

**P-20 Council
Second Meeting
January 27, 2010**

Call To Order

Chairman Miguel del Valle called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 P.M. on Wednesday, January 27th, 2010. Members participated at one of three sites: Chicago, Springfield or Edwardsville; or by phone.

The Chair opened the meeting with a calendar request to find the best meeting dates for members. The Council had previously decided to meet every two months during its first year. The Chair suggested March 24th and May 26th - the fourth Wednesday in each month for the next two dates. Several members noted that the date for the Governor's budget address had yet been determined and it was possible that it would be scheduled for March 24th. The Council decided to change the March meeting date to Tuesday, March 23rd and accepted the date for May (Wednesday, May 26th).

Council Discussion

The Chair reviewed some of the information and data that had been presented by Dr. Jennifer Presley at the first meeting of the Council in December. There was a general discussion on how the Council can effectively use its unique position to help the State meet the challenge to improve educational attainment at all levels. The Chair noted that the Council included representatives from all levels and sectors of education and that the work of the Council would cover all ages – from early learning programs that begin at birth to graduate programs and adult learning. Several members noted that the working groups need to be concerned with attainment and transitions at different points in a child's life and that they would need to incorporate research material that is relevant for each level. The research material must also help to identify the critical elements and roles in education that are important in improving student success.

The Council members received a quick update on the submission of the State's Race to the Top (RTTT) application. Several members of the Council were actively involved in the development of the grant application and in the passage of two key pieces of legislation which were introduced during the January session. Many key stakeholders had worked with ISBE and the Governor's office to craft legislation that would contribute to a stronger application for the State. The legislation enacted a strong performance evaluation process for teachers and principals and an alternative certification process that is designed to increase the number of high-quality training programs for teachers. Both bills reinforced the State's commitment to the reform agenda of RTTT.

Presentations

The Council presentations focused on important elements of the Race to the Top agenda. The first presenter was Dr. Steve Tozer from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Tozer is a Professor of Policy Studies at UIC where he directs the nationally acclaimed graduate program on school leadership. Dr. Tozer presented material on 'Teacher

Quality and School Improvement in 2010,' and discussed the impact of highly effective principals on the learning environment.

Dr. Tozer's presentation included the following elements:

- An overview of the theories of education reform over the past four decades – from the socio-economic theory advanced in the 1970's to testing and accountability as reform in the 1990's
- Current research looks at transforming schools and what works
- Review of the Consortium on Chicago Schools Research and the Framework for Essential Support for School Improvement
- Leadership quality is essential for both teacher quality and student achievement.
- Strong leaders in CPS schools mean improved test scores; improved attendance; and higher graduation rates
- Must be highly selective and clinically intensive in programs to improve school leadership – school districts need to partner in this effort
- P-20 challenge is to marshal the state leadership and the political will to get this done in a systemic manner

Two presenters from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provided an overview of the Race to the Top application and the Board's initiatives to assure effective teachers and principals. Susie Morrison is the Deputy Superintendent of the State Board who oversees several educational initiatives in school improvement, early childhood education, standards revision, common core standards and assessment. Dr. Linda Tomlinson is the Assistant Superintendent of School Support Services for All Schools at ISBE. She oversees the teacher and principal certification programs at the Board.

The presenters provided an overview of ISBE's mission and strategic goals and discussed how those goals fit within the context of the Race to the Top Reform areas. ISBE has been a leader among the state school offices in moving to adopt the common core standards and in developing an effective assessment program. They are also focused on measures to recruit, develop, and retain high-quality teachers and principals. The presentation outlined the key initiatives and efforts of the State Board to advance the reform agenda in Illinois:

- The State Board supported important legislation for RTTT including the expansion of the number of charter schools; the implementation of a longitudinal database in the State; the establishment of independent alternative certification programs; and a stronger teacher and principal evaluation program that incorporates student growth.
- The State Board is also working to ensure the equitable distribution of effective teachers and leaders by finding ways to attract top talent to the lowest performing schools. The STEM initiatives also seek to increase the number of effective teachers in hard-to-staff subject areas
- ISBE strongly supports quality induction and mentoring programs for teachers and principals along with professional development that impacts performance in the classroom

- ISBE outlined several rule changes that are designed to streamline and improve the selection and certification of teachers – they have changed the process for endorsements and strengthened the testing process
- The State Board has an advisory group that has revised the Professional Teaching Standards and another group that will develop an Educators ‘Code of Ethics’
- ISBE continues to refine and strengthen content requirements for both teachers and principals and they have added an internship/residency experience for Principals with clinical hours throughout the time
- Focus of the changes is to improve outcomes and expand opportunities for each child in Illinois

Committee Updates

The Council members received an abbreviated update from the Vision and Mission Committee. The Committee prepared a presentation on their work to date. The group examined the types of mission statements and goals and strategies that had been adopted by Councils in other states. They presented examples from multiple states and provided Council members with links to websites where they could examine and review the work that had been done by others. The Mission and Vision committee presented sample vision statements and a draft mission statement. They presented initial examples of the types of goals that might be considered by the Council along with ideas for measurable outcomes. The Council agreed to review the material that the Committee had collected and to have an extended discussion at the March meeting.

Conclusion

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting date would be Tuesday, March 23rd and asked member if it was reasonable to extend the meeting time by one hour. Members agreed that the extra time was needed to fully conduct the business of the group, so the March meeting was set to meet from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P. M. The Chair assured the Committees that this would allow more time for the reports. The March meeting will also include a joint presentation on higher education from the three higher education agencies: IBHE, ICCB and ISAC.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 P.M.

Absent members: Ron Huberman, Dea Meyer, Rep. Jerry Mitchell, Jeff Owen, and Laurel Prussing.