

# **Standards of Learning Innovation Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Accountability 2.0 Subcommittee Meeting

Jefferson Conference Room, Monroe Building

February 23, 2015 – 10:00am – 1:00pm

### **Attendees**

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#### **Present Committee Members:**

Dr. Stewart Roberson, Grace Chung Becker, Dr. Shawnrell Blackwell, Kelly Booz, President Chris Braunlich, Dabney Carr, Dr. Kim Paddison Dockery, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Dr. Sue Magliaro, Dr. Laurie McCullough, Alan Seibert, Karen Thomsen, Dr. Chriss Walther-Thomas, Bill White, and Ben Williams

No members were present via conference call.

#### **Absent Committee Members:**

Karen Cross, Deb Frazier, and Dr. Steve Staples

### **Scribe**

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Eric Steigleder/Lisa Jackson

### **Agenda**

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- **Introductions**
- **Theme Discussion**
- **Individual Exercise**
- **Group Work**
- **Presentations**
- **Next Steps**

- **Adjournment**

## Welcome and Updates

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- **10:00am** – Laurie McCullough asked for the group to start the meeting off with introductions.
  - Committee members provided introductions.
- Laurie described the items on the agenda.
  - Discussion of themes
  - Three presentations from Melany Stowe, Ben Williams, and Alan Seibert on school report cards
  - An individual exercise
  - A group exercise.

## Individual Exercise

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- Committee members were instructed to look at each of the 12 themes that were created from the last subcommittee meeting.
  - Each member walked around the room to rate the importance of the theme and were asked to provide questions, concerns, feedback, criticism, and recommendations for each of the themes.

## Group Exercise

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- The subcommittee was broken into three groups, each of the groups focused on 4 themes.
  - Utilizing the comments and importance ratings, each group had to decide whether the theme should be kept, tossed, or revised.
- First Group included: Bill White, Meg Gruber, Karen Thomsen, Kelly Booz, Sue Magliaro
  - Reviewed themes 1-4
  - *Theme #1: “Accreditation should indicate both a school’s progress over time and its performance against an external benchmark.”*

- Recommended amending theme #1 – asked for further definition of external benchmarks, which they discussed would be important for setting them.
- Thought that theme 4 should be rolled into theme 1 to read: “Accreditation should be valid and reliable indicators of both a school’s progress over time and its performance against an external benchmark.”
- *Theme #2: “One or more measures that document the growth of individual students, cohort groups, and/or subgroups over time should be reported as part of accreditation.”*
  - Believed that this should be revised, because cohorts can change, which would not allow for a consistent measure.
- *Theme #3: “Additional indicators of school quality should be included without compromising high accreditation standards. These indicators could be factors such as attendance, graduation rate, school climate, discipline, student surveys, family involvement, and/or program offerings”*
  - Recommended defining what is meant by school climate. Suggested doing teacher evaluations/surveys along with study surveys.
- *Theme #4: “Accreditation indicators must meet standards for validity and reliability.”*
  - Group suggested tossing theme #4. They believed this should be a given for all of the themes.
- Second Group included: Chris Braunlich, Chriss Walther-Thomas, Dabney Carr, Kim Dockery, Shawnrell Blackwell, and Sarah Gross
  - *Theme #5: “Accreditation ratings (accredited, not accredited, accredited with warning) should be revised and expanded to create a tiered, “ladder-like” framework with descriptive labels.”*
    - Believed theme 5 and theme 6 worked well together. Believed that theme 6 could be rolled into theme 5.

- *Theme #6: “Schools that have history of consistently being fully accredited should report data on a multi (perhaps three)-year rather than an annual cycle.”*
  - Discussed the importance of tracking growth of even the high rated/achieving schools.
  - Suggested taking out the “(perhaps three)” portion of the theme
  
- *Theme #7: “Accreditation data must be timely and reported in ways that are actionable, in order to drive improvement and address gaps in achievement.”*
  - Suggested keep thing theme. Believed that theme 7 and theme 8 were similar in its mention of data, except that theme 7 focused on accountability data.
  
- *Theme #8: “Data should be reported so that it is accessible and understandable to the public.”*
  - Suggested keep thing theme. Believed that theme 7 and theme 8 were similar in its mention of data, except that theme 8 focused school report card data, and school quality.
  
- Third Group included: Grace Chung Becker, Ben Williams, Stewart Roberson, and Alan Seibert
  - *Theme #9: “The accreditation system should be designed and communicated to maintain an emphasis on continuous improvement of schools at every accreditation level.”*
    - Concerned with the wording of this theme. Discussed that for schools that are already at 100% pass rate, this theme may push those schools to do unnecessary test prep.
  
  - *Theme #10: “The accreditation process should include periodic on-site reviews by external experts (possibly including DOE staff) who are trained and who met reliability standards for observation and data collection. The school’s accreditation tier/status could determine the frequency of these reviews.”*
    - Group was unable to discuss this theme and come to a consensus.

- *Theme #11: “Some form of self-study should be a required part of the accreditation process.”*
  - Interested in combining theme 11 and theme 3 or theme 11 and theme 12.
- *Theme #12: “The reporting system should include an opportunity for schools to study and self-report areas of strength and those they are working to improve.”*
  - Suggested using existing VDOE school improvement plan language within this theme.
- Laurie suggested that the subcommittee utilize the next week to think about and synthesize the new suggestions.
  - Further discussion will take place via conference call on Tuesday, March 3, 2015.
  - Suggested the subcommittee watch the webinar discussion presented by Charles Pyle from the VDOE regarding the current school report card, taking place on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

## **Presentations**

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- Melany Stowe presented on School Report Cards (all materials can be found in Committee Dropbox account).
  - Presented on report cards from all 50 states plus Washington DC.
  - Utilizing information from several report cards, Melany created a new and an original Virginia report card.
- Ben Williams presented on Bubble Charts as an option for school report cards (all materials can be found in Committee Dropbox account).
  - Utilizing a graphic, schools can be compared by similar demographics (free and reduced lunch percentage) and test scores.
  - Ben presented on how this could be useful for comparison of schools and improvement efforts.
- Secretary of Education, Anne Holton provided thanks for the subcommittees work.
- Alan Seibert presented on possible dashboard ideas for school report cards (all materials can be found in Committee Dropbox account).

- Utilizing the example of “Journey to Excellence,” Alan set up an interactive dashboard to present school data which could include test scores as well as other aspects of individual schools
- Dashboard would utilize bronze, silver, and gold to represent progress.

## **Next Steps**

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- Laurie discussed that the next steps will be to synthesize thoughts and ideas into a draft to be discussed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.
- Diane Atkinson from the State Board of Education spoke about the Boards desire to look at the state report card and the entire accountability system.
  - Accountability Committee has been established on the Board to provide information and recommendations to the Board to consider at their retreat in April.
  - Suggested to the subcommittee that idea should remain practical because of budgetary constraints and inabilities to support links and dashboard.
  - Suggested that moving forward, subcommittee should prioritize needs and concerns, which would allow for the most immediate needs to be addressed and the less immediate needs to be addressed at a later point in time.
- Chris Braunlich explained that the state report card is of great interest to the Board and to General Assembly members.
  - Concerned with needs for resources, and the need to express options to the General Assembly members.
  - Believed there is a great need for clear communication with legislators.
- Sue Magliaro suggested that maybe there should be two sets of recommendations – school report card and accreditation.
- Laurie explained the need to stay on the same path and making sure both the school report card and accreditation recommendations coincided with one another
- Chris expressed that it is his hope to have some major changes/recommendations to the Standards of Accreditation by June 2015.
- Alan Seibert suggested breaking recommendations and focusing on purpose, content, and design.

## **Closing Remarks**

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- Stewart Roberson and Laurie McCullough provided closing remarks.

- Stewart thanked the presenters from the meeting: Melany Stowe, Ben Williams, and Alan Seibert. Thanked Laurie for her work with the subcommittee.
- Laurie thanked the entire subcommittee for their work. Reminded the subcommittee that there will be a conference call on Tuesday, March 3 to further discuss the themes and recommendations of the subcommittee.

## **Next Meeting**

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- March 3, 2015, 10:00am – 1:00pm. Via Teleconference. Contact Lisa Jackson for call information
- March 24, 2015, 10:00am – 1:00pm. Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

## **Adjournment**

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- **1:03pm** – Meeting was adjourned by Laurie McCullough.