

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITY FUNDING

April 8, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Chair Superintendent Dorrell Green called the fourth meeting of the Oversight Committee on Opportunity Funding to order at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8th, 2020. In attendance were Committee members Brody Bluemel, Susan Bunting, Brent Carter, Maureen Darlington, Julie Giangiulio, Ashley Giska (Co-Chair), Dorrell Green (Chair), Deshawn Jenkins, Diana Magana, Linda Poole and Jon Sheehan from the Governor's Office.

Welcome

After welcoming the group, Dorrell Green provided guidelines for virtual meetings, thanked members for attending, and shared his appreciation for their willingness to participate in the new meeting format.

Approval of the January 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Linda Poole motioned to approve the January 13th minutes, a motion that was seconded by Ashley Giska. Meeting participants unanimously supported the motion.

Recommendations for Opportunity Funding Program Showcase

Jon Sheehan recapped the Governor's visits to two schools in each of the three counties to observe promising practices that have been supported by Opportunity Funding. District investments in the following were particularly impressive:

- Forest Oak (Red Clay) – English Learner (EL) support initiatives
- Brick Mill (Appoquinimink) – a preschool program for low-income and EL students
- South Dover (Capital) – social/emotional learning and mental health supports
- Central Elementary (Lake Forest) – a specialist that coordinates additional academic supports for EL and low-income students
- Laurel Elementary (Laurel) – a behavioral health coordinator and EL pullout teacher
- Georgetown Elementary/Georgetown Middle (Indian River) – EL supports including the practice of previewing next day regular education classroom lessons

The observations highlight the value of districts' having the flexibility to invest in what might best meet the needs of the low-income and EL populations in their respective districts since both the populations and needs differ widely across the state.

Subsequently, meeting participants shared impressions including the importance of district flexibility, the increased efficacy of parents, the value of midyear conferences that highlighted Opportunity Funding effects, the impact of social workers, and the surfacing of qualitative factors that confirm the successful investment of Opportunity Funding.

Discussion

Meeting participants engaged in lively discussion about

- How Opportunity Funding can and is supporting remote learning plans.
- How schools are connecting with students who need social/emotional and other supports.
- How school psychologists are meeting students' needs and both increasing connections with parents and having a greater chance to offer mental supports.
- How schools' EL teachers are assuring that students not only have access to necessary technology but also are receiving additional supports including activities to reduce stress.
- How schools across the state actually have much in common.

Discussion concluded with

- The realization that invaluable supports are being provided via Opportunity Funding.
- The hope that such supports will continue to be funded.
- The need to further discuss what might be showcased at a summit in the fall in addition to the Governor's observation of promising practices.

Public Comment

There were no comments by members of the public.

Adjournment

Before inviting a motion for adjournment, Dorrell request that the Governor's Office clarify the Executive Order #33 requirements regarding the number of meetings within the calendar and/or fiscal year. Subsequently, Ashley motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Julie seconded the motion, which all participants approved. Dorrell adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.