

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Redding Planning Meeting

June 5, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

The virtual meeting started at 10:30 a.m. Tizzy Lockman, Co-chair of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity (Redding Consortium), started the meeting.

Next Redding Consortium Meeting

Lockman asked the group to decide on a date in August 2020 to hold the next full Consortium meeting and suggested early August. Lockman then provided two possible dates, August 6, 2020 and August 13, 2020. All in attendance agreed to let the Consortium members decide on the official date of the next full Consortium meeting between those two dates in August.

Work Groups

Nnamdi Chukwuocha, Redistricting Work Group Co-chair, reached out to several New Castle County (NCC) Superintendents and district Chief Financial Officers (CFO) to gather their opinions as the redistricting work groups shifts to a funding focus. Chukwuocha, mentioned a conversation with Lincoln Hohler, Brandywine School District Superintendent. They discussed the overall lack of understanding of the New Castle County Tax Pool, which Chukwuocha stated may be the work group's first focus.

The planning group discussed the four areas the work group will target during this transition to a funding focus, including:

1. The New Castle County Tax Pool
2. The equity implications of the CARES Act funding and other additional funding
3. Vice-Chancellor Laster's ruling on the property tax lawsuit
4. Financing in terms of redistricting

The Redding Consortium Policy Director, Dan Rich, noted that the work group must consider Vice Chancellor Laster's ruling and the economic effects on state funding will impact the group's policy recommendations.

Kelly Sherretz, Policy Scientist at the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware, stated she will be meeting with Michael Smith, Educator work group Co-chair, next week. They will establish a meeting time for the Educator work group and their agenda.

Redding Consortium Co-chairs Tizzy Lockman and Mathew Denn announced the creation a third work group focusing on the social determinants of health and education. Denn explained the committee is to pinpoint issues students face outside of the classroom. Denn stated he is in the process of forming the committee and hopes the committee's recommendations will be provided early next year.

Redding Consortium Research Director, Sarah Bruch, advised that each work group follow the Redding Consortium decision-making model that emphasizes stakeholder engagement and being informed by research and data.

Lockman ended the discussion by stating each group needs to decide meeting times, staffing needs, and how the Work Group will follow the decision-making model.

Research Underway

Sarah Bruch, Redding Consortium Research Director presented a recap of the research underway.

Supporting Educator Work Group:

- Creating a report that analyzes educator mobility and compares turnover and retention rates in non-high-needs schools and high-needs schools.

Supporting the Redistricting Work Group:

- Organizing resources already accessible to the Redding Consortium that will facilitate the work group in addressing the four identified funding priorities (New Castle County Tax Pool, equity implications of CARES act, property tax lawsuit, and financing in terms of redistricting).

Redding Consortium Mandate to Assess and Monitor Educational Equity and Outcomes:

- Creating a 20-year trend analysis of disparities throughout social groups within Delaware. This report will compare Delaware to surrounding states and the nation.
- Writing the annual report that showcases Wilmington students and schools
- Gathering COVID resources as they relate to educational equity and working in partnership with the University of Delaware's response team.

Sherretz explained that the Redding Consortium annual report will be sent to the Co-chairs for final review in the coming weeks and is due to be released by June 30, 2020. Rich emphasized that all members of the Consortium follow the core items of fidelity to the model and to ensure that research and analysis are the top priorities.

Lockman stated the next planning meeting will be on Friday, June 12, 2020.

Public Comment

Erin Goldner advised the Consortium to uphold the legacy of Lewis Redding and to also heed the struggles of Wilmington schools and students.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attendees:

Consortium Members:

Co-chair, Tizzy Lockman

Co-chair, Matthew Denn

Nnamdi Chukwuocha

Maria Matos

Stephanie Ingram

Tika Hartsock

Raye Jones Avery

Institute for Public Administration/Delaware State University Staff:

Jason Bourke

Sarah Bruch

Jerome Lewis

Fran O'Malley

Joseph Pika

Haley Quassaunee

Dan Rich

Kelly Sherretz

Alexis Wrease

Members of the Public:

Erin Goldner