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Governor's Advisory Council on English Learner: May 12, 2020

Meeting Held Virtually

Javier Torrijos called the meeting to order at 6:08. Javier handed the meeting over to Maria to review the logistics. Maria Paxson explained the details for the online meeting format in which the public comment will be held until the end of the meeting and your name and group to Maria and she will add to the chat box for the participants. Each person will be called upon during the public comment time. Each member should announce name before speaking. Voting will be taken by the chair with a motion and a second. A roll call will be used with dissenting votes.

Attendance was taken through role call:

Javier Torrios Present

Guy Danjois present

Michael Rodriguez present

Senator Sokola present

Rep Shaun Matthews x

Terri Sharpe x

John Marinucci present

Ana Gikas present

Clara Martinez x

Steve Amendum present

Brody Bluemel present

Robert Rescigno present

Allison Castellanos present

Bridget Amory present

Margie Lopez- Waite present

Maria Matos present

Oribel McFann present

Georgis Odaris x

Michelle Perez x

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Motion to approve March 10 meeting minutes by John Marinnuci and Seconded by Bridget Amory. Minutes were approved without further comment and no opposition.

Maria Paxson introduced DDOE Updates to give information about what work has been underway since the start of remote learning. DDOE has created several resources to support our districts and charters at this time. The Guidance document helps LEAs understand some of the needs that have come about as a result of COVID and ways to service ELL during remote learning. This document provides FAQ as well. Maria introduced the DDOE COVID Resources document that has guidance, student meal locations, remote learning plans, educator resources, etc. The link to this document was shared for follow up. Maria shared PL for educators during this time. Many educators want to engage in PL and this document has opportunities across content and specialty areas. Cary Knight shared information about the catalog as well as the Delaware Design Course for High Quality English Learner Education. Maria shared information about DDOE support to LEAs through EL Coordinators and Schoology. Food and Nutrition have documents translated in many different languages.

Michael Rodriguez explained some of the waivers that we applied for. Students do not need to consume the meals on-site, parents can pick up without children present and can pick up for multiple days at a time. Operating 240 states sitewide and partnered with the National Guard for community food distribution. DDOE is partnering with DEEMA through calls to make sure our efforts are aligned. By the end of April, Brandywine 85,000, Capital 35,000 and Colonial 124,000 meals. Summer food service usually serves 850,000 meals per summer.

Maria also explained that we are participating in partnerships with our community in regards to public health. Sussex Community Leaders and Partners to get information quickly as possible to shared with LEAs.

Javier asked for LEAs to share. Bridget Amory shared how Milford School District is working to deliver meals through the schools and working to set up hotlines for families in multiple languages. ELL families affected by the illness as Sussex is a hot spot. Remote learning plan is inclusive of social support and resources to connect families. Only a handful of families that have not been able to actively engage. Some are delivering materials to the homes, or through the phones—whatever is needed to meet the needs of the families. Maria Matos asked what percentage of students are plugged in online and learning. In Milford, Bridget Amory explained that most families are engaging online, but with those infected by COVID, the education portion has been pulled back and more resources are provided. Technology department created a map of those with difficulty to accessibility. This is something they are working with DDOE to address

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those needs. They have moved WIFI hotspots to closer to the parking lots so that parents can access though. DE Turf and the library have also opened the WIFI up to be as innovative as possible. Michael Rodriguez shared that all cabinet members serve as a liaison to specific districts. The question was raised to find out the students who are not connecting and what we can do to try to address these issues. M. Rodriguez is liaison to NCCVT, Red Clay, and Colonial. Colonial has a small area dead zone and DDOE are trying to reengage this specific area.

David Sokola indicated that DTI is working on the “broadband desert” by the end of the calendar year, accelerating the plan they are already in. Oribel McFann from CR School District explained that they are giving hotspots to the Els families. Students have access to devices and are connected, but many are just recently beginning to start completing some work. Many are in different stages but it is very challenging for parents to support the students.

Marie Matos called upon Danielle to speak about connection to the EL parents. They have had great attendance. Oribel mentioned a language line and other ways they are reaching out to specific parents based on their need.

Laura Gendreau of 211 United Way has extended hours to run 7 days a week 8am-9pm and 9-5 on weekends with bilingual specialist on staff. The language line is used as well. Working with Dept of Public health to triage callers. Working with Food Bank and Food Closet and DDOE to provide callers with immediate information for neighboring food closets and distribution of foods by school district. 300 phone calls per day fall into three categories, housing assistance, utilities and food. Have been distributing messaging in English and Spanish through 211 and Stand by Me and Delaware Hispanic Commission. Javier asked about families without legal status. Depending on their need, Laura mentioned that no residency requirements for food support. Rental and mortgage assistance collaborates with other organizations that can provide support. 250,000 raised and put back onto the street. Can be utilized for undocumented.

Alonna Berry explained that they are working with statewide testing efforts, launching comprehensive community testing sites in the hot spot areas. Kits and at home care supplies are available at the testing sites. Mouth swab tests considered to be more accurate and quicker results. The state will get 200,000 of these kits, testing 80K people per month. Statewide long-term testing strategies are being developed. Healthy Communities Delaware breaks down information by county and demographics. You can view the infection rate for African Americans, Latinos, etc and can be drawn down per county. Data points are being drilled down to district or town levels for future reporting.

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Javier brought up the property taxes as being unconstitutional. Maria Matos discussed the deficit that Delaware will face.

Javier introduced the Oversight Committee for Opportunity Grants. Brody discussed the April 8th meeting of the Oversight Committee. The Governor visited school sites to see specific initiatives and how those were operating (Forest Oak in Red Clay and Brick Mill in Appoquinmink, South Dover in Captial, Central Elementary in Lake Forest, Laurel Elementary in Laurel, Georgetown Elementary and Middle School in Indian River). They collected data on the success of how those funds were impacting those populations in those school districts. The Opportunity Fund is evaluated by Rand and despite SBAC scores not available they will still be able to collect data. An annual showcase will take place this fall and will share best practices for the use of funding and how the programs were successful. The question was posted on how funds might be impacted by COVID. Brody Bluemel shared that John Sheehan noted that the Delaware Economic and Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled next Monday and will then have better idea of what funding may look like. Opportunity Funding is and will continue to be a top priority of the Governor. Dr Bunting echoed that response. We are in a wait and see position.

Angelica, a student, shared the student perspective. She noted that it is hard when you have questions and answers come later. She noted that there is not really a good part of remote learning but nothing we can do right now. Javier questioned Angelia about the lack of feedback. She noted that not all teachers do conferences. Angelica noted that she can access the internet and not having a problem with that. Oribel asked if she felt that the same challenges are happening across the board—or is this just her challenge? Angelica noted that most of her friends think the same way. The friends are helping each other when possible. Oribel asked if Angelica felt comfortable talking to someone in her school about this. Angelia indicated her ELL teacher and counselor is good with helping with that. Maria Matos asked her if she had a magic wand and could change one thing during this time to help her educational experience. What can we do as a commission to make this educational experience better. Angelica did not respond to this question at this time.

Cares Act Fund shared by Michael Rodriquez. The GERF, ESERF, K-12 Educational Fiscal Waiver Authority. The Governor's Educational Relif Fund will give Delaware \$43 Million to LEAs in DE. 90% directly to LEAs based on the Title I allocation. The other 10% for the SEA will help the connectivity throughout the state. Money will also support summer programs and afterschool programs. (About 4million)

Through the CARES act and ESSERF there is a lot of flexibility. Four of those specific areas Disadvantaged populations, long term closures such as meals and technology, and summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs. LEAS are encouraged to focus on these areas but will do so based on their needs.

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We have applied for and received waivers. Carryovers are acceptable and carry more than 15% of funds forward. Expenditures of FY2019 funds in certain parts can be given additional time (one full year). LEAs can use Title IV funds without the content area spending requirements. There are no spending limits on technology infrastructure and a needs assessment is not necessary. Professional Development is not restricted through the use of those funds to provide effective distance learning support.

Javier asked about the funds and disbursement. Michael Rodriguez noted that the department has the funds but logistical pieces are needed to release those funds. This is like an extension of our CGA process and we are working to get this done. An application will be needed to explain how LEAs will spend these funds.

Robert Rescigno noted that \$4 million doesn't seem like enough to reach those broadband desert spots. Michael Rodriguez noted that he can gather some numbers about dead zones. Rescigno brought up the idea of SEA and LEA collaboration of funds to enhance these dead zones.

Maria Matos indicated that the secretary is building community groups to address some of these issues and can the council be represented in these committees. Rodriguez can share this at cabinet and share the desire for the committee to be part of this.

Javier commented on Census process. Allison has additional information for the response rate, breakdown by country and town. 57% have completed the Census. She shared a link to more information about the Census

Javier asked for new business and Oribel indicated that no new business. Maria Paxson shared that state testing was another waiver so all testing was suspended including the ACCESS test. We were one week from completion at the time of school closures so most students had taken the assessment. Materials had to be shipped back so numbers aren't accounted for or available. We are hopeful that we will be able to receive scores on about 97 % of the student completed. Students may be missing one or two domains. Accountability metrics will not be run using those scores. Maria indicated that the virus is driving our timelines and programming, as well as to figure out summer school for Els. The remote learning plan is different for each LEA. All plans outline how they are accounting for student time.

Javier asked for public comment and Maria indicated that no one emailed in for comment.

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Javier asked for last thoughts before adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Steve Amendum and seconded by Brody Blumel. No objections. 7:51 meeting adjourned.

DRAFT