

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITY FUNDING

January 13, 2020
Department of Education Conference Room
Townsend Building

Chair Superintendent Dorrell Green called the third meeting of the Opportunity Funding Oversight Committee to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020. In attendance were Committee members Brody Bluemel, Susan Bunting, Brent Carter, Marlene Darlington, Julie Giangiuolo, Dorrell Green, Diana Magana, Linda Poole, and Jon Sheehan, and one member of the public, Kristin Dwyer.

Welcome

After welcoming meeting participants, Dorrell Green thanked those present for again attending the meeting.

Approval of the November 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Dorrell requested that meeting participants peruse the previous meeting's minutes. Linda Poole subsequently motioned to approve the November 25th minutes, a motion that was seconded by Julie Giangiuolo. Committee members unanimously supported the motion to accept the minutes as written.

Review of the First Annual Plan

A copy of the first annual required Oversight Committee on Opportunity Funding report had been provided to each attendee along with the agenda. Dorrell provided additional information regarding the contents of the Executive Order 33, the compilation of the report, the synthesizing of the Rand data, and the creation of the graphs before asking if participants had questions about the report.

Recommendations for Opportunity Fund Program Showcase

Since one of the Committee's charges is to "participate in an annual summit" that will publicize best practices, the group engaged in deep discussion about how to fulfill the requirement regarding the identification of innovative practices that "work." Susan Bunting outlined the role that mid-year conferences might play in assessing investments that, at this early point, appear to be making a difference in low-income and EL students' learning. Dorrell shared an Appoquinimink brochure about its program for four-year-old students at Brick Mill Elementary. Committee members discussed the possibility of conversing with superintendents, creating videos of best practice linked investments, creating vignettes, and other ideas that could emphasize what is different about additional personnel and/or program practices. Collectively they decided that

- a summit would be held in Fall 2020
- districts could showcase main Opportunity Funding successes
- highlighted programs and practices would contribute to the December 2020 report
- resulting conversations and connections between schools could facilitate replication
- participants would select initiatives that could be quickly replicated in subsequent years
- presenters would identify "tweaks" that occurred in planning for Year 2

Committee members then

- reviewed the plans that are online
- suggested assuring that highlighted programs are researched-based
- questioned whether teacher retention is connected to any of the OF investments
- inquired whether some of positions were difficult or even impossible to fill

Finally, meeting participants formulated next steps that included

- asking Susan to identify promising practices that are revealed during mid-year conferences

- taking field trips to schools to observe OF investments in action

Public Comment

Kristin Dwyer asked about public notice, whether Boards and/or principals were involved in creating the plans, and amplified the need to invest mental health connected allotments in personnel to better meet the needs of both students and staff members who work with them on a daily basis.

Adjournment

After Julie Giangiulio motioned to adjourn the meeting, Brody Bluemel seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved it, Dorrell adjourned the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Next Meeting

A date for the next meeting was not established.

DRAFT