Standards of Learning Innovation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Full Committee Meeting

Jefferson Conference Room, Monroe Building

March 24, 2015 – 10:00am – 1:00pm

Attendees

Present Committee Members:

Grace Chung Becker, Dr. Shawnrell Blackwell, Chris Braunlich, Kelly Booz, Dr. Terri Breeden, Dabney Carr, Karen Cross, Dr. Kim Dockery, Veronica Donahue, Deborah Frazier, Delegate Tag Greason, Sarah Gross, Meg Gruber, Dr. Roger Hathaway, Secretary Ann Holton, Delegate Rob Krupicka, Dr. Tara Lateef, Dr. Sue Magliaro, Dr. Laurie McCullough, Dr. Stewart Roberson, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Karen Thomsen, Dr. Chriss Walther-Thomas, and Ben Williams.

Dr. Jared Cotton, Senator Creigh Deeds, Dr. Jenny Sue Flannagan, Lillie Jessie, Delegate Jim LeMunyon, Wade Whitehead, Sanford Williams, and Renee Zando were present via conference call.

Absent Committee Members:

Jeff Bourne, Susanna Burgos, Dr. Brian Matney, Dr. Steve Staples, Delegate Jeion Ward, and Dr. Bill White.

Scribe

Eric Steigleder/ Lisa Jackson

Agenda

- **Welcome/Review of Committee Charge**
- **General Assembly Update**

- **Board of Education Update**
- **Accountability 2.0 Update**
- **Working Lunch/Small Group Discussion**
- **Report Out of Small Groups**
- **Business Panel**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjourn**

Welcome/Review of Committee Charge

- **10:05am** – Dr. Stewart Roberson began the meeting.
- Present members introduced themselves.
- The agenda was presented to the Committee.

General Assembly Update

- Secretary Anne Holton provided an update of the 2015 General Assembly session.
  - Legislations regarding additional categories of accreditation, accreditation frequency, expedited retakes, 140 seat hour requirement, and integrated assessments were discussed.
  - Budgetary items related to the SOL Innovation Committee were reviewed.
- Delegate Tag Greason commented on the legislative process and the importance of the budget item regarding high school innovation.
- Delegate Rob Krupicka discussed the importance of continued conversation around education.
- Senator Miller commented on the important role that the SOL Innovation Committee played during the legislative session.
- Delegate Jim LeMunyon discussed the importance of tracking changes to legislation and providing updates to the Committee.
- Senator Creigh Deeds thanked the Secretary for her leadership.

Board of Education Update

- President Chris Braunlich and Diane Atkinson provided the Committee with an update and progress report of the Board of Education.
  - They discussed the need to make changes to the system without negatively affecting other areas. Discussed that the Accountability Committee of the BOE would be addressing many of the same issues being addressed by the SOL Innovation Committee.

Accountability 2.0 Update (See Appendix A)

- Dr. Laurie McCullough presented the Accountability 2.0 subcommittee update.
  - Discussed the need to focus on "purpose, content, and design," which the recommendations were structured around.
- Dr. Kim Dockery provided an overview of the "Purpose" recommendations.
- Dabney Carr provided an overview of the "Content" recommendations.
- Ben Williams provided an overview of the "Design" recommendations and presented an example of school performance report card.

Working Lunch/Small Group Discussion

- Committee members broke into groups of 4-5 to further discuss Accountability 2.0 recommendations during lunch.

Report Out of Small Groups

- Committee members were instructed to fill out a feedback form instead of reporting out in small groups.

Business Panel

- The Business Panel included:
  - Todd Putney (as moderator) – Vice President of Human Resources at Medical Facilities of America.
  - Suzy Kelly – Chief Executive Office at Jo-Kell Inc.
  - Scott Millar – Senior Director of Human Resources at Canon Virginia Inc.
  - Heather Shepardson – Vice President of Human Resources at Carillion Clinics
- The panel was asked a series of questions by the moderator.
  - What do employers want from high school graduates?
    - The panelist discussed the need for sound judgment, independence, and ability to communicate both verbally and in writing, ability to collaborate, and critical thinking as skills they want from students.
  - Name three skills or competencies that high schoolers should have once they graduate and enter the workforce.
    - Skills named by the panelist included creativity, problem-solving, decision-making, and time management.
  - Discussed the need of employees that are "ready, willing, and able" to work.

Public Comment

- Dr. Roberson opened the floor to public comment.
  - Nancy Daniel Vest discussed the need to teach students, and not teaching the curriculum or to the test. Expressed the importance of comparing progress and not comparing to other students or schools.
  - Lisa Thompson discussed the need to look at students who have English as a Second Language. Expressed the concern around testing for ESL and ELL students, suggested alternative options such as the Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment (WITA).

- Bill Portlock discussed the concerns of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Foundation, provided written comment to be submitted to the Dropbox account.

Next Steps

- Dr. Roberson made the Committee aware of the mid-term survey that would be sent out to the Committee.
- Delegate Greason asked for feedback regarding the progress of the alternative assessment being put in place of the eliminated state test.
- Dr. Roberson shared that the new Assessment 2.0 subcommittee will begin over the next couple months to address issues directly related to testing and testing concerns.
    - Dr. Cotton will take the lead on this new subcommittee, and additional information will be forthcoming.
- Next Full Committee Meeting Dates:
    - June 2, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm

      Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

      1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219
    - August 26, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm

      Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

      1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219
    - October 29, 2015, 1:00pm-4:00pm

      Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room

      1111 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

Adjournment

- **1:04pm –** Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Stewart Roberson.

Appendix A

Accountability 2.0 Subcommittee
"Keeping Focus, Seeking Balance, Using Evidence"
Report to the Innovation Committee
February 26 2015 Draft

The Accountability 2.0 Subcommittee's work has focused on the criteria and process for accrediting Virginia schools and on the information provided as part of the school performance report card. It is understood that accountability extends beyond the accreditation process to include additional federal requirements. Since accreditation ratings and the school report card are impacted by recent legislation and under review by the Board of Education, it seems reasonable to give our attention to these areas. The Subcommittee's discussion to date has focused on determining ways in which a more comprehensive picture of school quality can be defined and communicated. This includes not only a redefinition and possible expansion of the accreditation ratings for schools but also consideration of what additional information about the school might be reported beyond that used in accreditation.

A school's accreditation rating and the supporting data provided as a part of the school performance report card are messages to the community about the school's quality. Therefore, it is essential that the system support the vision of inspired, engaged, and personalized learning for every student in the Commonwealth. This requires a reexamination of the **purpose** of the accountability system.

The Innovation Committee's work over the past eight months has made clear a need to expand the definition of school quality, reducing the reliance on SOL test data and encompassing a broader range of elements. Choosing these elements, determining how they will be measured, and deciding which will impact accreditation and which will be reported on the report card but not included in accreditation are challenges that must be undertaken with care. The resulting **content** of the system should align with its purpose, be relevant to a variety of audiences, and be supportive of school improvement efforts.

The school report card's **design** is an important consideration once purpose and content have been determined. Report card data should be easily accessible, current, readily understandable, and effectively communicated to meet the information needs of a variety of stakeholders.

Keeping in mind these three areas of purpose, content, and design; the Subcommittee offers the following preliminary recommendations to the Innovation Committee for consideration.

Regarding the Purpose of Accreditation

1. The accreditation system should be designed and implemented to support continuous improvement of schools at every accreditation level and reduce the negative impacts of sanctions.

- **Accreditation data should be timely, accessible and reported in ways that are actionable, in order to drive improvement and address gaps in achievement.**
- **A continuum of accreditation ratings expressed as descriptors should be created and tied to timelines that allow for multi-year accreditation cycles for fully accredited schools.**

2. The accreditation process should include periodic on-site reviews by external trained experts who meet reliability standards for observation and data collection. The purpose of these reviews should be to supply actionable feedback and valuable support to the school's improvement efforts. The school's accreditation status should determine the frequency of these reviews (annual or multi-year) and selected data collected through the reviews should be considered in determining the school's accreditation status.

<u>**Regarding the Content to be Included**</u>

3. Accreditation should include:

- **valid and reliable academic indicators of a school's progress over time and its performance against student achievement benchmarks.**
- **one or more measures that document growth of individuals, reporting groups, and aggregate groups; in areas and at grade levels where this is most valuable and can be done reliably.**
- **additional indicators of school quality not directly measured by test scores or pass rates (e.g. graduation rate, attendance, school climate*)***

4. In order to provide a balanced and more comprehensive picture of the school, consideration should be given to reporting selected data elements that are important but not included in a school's accreditation rating (e.g. school climate, data from on-site reviews),

5. The reporting system should include an opportunity for schools to study and self-report areas of strength and those they are working to improve.

<u>**Regarding the Design of the School Report Card**</u>

6. School report card data should be accessible and understandable to the public. A dashboard format presenting information "at a glance" with easy access to more detailed supporting data allows users to view data at a variety of levels.

7. Data should be displayed in formats that provide context (e.g. demographics, peer group comparisons, trends over time, etc.)

Adjustments to the current accreditation system are needed so that more meaningful and relevant information about schools can be gathered, interpreted and reported to the public. The Subcommittee understands that making these changes requires investments in research, design and development, training, technology applications, communications, and system maintenance. This is certain to be a multi-year effort, and it requires both an immediate infusion of resources as well as a long-term commitment.

Subcommittee members have received information on aspects of the existing accountability system and school report card, and on models and examples from national groups and other states. Members of the Subcommittee look forward to sharing and discussing these preliminary recommendations as well as selected information sources with the Innovation Committee.