

# **STRENGTHENING WILMINGTON EDUCATION**

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**Wilmington Education  
Improvement Commission**

**Red Clay School District Board Meeting**

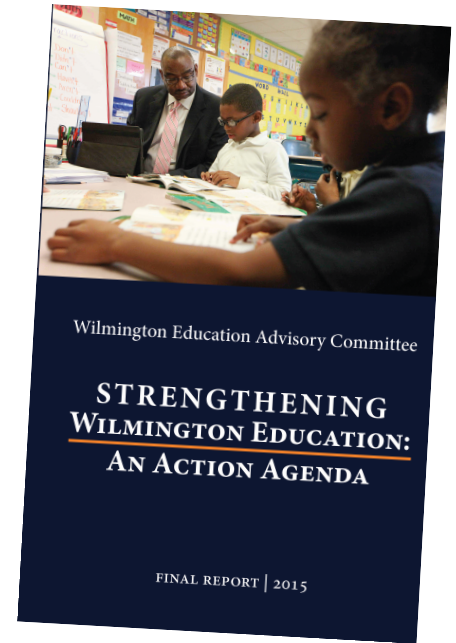
August 19, 2015

# Creating An Action Agenda

In April 2015, the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee issued its final report, ***Strengthening Wilmington Education: An Action Agenda***.

## Action Agenda

1. **Creating Responsive Governance**
2. **Meeting Wilmington Student Needs**
3. **Funding Student Success**
4. **Implementing Change**



# 2015 Legislative Priorities

- **Creating Responsive Governance**

- SB122 (Senator Henry)\*
- HB56 (Representative Potter)\*

- **Meeting Wilmington Student Needs & Funding Student Success**

- HB30 (Representative Williams)
- HB117 (Representative Heffernan)

- **Implementing Change**

- HB148 (Representative Keeley)\*



*\*Bills or actions that have passed/been approved*

# WILMINGTON EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

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# Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

Advise the Governor and General Assembly on:

1. Improvements to the quality and availability of education for children in Wilmington and New Castle County (NCC)
2. Meeting the needs of all Delaware schools with high concentrations of children living in poverty and English language learners
3. Policies to promote the continuous improvement of public education

# Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

- Community-based council
- Works across all governmental units, educational entities, and private and nonprofit institutions
- Supports implementation of all recommendations in the WEAC's final report
- Submits an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly and sunsets on June 30, 2021

# 23 Member Commission

- **Tony Allen, Ph.D., Chairperson**, Wilmington Resident and Senior Executive with Bank of America
- **Kenny Rivera, Vice-Chairperson**, President, Red Clay School Board, and Teacher, Brandywine High School
- **Tizzy Lockman, Vice-Chairperson**, Wilmington Parent, Education Advocate and Public Allies Alumna
- **Eve Buckley**, Parent and Education Advocate, Christina School District
- **The Honorable Nnamdi Chukwuocha**, Chair, Education, Youth & Families Committee, Wilmington City Council
- **Rosa Colon-Kolacko**, Ph.D., Chief Diversity Officer, Christiana Care
- **Karen Eller**, Teacher, Christina School District
- **Reverend Meredith Griffin**, Chairperson, Education Committee, Interdenominational Ministers Action Council
- **Frederika Jenner**, President, Delaware State Education Association
- **Yvonne Johnson**, Parent and Education Advocate, Red Clay School District
- **Joseph T. Laws**, President, Colonial School Board
- **Margie Lopez Waite**, Head of School, L'Aspira Academy Charter School
- **Aretha Miller**, Executive Director, Community Education Building
- **Harrie Ellen Minnehan**, President, Christina School Board
- **Joe Pika**, Ph.D., Former President of State Board of Education
- **Chandra Pitts**, Parent and Executive Director, One Village Alliance
- **The Honorable Charles Potter**, Representative, Delaware General Assembly
- **Vicki Seifried**, Teacher, H.B. duPont Middle School, Red Clay School District
- **John Skrobot**, President, Brandywine School Board
- **The Honorable David Sokola**, Senator, Delaware General Assembly
- **Michelle Taylor**, President, United Way of Delaware
- High School Student, Wilmington
- High School Student, NCC

# Commission Leadership

- **Tony Allen**, Chairperson; Wilmington and Red Clay resident and senior executive with Bank of America
- **Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman**, Vice-Chairperson; Red Clay Parent and Education Advocate
- **Kenneth Rivera**, Vice-Chairperson; President, Red Clay School Board, and Brandywine Teacher
- **Supported by:**
  - **Dan Rich**, Policy Director; University of Delaware
  - Staff from the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration



# FIVE WEIC COMMITTEES

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PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR THE COMMISSION



# Redistricting Committee

*Co-chairs:*

*Joe Pika, Former President of State Board of Education*

*Henry Harper, Former Superintendent of Appoquinimink School District*

- Will focus on **responsibilities related to SB122**
- Will **work with districts** to prepare the transition, resource, and implementation plan



## Charter and District Collaboration Committee

*Co-chairs:*

*Eve Buckley, Parent, Christina School District*

*Aretha Miller, Executive Director, Community Education Building*

- Will support **development of a state plan**
- Will promote **shared capacity and collaboration**
- Will recommend **application of national best practices**

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## Meeting the Needs of Students in Poverty Committee

*Co-chairs:*

*Chandley Kuhn, Former Judge, Family Court*

*Michelle Taylor, President, United Way of Delaware*

*Jackie Jenkins, Education Advisor, Wilmington Mayor's Office*

- Will develop a **comprehensive plan for the integration of services** for low-income children and families, and for schools with high concentrations of poverty
- Will apply a **developmental model** from birth through college and workforce
- Will revitalize the **existing policy infrastructure** to implement the comprehensive plan



# Funding Student Success Committee

*Co-chairs:*

*Jill Floore, Chief Financial Officer, Red Clay Consolidated School District*

*Mike Jackson, Deputy Comptroller-General, State of Delaware*

Will recommend policies to:

- **Strengthen the revenue base** supporting public education at both the state and local levels, including for property reassessment and tax adjustment
- **Adopt a weighted student funding formula** or a modification of the current unit formula that incorporates allocations for school with high concentrations of student in poverty and English language learners and expands basic special education support to grades K-3

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## Funding Student Success Committee

- Will recommend policies to:
  - **Fund the redistricting process** and provide additional assistance to schools in the impacted districts
  - **Conduct a needs assessment** to evaluate whether the remaining districts in Wilmington require new middle and high schools in the city
  - **Support the increased investment** needed to sustain and accelerate advances in early childhood learning and in workforce and college access that meet the needs of low-income students



# Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee

*Co-chairs:*

*Yvonne Johnson, Parent and Education Advocate, Red Clay School District*

*Chandra Pitts, Wilmington Parent and Executive Director, One Village Alliance*

- Will recommend policies to:
  - Strengthen **parent and family engagement** in public education
  - Support schools as **community assets** with allies from all sectors
  - Promote **ongoing, effective, two-way communication** with parents, educators, and community residents

# REDISTRICTING PROCESS

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# Redistricting Authority

- **Senate Bill 122** authorizes the State Board of Education to alter boundaries of NCC school districts:
  - Consistent with the recommendations made in the WEAC final report, and
  - Based on a transition, resource, and implementation plan prepared by the Commission.

# Redistricting Deadlines

**December 31, 2015:** Deadline for the Commission to submit plan to the State Board

**March 31, 2016:** Authority of the State Board to act under the provisions of SB122 terminates

# Redistricting Plan

- The Commission transition, resource, and implementation plan must include:
  - Reassignment of students affected by the boundary change and the reassignment of governance responsibilities
  - Implications for educators, administrators, and other personnel
  - Resources that will be required, from state, district, and local sources
  - Student transportation
  - Distribution of capital assets
  - Engagement of educators, staff, parents, district personnel, and community members throughout the transition

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN  
FOR THE RED CLAY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT?**

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# Recommendations From the WEAC Final Report

1. The Christina and Colonial School Districts should no longer serve Wilmington.
2. The Red Clay Consolidated, Brandywine, and New Castle County Vocational-Technical (NCC Vo-tech) School Districts should continue to serve Wilmington children.
3. Red Clay should take responsibility for all Wilmington schools currently under Christina.

# Has the Decision to Change District Boundaries Already Been Made?

- **No.** The State Board can only make the decision, after it reviews the Commission's implementation plan.

# Will the Implementation Plan Recommended by the Commission Be Limited to Redrawing Boundaries?

- **No.** Simply redistricting is of no value without a comprehensive plan for school reform.
- The plan will present a comprehensive package and ask the State Board to approve the entire package.

# Will Red Clay Play a Larger Role in Wilmington Education?

- That recommendation from WEAC is the basis for planning, but no decision has been made.



# How Will Red Clay Be Represented on the Commission?

- WEIC Chair, Tony Allen, is a long-time Red Clay resident. WEIC's Vice-Chairs are Red Clay Board President Kenny Rivera and Red Clay parent Tizzy Lockman.
- Red Clay Superintendent Merv Daugherty and Assistant Superintendent Ted Ammann, as well as Kenny Rivera, will serve on the redistricting committee.
- Red Clay Chief Financial Officer Jill Floore will co-chair the funding committee and Red Clay parent and advocate Yvonne Johnson will co-chair the parent, educator, and community engagement committee.
- Other committees will include additional Red Clay representatives: administrators, educators, principals, parents, and community members.

# What Will Be Red Clay's Role in Developing the Plan for Redistricting?

- Red Clay is being asked to coordinate with the Commission and other districts in developing a transition, resource, and implementation plan for the changes in responsibilities associated with the proposed alteration of district boundaries.

## Will the Commission Support Red Clay With the Transition Plan?

- **Yes.** The Commission's role is to support the work of all districts involved in developing their implementation plans, to ensure that the plans of the districts are coordinated and complimentary, and to present the full picture of the redistricting process.

# How Will Red Clay Communicate With the Parents and Residents?

- Red Clay will maintain communication with parents, educators, and community members.
- A series of Red Clay town halls and community meetings are planned and more will be scheduled.
- Information will be available on the Red Clays website, and information will be shared directly with parents and residents in the Red Clay newsletter.
- The Commission will support communication efforts via a website (in development) and existing Facebook group.

# If Redistricting Occurs, Who Will Determine School Attendance and Feeder Patterns Within the New District Boundaries?

- Red Clay will retain responsibility for school attendance and feeder patterns within its boundaries consistent with the same guidelines as now exist.

## Resources

To keep informed, monitor progress and get involved, please use the following sources:

The Commission website:

***[SolutionsforDelawareSchools.com](http://SolutionsforDelawareSchools.com)***

Facebook group:

***[Solutions for Wilmington Schools](#)***

# We look forward to working with you!

- Questions?