

P-20 Council Meeting Notes
Buck Library, Buena Vista Conference Center
New Castle, DE
Monday, October 8, 2018

Members Present: Whitney Sweeney, Susan Bunting, Jon Sheehan, Dusty Blakey, John Pelesko, Tony Allen, Justina Sapna, Janine Sorbello, Jeff Gibson, Cerron Cade, Mark DiMaio, Earl Jaques, Kiki Evinger, Rhonda Lehman, Steve Yeatman, John Buckley, Jim Wilson, Christine Eisenhauer.

Others Present: Kim Krzanowski, Shana Payne, Taylor Hawk, Kelly Sherretz, Valerie Lane, Nicole Marshall, Tammy Croce, Debbie Harrington.

I. Welcome & Introductions – Secretary Bunting and Whitney Sweeney

Secretary Bunting, Department of Education, opened the meeting with introductions. She discussed the mission and vision of the Department. She shared that the Governor is focused on increasing 3rd grade reading and 8th grade math proficiency levels.

The Secretary briefly described the role of the P-20 Council and the importance of partnering across organizations. She acknowledged work done by the subcommittees of the P-20 Council.

Whitney Sweeney, State Board of Education President, shared that she is excited to join and work with the Council in her new role. Ms. Sweeney reviewed the agenda and identified the purpose and objectives of the meeting.

II. History of P-20 Council and Context of Policy Brief – Dan Rich

Dan Rich, University of Delaware, shared context and history on the Delaware P-20 Council and its subcommittees. He shared that the P-20 Council provides an opportunity to work more efficiently across the education system.

Dr. Rich provided an overview and context of the brief compiled by the Institute for Public Administration, titled “Refocusing the Delaware P-20 Council.”

III. Governor’s Priorities and Charge of the P-20 Council – Jon Sheehan

Jon Sheehan, Governor’s Office, reviewed the Governor’s top three educational priorities and work currently underway.

The first priority is that every child is reading at or above grade level in 3rd grade. Mr. Sheehan shared that work underway includes funding through Opportunity Grants, investments in early

learning and Purchase of Care, the addition of 44 elementary reading interventionists, and the establishment of the Family Services Cabinet Council.

The second priority is increasing 8th grade math proficiency. Mr. Sheehan shared work underway, including the addition of ten middle school math coaches to support math instruction. Additionally, Representative Jaques sponsored a Loan Forgiveness bill. This bill has been signed by the Governor and will provide loan forgiveness to support educators in Delaware's highest need schools and most challenging content areas, math and STEM.

The third priority is college and career readiness. Mr. Sheehan shared that the state has invested in the career pathways program and recently held a career expo with over 2,000 middle school students in attendance.

IV. Small group Discussions of Recommendations and Path Forward for P-20 – Jenna Ahner

Jenna Ahner, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, briefly described the recommendations put forward in the Institute for Public Administration's brief, which included improving the alignment of the education system for children birth through third grade, reducing the need for remediation, ensuring a robust and diverse pipeline of high-quality educators, and providing access to the education opportunities and programming to be successful in college and careers.

She outlined the small group activity. Meeting participants broke into small groups to discuss the following questions:

- Based on today's presentations, what is your connection to the P-20 Council's role?
- Based on our collective connections, what is the P-20 Council's role in supporting the Governor's priorities?
- In looking at the recommendations as a way to approach how to define the work of the P-20 Council, are these modifications, changes or additions that should be considered as we define the priorities of the P-20 Council?
- Is there overlap in work that agencies or organizations are doing that are aligned with the priorities and are connected with the P-20 Council's work? If yes, which ones?
- What are your recommendations (no more than two) for the focus of the P-20 Council which are most aligned to the priorities and purpose for 2019? Each group should recommend no more than two priorities, submit a synthesis of their feedback to support recommendations, identify specific actions steps to engage in the work of the recommendations.

V. Share Out and Next Steps

Small groups were asked to summarize their takeaways with a focus on their recommendations and actions steps.

Group #1: The group suggested that the P-20 Council focus on the reduction of college remediation and building the talent pipeline for teachers. The group discussed the role of the P-20 Council and how to best use sub-committees to ensure success of the Council. The group discussed membership of the Council and recommended that the group include one superintendent per county, a current teacher, and business representatives from the state's top industries.

Group #2: The group focused on early childhood education and the barriers that children face as they move through the educational system. The group also focused on the teacher pipeline, including recruitment and retention. Members shared that data systems across agencies do not connect to support effective delivery of services. The group shared that dual enrollment provides opportunities for students and that better access is needed for students to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

Group #3: The group focused on the alignment of early learning, K-12, and higher education. The group also discussed the need to recruit and retain qualified teachers.

Group #4: The group discussed the teacher pipeline and the need to prepare and recruit high-quality teachers. The group suggested refining the membership of the Council to include broader representation of business and industry. The group suggested that this approach is needed to help students identify careers and keep graduates in the state of Delaware.

As a wrap up to the breakout conversations, Secretary Bunting shared that the state was recently awarded a grant to support student mental health. There are three districts that have been chosen to pilot programs under this grant.

VI. Adjournment

Secretary Bunting thanked participants for their time and shared that she is looking forward to the next meeting scheduled for January 14, 2019.