

Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership

December 3, 2013 (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)
Grand Hall, TIES Building
1667 Snelling Ave N., St. Paul, MN 55108

Meeting Notes

Voting Members and Designees in attendance:

Karl Aaro, Gary Amoroso, Jim Bartholomew, Bill Blazar, Rep. David Bly, Paul Cerkvenik, Tracie Dewberry, Kathleen Foord, Jennifer Godinez, Joellen Gonder-Spacek, Jeanne Herrmann, David Isham, Grace Keliher, Jon Millerhagen, Katie Misukanis, Larry Pogemiller, Kirk Schneidawind, Denise Specht, Amy Walstien, and Sen. Chuck Wiger.
Chair: Commissioner Brenda Cassellius

Others in attendance:

Beth Aune, Cynthia Bauerly, Steve Dibb, Denise Dittrich, Brittany Edwards, Hector Garcia, Leah Hakkola, Karen Hynick, Angie Johnson, Lisa Larson, Mary Parker, Shannon Patrick, Michael Rodriguez, and Cliff Wittstruck II

1. Commissioner Cassellius welcomed members who introduced themselves.
2. Members approved the Minutes from October 17, 2013.
3. Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and Assistant Commissioner Steve Dibb reviewed aspects of the “Striving for the World’s Best Workforce” legislation and guidance document. Districts work with stakeholders to set targets and the means to reach their goals. Assistant Commissioner Steve Dibb has held meetings with 600 participants around the state this fall to explain the legislation and the guidance document, listening to school board members, superintendents, principals, counselors, teachers, and stakeholders who have visions about where they want to take their districts and who are exploring ways to create district plans with stakeholders’ input. For example, some districts are surveying stakeholders. The plan with its details does not need to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education because it is the district’s responsibility to communicate to stakeholders about processes currently in place and those planned to meet the goals of the World’s Best Workforce legislation.

It is important to remember the five requirements in the legislation, which include striving to have all students meet school readiness goals, have all third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy, close achievement gaps, have all students graduate from high school, and have all students attain college and career preparedness. If we want to have all students graduate from high school, we must all work on ways to close the achievement gaps. The five regional Pathways to Postsecondary Success Summits held in December with 700 participants have

provided important feedback about working with partners. The three new Centers of Excellence will provide professional development for educators.

The Minnesota Department of Education has created a template PowerPoint presentation to share with stakeholders and a summary template for the guidance document. An e-mail box has been set up for information and questions:

MDE.WorldsBestWorkForce@state.mn.us

Discussion:

Members suggested that the tools be translated so that the guidance document be used in all communities and offered assistance. School boards can determine rigorous course waivers. Beginning in 2015 as required by legislation, districts will have a new suite of college and career readiness tests. Having college and career readiness information as early as eighth grade will help us intervene earlier so that students are ready in multiple ways for whichever option they choose. Legislation requires that all students no later than ninth grade have a plan for successful transition to postsecondary education and employment. The importance of technical skills is emerging, and communities are examining their regional employment needs. Postsecondary institutions can partner with districts to determine where students are struggling, examine curricula and help reduce remediation rates in college. One suggestion was to set a target to reduce remediation rates. Colleges of teacher education are committed to address the achievement gaps and diversify the work force. The state school readiness report, which will be released soon, will provide information to us about our investments in early education. Data from the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) can also provide information to P20. Perhaps, P20 could set a goal to cut the achievement gaps in half by 2016 instead of 2017 (as required by the waiver) with a third party evaluating how we are doing in reducing the gaps. It is important to have everyone in agreement about what P20 needs to do, commit to move forward in the same direction, and use data to be accountable for the results in order to do what is best for our children in this state.

4. Discussion of P-20 Education Partnership roles in implementing the “Striving for the World’s Best Workforce” legislation was led by Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. The Commissioner suggested that P20 help move the implementation of this legislation forward, help develop a coherent strategy for how the Minnesota Department of Education can move the entire state, and hold the Minnesota Department of Education accountable. P20 needs to define its goals and targets so the partnership is moving forward and sharing data at each meeting. P20 members need to take the information back to their organizations and report out to P20 what each organization is doing.

One point of discussion was how to measure career preparedness. It may take several years to build up a data base of career data, but the partnership can use what is currently available to begin discussions. Suggestions were to use the expertise of P20 partners to determine what the measures and targets should be in addition to tests.

After discussion, P-20 members agreed to the following items for the next meeting agenda:

- Larry Pogemiller from the Office of Higher Education will present a Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) update, including options for using data to inform our work.
- Commissioner Cassellius will present current data about how Minnesota is doing with regard to World's Best Workforce legislative goals: striving to have all students meet school readiness goals, have all third-grade students achieve grade-level literacy, close achievement gaps, have all students graduate from high school, and have all students attain college and career preparedness. She will present suggested measures and targets as a draft for P20 to review and approve as the focus of P20 work for at least the next 1 ½ years.
- P20 members will report out for two minutes the actions that their respective organizations will take to support the World's Best Workforce legislative goals, knowing that the measures and targets for the goals will be further refined after the next P20 meeting.
- P20 members will determine what the role of MDE and each P20 partner organization is in achieving these goals.

Homework for P20 members before the next meeting will be to think of how their organizations should be involved in accomplishing the WBWF goals and come prepared with suggestions about targets and measures that P20 can use to track Minnesota's progress for students' career readiness.

5. Commissioner Brenda Cassellius adjourned the meeting at 4 p.m. and reminded members of the date and location of the next meeting.

Next meeting date:

April 15, 2014
1:00-3:00 p.m.

MN Department of Education,
1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville
CC-16 (Conference Center B)