

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Redding Full Body Meeting

April 29, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

The virtual meeting started at 5:00 p.m. Co-chair of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity, Senator Tizzy Lockman, greeted all in attendance and held roll call.

Work Group Updates

Co-chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, Jeffery Menzer, explained members of the Work Group are developing advocacy tool kits to use with their networks. These toolkits will be used to advocate for the Consortium's recommendations. Menzer added Dr. Adrian Peoples, the Lead Education Associate for Data Management and Analysis for the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), taught the Work Group how to use public data portals. The next Work Group meeting will be about school based wellness centers and early childhood development screening on May 10, 2021.

Chuck Longfellow, Co-chair of the Settlement Work Group reviewed the DDOE's equity statement on major capital improvement projects and the Work Group's recommendations to improve the statement. A motion was held and passed to support the recommendations improvements. Co-chair Aaron Bass explained that DDOE made a recent announcement about the Request for Proposal (RFP) related to the ombudsperson program. He added that while there were some conversations with DDOE and the Office of Management of Budget, he would like the Consortium to have more involvement in the process for items related to the settlement moving forward. Maria Matos, Consortium member, asked if there was a bilingual requirement for the RFP. Kim Klein, DDOE Associate Secretary of Operations Support, said there was no specified bilingual requirement. Klein provided an explanation of the applicant process for the ombudsmen and RFP program and the ways the public can provide feedback. Bass suggested the process be more publicized to get more robust feedback and diverse applicants.

Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha, co-chair of the Funding & Governance Work Group, stated the feedback from the Work Group members is being incorporated into the final draft of the referendum reform bill. He hopes it will be presented to the House Education Committee soon. Cimone Philpotts, Doctoral Student at the University of Delaware, gave a presentation on her dissertation regarding civic capacity and education funding. She petitioned those in attendance to complete her survey to inform her research.

Legislative Updates

Lockman provided an update on the status of House Bill (HB) 100, HB 86, and Senate Bill (SB) 56, which were endorsed by the Consortium during the February 2021 meeting. Secretary of Finance Rick Geisenberger suggested the Consortium support HB 170, which allows counties to fund the reassessment of property values. Dan Shelton, Consortium member, suggested the Consortium support SB 99 to increase access to the High Needs Educator Student Loan Repayment Program. Lockman reminds the members to continue to advocate for the Consortium's recommendations by writing to the

Joint Finance Committee. She also requested Consortium members record short testimonials and played an example video testimonial of Mayor Purzycki supporting the Consortium's recommendations.

The Education Trust Presentation: Unfinished Learning

Kayla Patrick, policy analyst at EdTrust, presented best practice research about how schools can address unfinished learning due to Covid-19 by utilizing American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. Matos asked for ways to monitor ARP funds to hold school districts accountable. Patrick explained school districts should report and remain transparent on how they are spending this additional funding. Matos proposed the Consortium monitor school districts. Secretary of Education Susan Bunting added districts must submit their plans to DDOE. Shelton said each district must also post their plans on their website.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting ended at 6:40 p.m.

Attendees

Consortium Members

Co-Chair, Tizzy Lockman

Co-Chair, Matt Denn

Raye Jones Avery

Aaron Bass

Nnamdi Chukwuocha

James Dechene

Rick Geisenberger

Tika Hartsock

Ernesto Lopez

Maria Matos

Jeffrey Menzer

Noelle Picara

Dan Shelton

Henry Smith

Michael Smith

Margie López Waite

Danya Woods

Eugene Young

Work Group Members

Susan Bunting

Kristin Dwyer

Gary Henry

Mary Nash Wilson

IPA/DSU Staff

Jason Bourke

Brendan Laux

Jerome Lewis

Fran O'Malley

Cimone Philpotts

Haley Qaissaunee

Kelly Sherretz

Alexis Wrease

Public

Marissa Alberty

Norkia Baker

Tammy Croce

First State Educate

Kim Klein

Kelly Mensch

Cora Scott

Jon Sheehan