

Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership
May 5, 2011 (9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
Conference Center A, Room 13
Minnesota Department of Education

Meeting Notes

Members/Designees Present: Jim Bartholomew, Robert Bruininks, Bonnie Cannon, Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Paul Cerkvenik, Mary Lou Dresbach, Garnet Franklin, Jane Gilles, Jennifer Godinez, Joellen Gonder-Spack, Robert Jones, Deb Kiel, Charlie Kyte, Carlos Mariani-Rosa, Scott McMahon, Robert Meeks, Bruce Munson, James McCormick, Amy Nelson, Pete Olson, Scott Olson, Eugene Piccolo, Jeanne Poppe, Fred Storti, Gary Westorff, Sen. Chuck Wiger, Cliff Wittstruck, and Sheila Wright.

Others present: Beth Aune, Cyndy Crist, William DeJohn, Angie Johnson, Kent Pekel, Nancy Walton, Cathy Wagner

Guests: John Manning, Sally Wherry, John Olsen, Mike Lindstrom

Chair: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education

1. Welcome and approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cassellius welcomed the group and asked for input about the current and future work. Thanks were expressed to President Bruininks and Chancellor McCormick for creating the P-20 vision as this will be their last meeting. Both President Bruininks and Chancellor McCormick reflected upon the value of having this platform since 2002 for so many groups to work together, not dependent upon legislative funding. Cyndy Crist is also retiring. The November 9, 2010 Minutes were approved.

2. Workgroup meeting updates from co-chairs

- **Workgroup #1: College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign**

Co-chair John Manning reported that the work group has held two in-person meetings, conducted a conference call and shared feedback by Survey Monkey. Discussions have included reviewing the *Road Map* document, messaging research and other states' campaigns. A planning session was held in December with Tom Horner, drawing on his experience with statewide public affairs campaigns. The group has also connected with the work group focused upon rigor, given the overlap in the charges. There appears to be a lack of clarity in Minnesota about the current environment tied to college readiness information. The workgroup will need to be very clear and specific in a variety of ways, including in terms of what can best be done together on this front by the various partners in P-20, what needs to be accomplished, and how the campaign will be sustained. The question of resources is critical, and the plan could be used to seek outside funding. Next steps include a) preparing a scan of the current environment, drawn from feedback from P-20 Partnership constituents; b) defining the scope, target audiences and key outcomes for communications; and c) developing messages and strategies.

- **Workgroup #2: STEM Achievement Gap Strategic Plan**

John Olson and Mike Lindstrom, Co-chairs, reported the focus has been upon K-8. The Workgroup has met 10 times and has 19 active members. It has received input and presentations in the following areas: student achievement data at the national, state and district levels for mathematics and science with some participation data in technology; demographic and workforce data; information from visits to schools in St. Paul and Elk River that have made progress in reducing the achievement gap; and research on the achievement gap and a look at cultural aspects. The Workgroup has divided into subcommittees to do further research and begin to formulate recommendations. The subcommittees are 1) Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Support, 2) Leadership and Beliefs, 3) Teacher Skills, and 4) Cultural Aspects. The subcommittees will set additional meetings to accomplish their work and invite other expertise in as needed. The research data and articles that have been gathered for the work to date have been assembled in shared folders in Google Docs and can be made available to other interested parties.

- **Workgroup #3: Rigorous Course Taking Strategic Plan**

Sally Wherry, Co-chair, reported that the Workgroup has been meeting, both in person and virtually, since last May, 2010, and has drafted a framework to address the charge identified by the P-20 Council. All five components essential to the desired statewide plan, as identified in the P-20 charge, have been

highlighted separately in the strategic planning template developed by the Workgroup. This template has served as a framework to guide efforts. Recent meetings and online revisions have amended the template. Three main questions have emerged: 1) How do we effectively communicate the importance of rigorous course taking; 2) How do we create viable pathways for students; and 3) How do we ensure adequate resources in schools to support rigorous course taking for all students. A draft was provided with recommendations for each of the three main questions, including current barriers, recommendations for policy and practice, and spotlights on promising practices. The strategic planning template is posted on an online BaseCamp Website to allow for ongoing group editing, revision and discussion. The work group last met on April 20, 2011, to review and revise the draft plan.

Discussion:

Previous proposed legislation included a requirement that students must take one postsecondary credit before graduation. CCRPI also made policy recommendations. Consider to what degree the Workgroup's work should be dependent upon legislative action or if de facto policies can be pushed forward. Consider compiling all of the past policy recommendations that have been proposed. Connect to previous work.

- **Workgroup #4: Postsecondary Completion Strategic Plan**

Beth Aune informed the group that co-chairs Valerie Pace and Dr. Leslie Mercer have reported that the work of Workgroup #4: Postsecondary Completion Strategic Plan is completed. In light of the State's recent membership in Complete College America (CCA) which has a similar goal, the Workgroup has transitioned the charge of this group to the new advisory committee that is required to participate in CCA. The advice and feedback received from Workgroup 4 will provide important foundational background for the CCA Advisory Committee. Some of the members of Workgroup 4 will be named to the new CCA committee as well which will assure continuity.

Discussion:

The Office of Higher Education is applying for the Complete College America: Completion Innovation Challenge one million dollar grant given to ten states with assistance from MnSCU, U of M, and MDE representatives. The application is due May 17 and will be submitted through the Governor's office.

3. Longitudinal Data System (LDS) Governance Structure Update

Cathy Wagner, Director of Information Technology, MDE, presented a PowerPoint to provide information about the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. The keys to success include statutes which provide the authority to collect and share data among agencies and the formal P-20 Partnership. Other states don't have our state's well-developed governance structure. *America COMPETES* P-20 Foundation Requirements include the sharing of data. Inter-agency governance groups (Governance, Research, and Data Advisory Committees) will maintain research efforts by continuing to negotiate the addition of P-20 data elements that can be accessed through SLEDS analytic tools. The SLEDS warehouse will be hosted by OET in the State Data Center. A total of 31 data elements have been identified as "Seed Elements." Additional elements will be added as approved by the Governance Committee.

The 2011 timeline was reviewed. The contract was awarded to iBusiness Solutions to lead the warehouse development efforts. The Research and Data Advisory Committees identified key objectives and success criteria and finalized recommendations for the Governance Committee, who will finalize a vision statement and entertain recommendations for the research agenda. Technical assistance will be provided from Jeff Sellers from Florida and Corey Chatis from Tennessee as these two states have successful interagency education data warehouses. Near-term future plans are as follows: finalize data source analysis, establish data de-identification process, begin data modeling, finalize data sharing agreements between OHE and Private colleges, and establish a data sharing agreement with DEED for a pilot.

Discussion:

The importance of looking at early childhood data was identified. Data is de-identified and used in aggregate. Data will be publicly available at a high level, especially for research. Public information about the system will be initially provided on the OHE and P-20 Websites. MDE is redoing its Website to include a new data center. Data cannot be corrected at a parent's request; MDE works with the district, and parents can request MARSS data at a district level. Dealing with fear and concern about sharing data is something that the Governance Committee can consider.

4. Dual Credit Course Taking Study

President Bruininks presented a request that the P-20 partnership should commission an investigation of dual credit course taking that can serve as an inaugural study for the new Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS). While participation in dual credit courses has risen rapidly, little is known about who takes dual credit courses, what types of courses they take, and what impact the course taking has on high school and postsecondary performance. Informed by the findings of the initial SLEDS study of dual credit course taking, a follow-up study could seek to answer additional questions to provide more details. Taken together, the two studies could serve as the basis for the development of policies and practices that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of dual credit course taking in Minnesota and beyond. The University of Minnesota plans to build a data base about dual credit course taking. Perhaps this can be scaled up and used in the state. Questions whether we are making the maximum use of our resources and what is the level of alignment between and among our institutions should be addressed. We have a chance at improving rigor and readiness, especially during the last two years of high school. A serious conversation about the impact of selling college courses to high school students is needed.

Discussion:

MnSCU is also conducting this type of study, which will be released in a week. Consider what happens to the students who are left behind in high school if resources go with those who leave. Put incentives in place to maximize results. PSEO began twenty years ago but was never evaluated or changed. Consider bonuses to teachers and scholarships to students. The Rural K-14 Initiative has some ideas of how technical and high school programming should come together. Avoid college credits that don't count for anything. MDE does have some data about AP and IB as well as participation data in PSEO and concurrent enrollment. However, it would be valuable to know where in the state dual enrollment isn't offered.

5. 7-Point Plan for Achieving Excellence and vision for the future

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, MDE

Members should review the 7-Point Plan for Achieving Excellence for the priorities of MDE.

6. Proposal for moving forward with the workgroups

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, MDE

The Commissioner requests that the members review the first draft of the 2011 Workgroups to consider how to align workgroups with the Governor's plan and provide input at the July 13th meeting as to what is missing and should be included.

Discussion:

Specific targets for closing the achievement gap with a thread of equity and excellence throughout the work with principles are recommended. Perhaps at the next meeting the Workgroups wouldn't need to report in order to allow time for more discussion. P-20 could be an advisory. The P-20 relationships have been built so now action is needed. Action with a policy-making focus and/or process improvement focus such as collaborating to make our systems better should be considered. Because of the new members and new leaders, reviewing the mission and purposes for P-20 as specified in statute would be valuable. Members should develop a blueprint for how to move forward.

7. Closing remarks

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner, MDE

The Commissioner reminded the group that the next meeting will be held on July 13, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at MDE in CC 14. The format of the meeting will be a retreat for discussion and a review of the mission, statute, and priorities. The current workgroups should continue their work.