



## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHEILA SIMON – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

# **P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Lt. Governor's Carbondale Office  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Carbondale, IL

Lt. Governor's Capitol Office  
Springfield, IL

Lt. Governor's Chicago Office  
James R. Thompson Center  
Chicago, IL

### **A- Roll Call**

Carbondale

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon

Springfield

Executive Director Harry Berman, IL Board of Higher Education  
Executive Director Karen Anderson, IL Community College Board  
Susie Morrison, IL State Board of Education  
Dan Cullen, IL Board of Higher Education  
Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, IL Board of Higher Education  
Brian Durham, IL Community College Board  
Brenda Klostermann, IL Education Research Council  
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor's Office  
Crystal Saint, Lt. Governor's Office

Chicago

Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman  
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow, IL Student Assistance Commission  
Theresa Hawley, IL Early Learning Council  
Julie Smith, Governor's Office  
George Letavish, Governor's Office

Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office  
Cynthia Sandoval, Governor's Office  
Leslie Reis, Lt. Governor's Office  
Danice Kern, Lt. Governor's Office

Phone

President Cathy Veal, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy  
Lizanne DeStefano, P-20 Council Staff

Absent

State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education  
Acting Director Adam Pollett, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Executive Director Janet Holt, IL Education Research Council

**B- Approval of August 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. A motion was made by Zarnikow and seconded by Veal. Motion was passed unanimously.

**C- Review of the Presentation Made to the Advisory Committee on Education Funding** with Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education (20 minutes)

Morrison said that the State Board of Education has been studying the funding formula for the last few years, and staff has provided the Board with several options. A white paper was recently commissioned by a subcommittee of the Board in order to provide background on the current system. Authors of the white paper concluded that the Illinois school finance system is inequitable for students and taxpayers. It found that the current state aid--designed to have a wealth equalizing effect and address student need-- is insufficient in magnitude to overcome the impact of local revenue, which is strongly related to wealth, and inversely related to student need. The Board, in turn, developed principles that should be measured against any change to the education funding system: 1) adequacy, 2) simplicity, 3) transparency, 4) equity, 5) outcome-based.

Morrison stated that reforming education funding isn't easy—if it was, it would already be done. But, as a state, we continue to move forward and make progress to finding a common solution. ISBE is currently conducting budget hearings, and Senator Andy Manar is leading an Education Funding Advisory Committee that is working on the issue. Morrison will keep the group posted on developments.

**D- PARCC Update** with Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education, Dan Cullen of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Brian Durham of the Illinois Community College Board (30 minutes)

Morrison indicated that PARCC is moving along and meeting deadlines. ISBE has sent out communications to 800 districts asking them to field test items for the end of year assessment and performance-based assessment. The U.S. Department of Education has offered states an opportunity to apply for a waiver for schools that would face double testing—performance-based/end of year testing and the ISAT, for example. Illinois will be applying for the waiver. Concerns about technology still

remain. ISBE is working on a second study to gauge technology needs based on new specifications from PARCC.

Cullen said that IBHE and ICCB recently held a summit with high-level administrators about the implementation of PARCC and implications for higher education. They will be setting up four regional workshops in the spring to meet with lower-level staff and faculty.

**E- RTTT Early Learning Grant Supplemental Update** with Theresa Hawley, Executive Director for the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (15 minutes)

Hawley said that Illinois' goal for early childhood is to have 80% of all children demonstrate full readiness at kindergarten entry by 2021. The KIDS survey will be implemented statewide by 2016, so they hope to meet the goal within five years of the survey implementation. To meet the goal, high-need children--kids in families below 200% of federal poverty level--will receive high quality early learning services. By 2015, which marks the end of Illinois' Early Learning Challenge Grant, 65% of those children under the age of 5 will have at least one year of high-quality learning services. Of that 65% at least 40% will have had two years, and 10% will have had five full years. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development also set goals for children that are not high needs. 60-70% of early childhood programs are parent-funded, so to reach 80% readiness, they cannot just focus on children in public programs like Head Start.

The Early Learning Challenge Grant provided \$52.5 million for sustainable system improvements, not direct services. Improvements being made deepen the alignment and integration of local and state systems, identify high-need children/families, provide high quality supports and programs, and improve program quality.

In the last 6 months, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development has issued guidelines for kindergarten readiness, and developed resources and trainings.

They launched ExceleRate Illinois, a new quality rating and improvement system which sets common standards across programs and helps programs understand what is needed to improve quality. Jointly administered by IDHS and ISBE, the system will cover nearly all early learning programs. Program sites will get designations to indicate quality: gold, silver, bronze, and licensed. Hawley thinks that about half of the state's Head Start program will start with a gold designation, and many will move up and achieve gold status as time goes on.

They are improving workforce development and are partnering with ISAC to find the best ways to support staff in getting their degrees. In addition, they have partnered with IBHE to revise early education programs at higher education institutions, and are developing articulation agreements for early childhood programs between universities and community colleges.

They are working on data integration, since early childhood data is spread across multiple agencies. \$4 million of the Early Learning Grant has been dedicated to address the data integration need. Currently, they couldn't give an unduplicated count of how many children are served by early learning programs each year. They are also working to develop early childhood innovation zones for 7 high need communities across the state.

The KIDS assessment is in its second year of pilot testing, and will be implemented statewide by 2016. The Joyce Foundation has given the state \$1.2 million to support implementation.

**F- Scaling Up Conference Update** with Lynne Haeffele of the Lt. Governor's Office (15 minutes)

Haeffele said that the Scaling Up Effective Practices in Higher Education Conference will take place Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. At the conference, institutions will share best practices and innovative programs and national experts will provide the tools for implementation. Speakers will include Jamie Merisotis, CEO of Lumina Foundation; Dr. Christopher Dede, an expert on scaling up from Harvard University; and Dr. Lawrence Abele, formerly of Florida State University. Education agency staff members continue to assist with planning. Agency heads will participate in a leadership panel. JELC members were invited to attend.

**G- Longitudinal Data System Update** with Amber Kirchhoff of the Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Kirchhoff indicated that an intergovernmental agreement was executed by all of the state agencies contributing data to the longitudinal data system (LDS). The agencies have designated representatives to the board governing board, which will be headed up by John Evans who works out of the University of Illinois.

**H- P-20 Council Agenda Preview** with Lizanne DeStefano of the P-20 Council (10 minutes)

DeStefano stated that the next P-20 Meeting will be taking place Thursday, October 17, in Bloomington. The theme of the meeting will be student success.

She said that a new P-20 committee has been formed to address implementation issues on specific policy issues. Called the Implementation Review Committee, they are still defining the scope of the committee.

**I- State Agency Updates** (20 minutes)

Morrison said that the newly developed 6-12 model math curriculum is getting rave reviews. 10 districts are piloting it now. Practitioners have loved it so much that ISBE was to develop a K-5 curriculum and curriculum for English Language Arts. This summer they began working on these items. ISBE is also working on adopting the Next Generation Science Standards.

Miguel mentioned that the new School Report Card will be coming out next month. Morrison said that the 5Essentials Survey instrument will be expanded on the report card next year.

Berman discussed Illinois Higher Education budget issues. He also said that Illinois is one of the five states that will receive support from Complete College America for a program called Guided Pathways Success and STEM careers.

Anderson discussed ICCB's grant writing efforts. She also reminded the group that GED testing will be changing as of January 1, 2014, and the testing will be more expensive. Demand for testing before the change has exploded, and ICCB is doing all they can to accommodate.

Zarnikow said that October is College Application Month, and ISAC has joined the American College Application Campaign to help students and families navigate the process of applying to college. There are 200 scheduled events for the month.

Letavish indicated that Illinois recently participated in The Pathway to Prosperity Conference-- a joint effort of Harvard Graduate School of Education and Jobs for the Future. He gave details on the conference.

Meisner-Bertauski said that October 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting for the Title 2 Grant program in Bloomington.

Klostermann said that the IERC will be releasing a new report soon.

**J- Other Business**

None.

**K- Next meeting will take place Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**L- Adjournment**

Lt. Governor adjourned the meeting.