the organization's executive director will be in attendance at the fall meeting.

6. Proposed P-20 Initiative to Enhance Teacher Effectiveness

Garnet Franklin of Education Minnesota and John Clementson of the Minnesota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) presented the conclusions of the Teacher Support Partnership (TSP) initiative and distributed copies of the initiative's report outlining a new vision for teacher induction model and support. They proposed that the P-20 Partnership consider convening a working group over the next two years to identify and work to implement the changes in state-level policy and systems that need to be put in place to implement the TSP model of high-quality induction for new teachers and ongoing support that continually improves their instructional skill. Several members suggested that if such a working group were convened, it should also consider alternative pathways into teaching. Another member supported a working group to enhance teacher quality, but suggested that limiting the focus to teacher induction was too narrow and avoided some tough issues that need to be faced. Ms. Franklin responded that while there were certainly many other issues to address, if the charge to a P-20 working group is too broad there is a risk of failing to accomplish anything tangible that moves forward positive change in the short-term. President Bruininks thanked Ms. Franklin and Mr. Clementson for their report and suggested to the Roundtable that a working group be convened over the next two years to look at the TSP framework or another aspect of teacher effectiveness.

7. Update on College and Career Readiness Policy Institute (CCRPI)

Karen Klinzing of the Department of Education gave a brief update of the College and Career Ready Policy Institute, describing the five working groups that have started their efforts as part of a larger national partnership. A WebEx conference will be held on June 19th at 3:00 p.m. at which P-20 Partnership members will have the chance to become more familiar with the goals of the College and Career-Ready Policy Institute. Instructions for joining the WebEX conference have been forwarded to members of the P-20 Roundtable.

8. Conclusion

President Bruininks thanked the Partnership for their hard work during his term as chair. The Partnership thanked all of the participants on the working groups, especially the chairs, for their contributions.