

## MINUTES of Illinois P-20 Council

Meeting date: May 26, 2010

**Call to order:** Quarterly meeting of the Illinois P-20 Council was held on May 26, 2010. Chairman Miguel Del Valle called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Members participated in the Council meeting at one of three sites: Chicago, Springfield, or Edwardsville; or by phone.

### Members in attendance:

**Chicago** – Miguel Del Valle, Maggie Laslo, Debra Strauss, Robin Steans, Laurel Prussing, Rick Stephens, Cynthia Plouche, Dea Meyer, John Rico, Josh Anderson, Debra Kasperski, Kathy Ryg, Audrey Parsley, Brian Spittle, Lizanne DeStefano.

Ex-officio: Andy Davis, Diana Rauner, Max McGee. Also attended - David Smalley (IERC)

**Springfield** –Deanna Demuzio, Ray Hancock, Erika Hunt, Michael Johnson, Gary Niehaus, Audrey Soglin

Ex-officio: Judy Erwin, Chris Koch, Warren Ribley, Geoff Obrzut

**Edwardsville** – Kathleen Sullivan Brown (IERC)

**On Phone** -- Thomas Choice, Sharon Thomas Parrott

**Approval of minutes:** Chair asked that approval of minutes of last meetings be deferred to the next meeting. The members agreed with that suggestion.

### Chair report and General Updates:

- a. The Chair welcomed members to the quarterly meeting of the Council and then formally introduced Lizanne DeStefano, Professor of Education at UIUC and Director of the I-STEM Initiative, who is now serving as the Coordinator of the Council. Dr. DeStefano briefly commented that she is delighted to be working for the Council and has now interviewed Council members and has incorporated some of their suggestions into the planning for this meeting.
- b. **P-20 Funding** – The Chicago Community Trust proposal to fund the Council was approved on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The grant will provide funds to operate the Council and to establish work plans and set goals. The grant budget does reflect in kind contributions from the agencies. The Chair asked Lizanne to speak about the grant. There are 4 pillars to the project:
  1. Develop annual and 5 year plans including metrics and work plans;
  2. Create an organizational structure for the Council;
  3. Develop a communication strategy for the Council to provide and facilitate communication among stakeholders.
  4. Identify a long-term funding plan for the Council.

The grant sets out a timeline and identifies deliverables. It also provides for the staffing of a Coordinator and a full-time Policy Analyst, and lays out expected results for this current year.

- c. **Member Terms** – Julie Smith explained that staggered member terms were determined by lottery and each Council member now has a specific term length. Governor Quinn's intention is that everyone in a 1 year term will be reappointed to a full 3 year term in December 2010.

**Proposed meeting schedule** – A quarterly meeting schedule was proposed and agreed to by the Council. The schedule will be posted on the share point site and P-20 Council website.

- d. **Member Interviews Update** -- Lizanne DeStefano explained that the key purpose of the member interviews was to introduce her to the Council and to get their input on how she could be most effective. She was impressed by the breadth and depth of experience of the Council members. Key issues for the Council are those that need to be tackled by multiple agencies. The importance of picking priorities wisely came out in the interviews – both so that immediate successes can be realized, but also so that priorities are chosen that will have the most significant impact on the State. Members also had recommendations on how to make meetings run more smoothly and asked to set a quarterly meeting schedule one year in advance. She is preparing a written summary of the interviews and will share that summary with all Council members.
- e. **Illinois Education Infrastructure Chart** – The Chair asked David Smalley (IERC) to discuss the development of this chart that lists the major programs and activities of each agency. David said that it is almost complete. Creating the chart has been a complex task because it is difficult to portray the array of relationships in a two-dimensional chart. The next step in the development of the chart is to try to link up functional areas across agencies across the state, based on agency feedback. It will be done through an electronic forum in a graphical interface. The Chair commented that the goal is to give the Council members “the big picture” about P-20 agency operations.

**Presentations by Invited Guests or Council Members:**

- a. **Early Learning Council** – Diana Rauner and Kay Henderson presented information on Early Childhood Education and strategies for closing the achievement gap in Illinois. About 40% of children from birth-age 5 in Illinois live in poverty and lack school readiness. Significant cognitive development has occurred by age 6, and deficits at this age will impact children’s further education. Research shows that early intervention (birth-age 3) has a positive and lasting impact on IQ, school achievement, and a myriad of other factors. Effective planning requires conscious connections between Pre-K and K-12 education. A group has been convened, including Ounce of Prevention, Advance Illinois, Erickson Institute, to develop a plan for K readiness assessment. The group has met three times and will make recommendations in September. Illinois currently does not have a statewide kindergarten readiness assessment tool which limits the ability to assess need and impact of early childhood.. The presenters summarized guiding principles, the Illinois landscape, governance, culturally competent programs, and key components of a state-wide early childhood education system.

Discussion concerned funding formulas and pre-K assessment tools in other states. Much work has been done by the Early Learning Council, which has raised pre-K teacher standards. As a result, Illinois is now ahead of Federal standards. There was some discussion about why kindergarten is not mandated in Illinois and the challenge that poses. Chris Koch agreed to provide to the Council the number of ½ day vs. full day kindergartens in districts in Illinois. ISBE lost over 10% of preschools with this year’s 10% budget cut. The Council should look to models in other states, including resource allocation for birth-3 programming, universal preschool and other delivery options.

- b. **Workforce Development** – Director Warren Ribley, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity summarized DCEO mission as growing the businesses and jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, building the technology infrastructure of tomorrow, and securing the state’s energy future through the work of 13 offices. Employment and training priorities include training Illinois workers and improving their skills to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce and partnering with education to support a robust talent pipeline. The Race to the Top application is an unprecedented opportunity to align economic development, workforce development, and education, and build stronger public-private partnerships through shared objectives, aligned programs, and data integration to improve student transitions to postsecondary education and careers. He believes there are several key elements from RTTT that should be a major focus of P-20

alignment efforts in Illinois: College and career readiness, programs of study and learning exchanges (particularly in STEM) in secondary education that improve academic achievement, increase graduation rates, and improve transition rates to postsecondary education and employment; and P-20 technology infrastructure.

There was discussion about how current metrics are tied to workforce development goals and that Illinois should expand/set metrics that would tie to P-20 goals. The Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) should be building on a shared technology system that could track Workforce Development goals and achievements, too. It was observed that DCEO did some very innovative leveraging of resources on STEM and technology infrastructure in the RTTT application.

### **Committee Reports/Updates:**

**Vision and Mission:** Committee Chair Ray Hancock summarized the committee meetings and deliberations format over the past months. The statement before the Council for approval was meant to combine both a mission and vision statement. Kathy Ryg moved to adopt the statement as presented. Debra Strauss seconded the motion. Rick Stephens made a friendly amendment to add “and community stakeholder leaders.” Discussion clarified that the statement “sustainable statewide system of quality education” is meant to include private stakeholders. Rick Stephens he withdrew his friendly amendment after brief discussion. Motion passed unanimously and the mission statement was adopted.

The Chair thanked the committee for all their hard work on the mission statement.

**Data Integration, Assessment and Accountability:** Committee Chair Max McGee said that the committee has been meeting monthly and has had Pearson Education give a presentation. The presentation can be found on the Sharepoint. He made the following points:

1. He suggested to the Council members that if they read just one article on the Sharepoint, they should read the article on assessment by Rabinowitz, et. al.
2. The committee had the opportunity to compare and contrast two national consortia who are applying for RTTT Assessment funding;
3. Committee recommendations could be ready for review at the July Council meeting.
4. John Rico shared a report on 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, which can be found on the Sharepoint.
5. P-20 assessment system has to have breadth and depth. If assessing readiness skills, one has to think of cultural, emotional, social readiness in addition to academic skills across the P2-0 spectrum.
6. Fair accountability must be a cornerstone of assessment. Multiple measures are important, not just reliance on ISAT as the single state assessment.
7. The committee hopes to give guiding principles along 8-9 dimensions.

**Effectiveness of Teachers and Educational Leaders** – Committee Chair Josh Anderson explained that the committee has done three things thus far:

1. They have stepped back to identify 4 key areas related to effectiveness of teachers and educational leaders: Principal and teacher supply and hiring; evaluation; professional support and development; attrition and retention.
2. They have discussed the current state of affairs in the State and what they should be addressing. One subcommittee member is assigned to each “bucket” identified in #1.
3. They have begun the process of developing policy recommendations and hope to come back to the Council with recommendations in the next months.

**Family, Youth and Community Engagement** – Kathy Ryg & Debra Strauss explained that the Committee is

charged with following through the implementation of recommendations that emerged from the dropout prevention conference in November 2009. They have doing the following:

1. Accumulating a strong list of stakeholders;
2. Beginning to develop a process of communication with stakeholders;
3. Getting ready to take their work on the road. They have good representation from children, parents, community and business community.
4. There are proposals for funding adequate staffing of this committee and there is legislation for a Youth Development Council on the Governor's desk right now.

**Other Business:**

P-20 Website Development – Brendan Dailey explained that the website is up and running and will serve as a central hub for the Council. Many things can already be found there:

1. The url for website is: <http://www.p20council.illinois.gov>
2. Announcements for the Council and the community can be found on the website.
3. A more detailed schedule, agendas and minutes, committee schedule and minutes will all be found there.
4. Members only section takes you to the Sharepoint site where documents can be found.

The Chair emphasized that committee meeting minutes must be available on the site. Lizanne DeStefano noted that some salient documents are on the Sharepoint, but not everything.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010

The Chair commented that at the next meeting:

1. There will be one research report but the primary goal will be to begin to plan the workscope of the Council
2. The Council will work on finalizing the work plan over the next two meetings.
3. The July meeting agenda is very full and the Council might need a little extra time at that meeting. Members will be notified if the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting length is extended.

**Misc. Other:**

The Chair noted that the Ex-Officio members have now met twice and should continue to meet regularly as a standing committee of the Council named "Joint Education Leadership Committee of the P20 Council."

The Chair also reminded members that the Council will reimburse members for travel expenses to attend Council meetings. Members should let them know if they need reimbursement.

Chris Koch (ISBE) said he would like a letter of support from the P20 Council and Lizanne and Miguel said they would provide one.

Chris Koch also agreed to forward information to the Council members on the number of half day vs. full day kindergartens in Illinois public schools.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.