

Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership

August 10, 2010 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Conference Center A, Room 14

Minnesota Department of Education

Meeting Notes

Members/Designees Present: Sharon Bergen, Bill Blazar, Lois Bollman, Robert Bruininks, Paul Cerkenik, Rep. Keith Downey, Mary Lou Dresbach, Jennifer Godinez, Joellen Gonder-Spacek, Jeanne Herrmann, Robert Jones, Karen Klinzing, Joann Knuth, Charlie Kyte, James McCormick, Scott McMahon, Robert Meeks, Dave Metzen, Bruce Munson, Sen. Gen Olson, Pete Olson, Scott Olson, Gene Picollo, Cecilia Retelle, Alice Seagren, John Slama, Sen. Chuck Wiger

Others present: Beth Aune, Jim Bartholomew, Cindy Christ, William DeJohn, Angie Judd, Geoffrey Maruyama, Dirk Mattson, Mark Misukanis, Kent Pekel, Nancy Walton, Cathy Wagner

Guests: Rachel Anderson, Liesl Chatman, Dan Corbett, Meredith Fergus, Pahoua Hoffman, John Manning, Leslie Mercer, Valerie Pace, Jim Pagliarini, Barb Schlaefer, Anna Schumacher, Joe Sertich, Lucy Swift, Sally Wherry

Chair: Alice Seagren, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education

1. Welcome and approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting were approved.

2. MN P-20 Education Partnership Workgroup Charges and workgroup membership lists

The members reviewed the charges of the four workgroups: College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign, STEM Achievement Gap Strategic Plan, Rigorous Course Taking Strategic Plan, and Postsecondary Completion Strategic Plan. The Commissioner noted the first two workgroups will expand upon the previous workgroups under President Bruinicks. The last workgroup was added at the suggestion of Chancellor McCormick. The Commissioner thanked the members for nominating members for the workgroups. If members wish to nominate others, forward names to her.

3. Workgroup meeting updates from Co-chairs

Workgroup #1: College and Career Readiness Communications Campaign

Co-Chair John Manning, Director of Marketing and Communications, Minnesota Private College Council, reported that workgroup members were given *The Road Map to College and Career Readiness for Minnesota Students* as a foundation document. Members were surveyed through an electronic survey, and a conference call was held with the group to discuss the charge. Discussion included the importance of relevant research to grounding their efforts and some initial data from Ramp Up program surveying and process consideration. The work group will be convened for its first in-person meeting in September. Consideration of relevant research, communications efforts nationally and in other states, and discussions with public relations professionals will be topics on that agenda.

Workgroup #2: STEM Achievement Gap Strategic Plan

Workgroup member Liesl Chatman, Director of Professional Development, Science Museum of Minnesota reported the workgroup had their initial meeting on July 22 and agreed that elementary will be considered to be K-8 because many schools are configured K-8 and the focus upon elementary is good. The reports of previous P-20 workgroups, *The Road Map to College and Career Readiness for Minnesota Students* and *Improving STEM Instruction in MN*, will be used. NCMTE (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) has already incorporated cultural considerations in math for the group's consideration. Large gaps in data exist, especially in primary grades and in technology and engineering. Using a data dashboard to monitor improvements in subpopulations will be important in the overall statewide strategy to close the achievement gap. The workgroup plans to look at exemplary schools and programs, keeping

in mind contextual factors. Meetings will be held monthly September through November and then bi-monthly with subgroups meetings between whole group meetings.

The workgroup requests that the P-20 Partnership add an amendment to the workgroup charge by inserting a new second bullet as indicated by the underlined text.

- Analyze the patterns of curriculum, instruction, teacher preparation, professional development, assessment, and learning environments in Minnesota that close or widen the achievement gap across gender, ethnic, and socio-economic subpopulations;

Rationale: The group needs to know the existing patterns of the items in the last bullet of the workgroup charge in order to articulate and prioritize the goals for a statewide strategy.

No objections to adding the new second bullet were voiced.

Workgroup #3: Rigorous Course Taking Strategic Plan

Sally Wherry, Supervisor for High School Initiatives, Center for Postsecondary Success, MDE, reported that the workgroup met July 22nd at MDE. Key meeting topics included the overview of roles and responsibilities (including timeline), an overview of the development of the MN Common Course Catalog (Cheryll Ostrom- MDE), and a discussion of what this group needs in order to fully address the components of the charge to bring information about rigorous course taking to families and students. All students, including minority and low income students, should have access to rigorous course taking. The group plans to delve deeply into the definition of rigor, what constitutes a rigorous course, what is acceptable completion of the course, what should the goal be, what are the known barriers, and how we should be preparing students at elementary and middle school levels to successfully take part in rigorous courses. The group will also examine districts that are successful and how businesses and the private sector are involved. This work will link to Workgroup #1 as well. The group has set up a "BaseCamp" Web site to post agendas, meeting summaries, background materials, and documents. Two conference calls are scheduled on Tuesday, Aug. 17th (1:00-2:00 p.m.), and Monday, Aug. 23rd (10:30-11:30 a.m.).

Workgroup #4: Postsecondary Completion Strategic Plan

Dr. Leslie Mercer, Associate Vice Chancellor of Research, Planning and Effectiveness, MNSCU, reported that the workgroup met July 23. The group reviewed the Charge Statement and questioned why the charge suggested focusing primarily on public higher education and suggested that we should include ALL higher education sectors -- public, private and proprietary and look at all levels from technical certificates through the Ph.D. Dr. Chris Rasmussen, Vice President for Research and Policy Analysis, Midwest Higher Education Compact, presented information on the current and projected college completion rates in Minnesota, the nation and internationally. While Minnesota is a leader in the Midwest and nationally, the data and discussion that followed focused on the need to improve the numbers of students who matriculate and successfully complete an award. Not all students need to complete a baccalaureate degree; in fact there is a growing demand for workers with associate degrees and technical certificates as well. Several topics were discussed and were suggested as areas for further study such as economic impact of non-completion, the overall goal and targets set forth by different organizations (60-70%), current efforts, and incentives or disincentives to completion. Future meeting topics will include performance and incentives, closing the gap, and examining the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) model. At the next meeting in September, each system/sector will present data on student completion and information about what each is doing to increase student success.

There were no objections to the workgroup including ALL higher education sectors -- public, private and proprietary and look at all levels from technical certificates through the Ph.D.

Issues:

- More specific demographic breakdowns, especially in *MN Measures*

- Our state's involvement in Complete College America with possibility of workgroup making recommendations to HEAC.
- Connection between K-12 and higher education as students transition
- Consideration of those already in the workforce to bring them back to campuses with programs such as MN FastTRAC program, which attempts to bring adult learners and dropouts back
- Maximizing current financial resources with consideration of modest increases if resources could have a great impact

4. Longitudinal Data System (LDS) Governance Structure Committees

Cathy Wagner presented a PowerPoint presentation, *Minnesota Education Data Systems for 21st Century Learning*, with information about the Intra Agency Data Governance Structure Relationships.

Cathy Wagner indicated the time line: **August**-Memo to Organizations requesting membership appointments to Governance Committee, Research and Data committees; **September**- Committee Memberships Finalized, Call for Agenda Items; **October**-Combined Committee Kickoff Meeting for Governing Council, Research and Data Committees, Agenda Items to include: P-20 history, respective committee duties, need to identify chairs and co-chairs for each committee; and **November**-First independent meetings for the Governing Council, Research and Data Committees.

Issues:

- Link to how students do on state tests and possibly add grades
- Timeline with full rollout June 2011
- Cost to sustain it after the three-year grant
- Extra district staffing to enter the data
- Front line users helping design it
- Calling upon expertise at U of M and MnSCU
- Addressing privacy issues
- Connecting to teacher training
- Possibility of early childhood data

5. Early College Update

Charlie Kyte reported that he and Joe Sertich have been working for three years surveying and convening college presidents, superintendents, and administrators in a series of meetings to increase collaboration between K-12 and postsecondary. The effort focuses upon the rural areas, but efforts are occurring in the metro as well. Anna Schumacher from Sertich Consulting and Rachel Anderson from MASA presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Envisioning K-14 Connections for Rural Minnesota*. A handout, *K-14 Strategies and Better Practices Report*, which was prepared for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in cooperation with Minnesota Association of School Administrators, was distributed. Seven strategic areas of focus were identified: establish common calendar, establish common student ID, enhance career pathways, achieve curriculum alignment for K-14, Post Secondary Enrollment Options, new delivery model & technology, and credentialing. Included was a video featuring the Bridges Career Academies and Workplace Connections supported by the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber and Central Lakes College, which features a link between work-based learning and businesses to help students explore real life and real careers. Joe Sertich stated the goal is to broaden and expand collaborative efforts with statewide information about innovation and the wise use of scarce resources in rural areas.

6. Presentation on PBS student and teacher education resources

Jim Pagliarini, Twin Cities Public Television, and Dan Corbett, WDSE Duluth Public Television, presented information about how Public Broadcast Service can support our work. The objective was to introduce that idea that public television can be a partner to help education face challenges such as resources. Other states such as Arkansas, Pennsylvania, and Nevada have developed curriculum, virtual classrooms, and teacher training, working closely with public television. Public television has expanded to broadcast

to four or five channels with the capacity to use channel space for education and to broadcast data. Public television would like to get the word out that they have a huge digital teaching and learning library, including pre-school resources. Broadcast programs all have curriculum components. The Minnesota Video Vault has free smaller segments correlated to the Minnesota state standards: <http://www.mnvideovault.org/> Professional development on-line services can be provided such as in Duluth and Austin. Public television can help create original curriculum and training such as STEM at TPT. In addition, public television can be media partners for community outreach endeavors by taking the research and using storytelling to make the information accessible to a broader audience.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Partnership is **Tuesday, November 9, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Conference Center A, Room 14** at the Minnesota Department of Education, Roseville.