

## **Redding Consortium for Educational Equity**

### **Funding and Governance Work Group**

**August 6, 2020 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

##### **Welcome and Introduction**

The virtual meeting started at 6:00 p.m. Co-Chairs of the Funding and Governance Work Group of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity (Redding Consortium), Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Eugene Young welcomed all attendees. Young conducted the roll call and all in attendance introduced themselves.

##### **Equity Definition and Decision-making Model**

Young stated the equity definition that the Redding Consortium created. He reviewed the decision-making model, which included the use of local data, best practice research, and stakeholder engagement. Young emphasized that the equity definition and the decision-making model must be continuously followed by the Work Group.

##### **Proposed Work Plan and Focus Areas**

Chukwuocha discussed the shift in focus areas for the Work Group. He explained that initially the focus was on governance and the original goal was to present recommendations in March 2020 to the Redding Consortium and in June 2020 to the General Assembly. The shift from a governance focus to a funding focus occurred due to the impacts of Covid-19 on districts and communities. Chukwuocha said the new timeline means the Work Group will work towards presenting draft recommendations to the full Consortium in October 2020 and have finalized recommendations by December 2020. Also, he stated the Work Group must be prepared for the outcomes of the ruling on property reassessment and lawsuit on state funding for education.

Chukwuocha explained the proposed short-term areas of focus would be referendum reform, revisiting House Bill 129, and the New Castle County (NCC) Tax District. Staff support from the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and Delaware State University (DSU) have been requested to research the Opportunity Funding and CARES Act funding as well. He stated that the long-term goals would include adequacy studies and addressing overall inequities in Delaware's education funding system. Chukwuocha said from this initial meeting and onward, the work group will work on the short-term areas of focus and the long-term areas will take about a year to complete.

Young asked the group for their feedback and questions. Aaron Bass stated that he did not want the work group to forget about the governance aspect, especially with the increased inequities from the pandemic. He also emphasized his support for the consolidation of the

districts. Chukwuocha responded that group will address governance, but for the moment will focus on the funding aspect through an equity lens. Emily Falcon asked with the chat function, if the group will examine the equalization funding and the frozen components in connection to the NCC Tax District. Chukwuocha answered yes. Chuck Longfellow inquired if there was research on the NCC Tax District. Chukwuocha stated that IPA is conducting research and has put together a draft about the NCC Tax District. He informed the Work Group members that they will be sent all the necessary information regarding the NCC Tax District.

### **Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Young stated the goal is for the Work Group to meet every two weeks on Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. He asked for feedback on the proposed meeting schedule. Rick Geisenberg noted that with the pandemic, schedules may shift. Jason Hale stated that everyone will do what they can to follow the meeting schedule. Haley Qaissaunee, IPA staff, said she will send all the meeting materials to the Work Group members, so they have time to read everything to send feedback. Tika Hartsock asked when Qaissaunee wanted to receive the comments on the meeting materials. It was decided to send questions, comments, and suggestions on the meeting materials by August 10.

Chukwuocha and Young thanked all in attendance for their participation and dedication to the work group.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment

**Meeting ended at 6:48 p.m.**

## **Attendees**

### **Consortium Members:**

Co-chair, Tizzy Lockman

Co-chair, Matthew Denn

Nnamdi Chukwuocha

Eugene Young

Aaron Bass

James Dechene

Emily Falcon

Jill Flory

Rick Giesenberg

Jason Hale

Tika Hartsock

Jamie Johnston

Chuck Longfellow

Mary Nash Wilson

### **Institute for Public Administration/Delaware State University Staff:**

Sarah Bruch

Chris Kelly

Jerome Lewis

Cimone Philpotts

Haley Qaissaunee

Alexis Wrease

### **Public:**

Kyle Sheppard