

P-20 Council Meeting

January 20, 2015
10:00am – 3:15pm

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

Illinois Math and Science Academy – 1500 W. Sullivan Road, Kids Institute room, Aurora*
Illinois Education Association – 3440 Liberty Drive, Video Conference Room, Springfield
Conference Line: 888-494-4032 Access Code: 4218176480#

ATTENDANCE

Aurora: James Applegate, Ron Bullock, Miguel del Valle, Lizanne DeStefano, Theresa Hawley, Kurt Hilgendorf, Erika Hunt, Madelyn James for Gaylord Gieseke, Joyce Karon, Deb Kasperski, Chris Koch, Dave Lowitzki, Dea Meyer, Melissa Mitchell, John Rico, Jane Russell, Audrey Soglin, Brian Spittle for Fr. Holtschneider, Robin Steans, Debra Strauss, Jose Torres, Eric Zarnikow

Springfield: Karen Hunter Anderson, Brian Chapman, Janet Holt, Steve Parrott

Phone: Roger Eddy

MINUTES

I. 10:00am Welcome and Introductions from the Chair

Chairman Miguel del Valle welcomed the council members and guests. He thanked the Illinois Math and Science Academy and the Illinois Education Association for hosting the day's meeting. He began by introducing and welcoming special guests:

- Jason Helfer, presenter from the Illinois State Board of Education
- Margaret Horn, presenter from PARCC, Inc.
- Jean Korder, presenter from the Urbana School District
- Susie Morrison, presenter from the Illinois State Board of Education
- Diane Rutledge, presenter for and chair of PEAC

II. 10:10am Welcome from Dr. Jose Torres

Dr. Jose Torres, president of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, thanked Chairman Miguel del Valle for hosting the quarterly meeting of the P-20 Council at IMSA. He welcomed Leslie Juby, trustee of IMSA, who was attending the meeting. Dr. Torres provided a history of the Illinois Math and Science Academy and explained its legislative charge to provide a rigorous math and science curriculum and to serve others as a catalyst to stimulate excellence in teaching of math and science. He explained materials housed within a welcome packet given to all council members and guests. Dr. Torres then invited forward four current IMSA students from various locations in Illinois who provided brief remarks about what IMSA has meant for each of them and their future career paths.

III. 10:20am Review and Approval of Minutes

Chairman Miguel del Valle moved for approval of the minutes. Council Coordinator Lizanne DeStefano

seconded. Minutes were approved in their entirety with no changes.

IV. 10:25am Early Childhood Update – Theresa Hawley, Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (35 mins)

Chairman Miguel del Valle invited forward Theresa Hawley of the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development to provide an update on the state’s work in the realm of Early Childhood. He commended Theresa Hawley for her work and for all the good news the state had received recently regarding early childhood. Theresa Hawley first provided an overview of the Child Care Development Block Grant, which was reauthorized in November for the first time in eighteen years. She explained the changes in requirements for health, safety, quality improvement, and family-friendly policies. She noted that this would have significant cost implications but also provides a great opportunity for childcare in Illinois. Hawley then provided an overview of the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships, for which Illinois received \$18 million in federal funds to partner Early Head Start programs with Child Care Providers in five-year grants. She provided information and details on the partnerships. Hawley updated the council on the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey, its implementation in 2016, and the Advisory Committee’s survey and recommendations. Finally, Hawley announced that Illinois had been selected to receive \$80 million over the next four years for the Preschool Expansion Grant to create high-quality preschool programs for at-risk four year olds. She provided an overview for the criteria of a high-quality program, the use of funds for subgrantees, the state’s vision for this grant, the focus on comprehensive services, and the state’s overall plan. She then opened up the floor to discussion. The council discussed the implementation of KIDS and how to best support teachers and educators in their implementation efforts. Council members discussed funding for kindergarten through third grade programs and how these programs could be a continuum of what will be created at the preschool level. The current gaps in funding throughout the state and the effect these gaps will have on Early Childcare programs were discussed.

V. 11:00am Discussion of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) (60 mins)

- Representative from PARCC
- Susie Morrison – IL State Board of Education
- Jean Korder – Urbana School District #116

Chairman Miguel del Valle introduced three representatives who would discuss the implementation of PARCC in Illinois—Margaret Horn from PARCC, Inc, Susie Morrison from the Illinois State Board of Education, and Jean Korder from Urbana School District #116. Susie Morrison began the panel by introducing ISBE’s learning standards in Language Arts and Math and explained the desire to work toward a new assessment system. She provided a brief overview of the requirements of the state for the implementation of PARCC.

Margaret Horn shared information regarding test items that are included in PARCC. Horn provided an explanation of the reason behind the new standards— a desire to ensure that quality education and access is available in every zip code—and the fashion in which PARCC creates new test items. She explained that this test would align K-12 with higher education and would challenge students to think in a way that would truly measure their readiness for college or careers. Horn provided an overview of the PARCC field test, which was given to 1 million students in fourteen states plus Washington, DC. Horn noted that the test was received quite well by students, who felt that it challenged them in a new way. Horn provided some lessons learned from the field test. These included the need for a shorter and simpler training model, more student-friendly and broader student tutorials, a more concise test administration manual, and more support for technical infrastructure. Horn provided a glimpse at what would come next, which included more field tests, score reporting, a full scale test,

and career/college readiness determinations.

Jean Korder provided a district's perspective. She explained that Urbana participated in the field tests last Spring with great success. Korder explained that the students reacted very well and found the math portion difficult. She noted that some technological difficulties existed, but that those did not deter from the overall implementation of the exam.

The floor was then opened for questions and discussion with the panelists. Council members discussed the importance of ensuring that PARCC would determine not only college readiness, but career readiness as well. The council expressed the need for business interests to be represented in the implementation process. The inclusion of and respect for students with different abilities was noted, and the council discussed implementation with resources such as out of school providers, charter schools, and non-public organizations.

VI. 12:00pm Lunch (40 mins)

The council recognized and thanked Miguel del Valle for his great service as Chairman of the council. The council then recessed for a brief lunch break.

VII. 12:40pm Update on Implementation of Performance Evaluation Review Act (PERA) (60 mins)

- Jason Helfer – IL State Board of Education
- Diane Rutledge – Performance Evaluation Advisory Council
- Jennifer Garrison, Sandoval School District #501

Chairman Miguel del Valle introduced the Performance Evaluation and Review Act panel of speakers. Jason Helfer of the Illinois State Board of Education began by providing a brief overview of the timeline of PERA and its implementation as mandated by legislation. He gave an update as to where the state is currently in regards to fulfilling its commitments along the timeline. He noted that the state is mostly on track in fulfilling the PERA requirements, with just a few setbacks. He explained that ISBE is working on an interim report which has determined that most districts believe this evaluation's results are useful. At the same time, there have been some challenges in linkages. He provided an overview of resources on ISBE's website for PEAC and other stakeholders, which answers questions related to the joint committee, the SLO process, and district-level assistance.

Diane Rutledge, chair of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, explained that the Council is a group of 32 stakeholders from throughout Illinois who advise ISBE regarding PERA. She explained PEAC's charge of creating state models and giving guidance to districts who chose to develop a local model. She noted that the council had done quite a bit of research. She demonstrated resources on PEAC's website. She explained that next steps would include looking at what Regional Offices of Education are doing surrounding Boot Camp. Jennifer Garrison, superintendent of Sandoval School District #501, provided her district's perspective regarding implementation of PERA through her school's improvement grant. She noted that the act allows quite a bit of local control because many decisions are made at the district level. She explained that the ultimate goal of PERA is to impact student achievement, and she provided an overview of her district's experience of PERA Boot Camp and the help it gave her district.

Discussion from the council surrounded the timeline for getting information out to other districts as well as funding and resources available on the PERA and PEAC websites. State Superintendent Chris Koch provided an update on the process of implementation and the discussions regarding whether or not a delay of implementation would be necessary. The importance of wording surrounding the budget was noted.

VIII. 1:40pm Committee Updates (65 mins)

a. Implementation Review (20 mins)

Jane Russell of the Implementation Review Committee provided an update on the IRC's charge of reviewing key implementation initiatives and explained that the committee developed a survey to get feedback and inform decisions relating to four types of initiatives: student learning standards, statewide student assessments, collection/use of data, and educator performance evaluations.

Lizanne DeStefano provided an overview of the sample questions and content of the survey, demographics of those who took the survey, and preliminary results and lessons learned. She noted that these results are very consistent with discussions the council has had on these issues.

b. Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (15 mins)

Audrey Soglin introduced and congratulated Pam Reilly, teacher of the year. Erika Hunt provided a brief update regarding the Diverse Educator Pipeline's RFI and its promising results regarding the state's support of diverse educators. Audrey Soglin explained the committee's work on Teacher Leadership endorsements and ensuring that these endorsements are leading to somewhere meaningful. She referred to and explained the committee's action steps moving forward.

c. Data, Assessment, and Accountability (10 mins)

Dea Meyer noted that she would like to have a discussion regarding data privacy, around which there may be some legislative language soon. She also provided information on a survey with Illinois State University and the committee's work on PARCC and national career readiness certifications. Finally, she provided an update on original survey data that the committee provided on PARCC.

d. School, College, and Career Readiness (10 mins)

Dr. John Rico explained that the committee is beginning to work on legislation surrounding a Workforce Readiness report, which is in the works with Rep. Chapa LaVia. Dr. Rico explained that next steps involve wording and piecing together legislation and a possible meeting of the full committee in March on topics such as the kickoff of WorkKeys and a look at dropout and remediation rates.

Ben Boer provided a brief history of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Committee and its charge to provide legislation and guidance around issues such as high school graduation requirements, the use of PARCC in post-secondary institutions, and remediation standards. Council discussed the importance of including STEM learning exchanges in these discussions.

e. Family, Youth, and Community Engagement (10 mins)

Joyce Karon provided a brief explanation of the committee's work surrounding the ESEA Waiver and the state's compliance. She noted that more information would be available when the state Report Card comes out.

Deb Strauss explained that this year, beginning on Martin Luther King Jr Day, would be a "Year of the Volunteer" with the theme "You Are the Difference." She noted that the committee is also working with

parents regarding data privacy and what a school can and cannot ask.

IX. 2:45pm State Agency Updates (30 mins)

Karen Hunter Anderson provided an update for the Illinois Community College Board regarding its economic impact study on college districts, which are working hard to advance the state's goal of 60x2025. She gave promising statistics regarding the graduation rate of community college students and the increase in earnings that these students receive. Additionally, she noted that the committee attended the White House Day of Opportunity and committed to increasing the completion rate of adult students by 25%, among other commitments. She noted that the committee will work with IDES and DCEO to facilitate public meetings in the 10 economic development regions of the state to work on a workforce-education strategic plan.

Eric Zarnikow provided an update for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission regarding President Obama's Community College plan and the importance of fulfilling the state's completion agenda. Additionally, he explained the process for this year's MAPP grants and the likelihood of an early cutoff date.

X. 3:15pm Other Business and Announcements (15 mins)

Madelyn James provided an update on a report that Voices for Illinois Children put together regarding Early Math work in response to kids' lack of improvement in math programs recently. James explained that the report, funded by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group Foundation and the McCormick Foundation, recommends that educators consider public awareness, systems, and teacher/educator preparation for early math work. She noted that several myths regarding who can and cannot learn math successfully are hampering children's progress.

XI. 3:30pm Closing (10 mins)

Chairman Miguel del Valle thanked all participants and the hosting locations for their hospitality. The meeting stood adjourned.