

Colorado NCLB Committee of Practitioners
October 17, 2005
Meeting/Work Session

Meeting Minutes

Membership present:

Paul Johnson, Holly Brilliant, Sheryl Hutter, Mary McGrane, Evelyn Jacobi, Sandy McHugh, Anita Burns, Jane Toothaker

Ann Hausler attended as a potential school board member. Completed a nomination form, which will be voted upon by the Committee.

Not present: Jesus Escárcega, Melanie Jones, Michelle Moss, Patsy Roybal

Ex Officio:

Trish Boland, Patrick Chapman, Gina Salazar, William Windler, Bushrod White, Laura Hensinger, and Alyssa Pearson (CDE), Kathy Shannon (CASB)

Other:

Sam Drury – private citizen, Mary Ellen Good – representing Dale McCall of Centennial BOCES, John Hefty (CASE), Mike Miles (El Paso 8), Ken Turner (Academy 20)

Work Notes – Include identified Guiding Questions; appropriate assessment based upon student's ability to succeed; program improvement issues related to percentage of targets met; growth/longitudinal issues

UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

State School Board Work Session presentation: Sheryl updated the State School Board regarding the work of the Committee in October. Recounted her remarks regarding the appropriateness of assessments as a district, irrespective of her role as Committee co-chair.

Membership needs: Resignations from Even Start representative (Carol Harris-Fike) and charter schools (Rob Finkle). Possible new board member membership from Gunnison and Boulder Valley, courtesy of Kathy Shannon's

Ed Flex – Not currently any legislation to reauthorization; may be that the USDE believes there is enough flexibility already inherent in the law. Will sunset on July 26, 2006. Sheryl felt that the ability to be granted a waiver for the HQ 5 % set aside is a good thing, particularly when 10% for program improvement may be adequate for professional development needs. Could mean the difference between having an additional teacher or not.

Evelyn Jacobi requested the opportunity to put forth a motion to demonstrate support for Ed Flex. Her district's waiver permits an additional five teachers, who provide direct support to students.

Committee proposed to send a letter to the USDE. Evelyn Jacobi moved to send a letter of information to federal representatives indicating the committee's support for continuous of Ed Flex, demonstrating the positive results of the use. Paul Johnson seconds. Passed. Bill Windler suggested contacting Marilyn Musgrave to extend the committee's position. Evelyn Jacobi volunteered to do so.

Sheryl Hutter broached the subject of the 10% program improvement set aside and possible ways to identify other uses for these funds. Patrick Chapman indicated that this might be a topic for the later portion of the meeting.

Congressional Hearing Report – Bill Windler shared that this particular report shows that some representatives are supporting a growth model for NCLB, but will need to be very specific in nature, including the disaggregation of subgroups, 100% proficient targets, etc.

Accreditation Checklist – To assist with the accountability workbook that requires alignment with the other systems of accountability in the State, i.e. accreditation.

Parent Involvement policy project – MOU with researchers from CU Denver to help districts develop methodology to evaluate districts' parent involvement policies. Paul Johnson cautioned that logic models have already been used by districts and not been consistently used, and this process might be more fruitful if the product defines outcomes well.

E-Grants - Gina Salazar provided information on CFPU's attempt to go to an E-grant system. Support exists with representatives from the other federal programs, as well as the Commissioner. CDE currently looking at the state of Nebraska's system, along with similar systems in Illinois and Louisiana. Visited with Nebraska about what this would mean in terms of implementation in Colorado. No guarantees that it will be ready for 06-07. Can begin moving this direction, though. Hoping to get Nebraska's code and revise to Colorado's purpose. Will need to go out to a vendor. Need to conduct a requirement study within CDE and districts. Lots of bits and pieces that need to be addressed in order to get this project going in Colorado. Needs to address transferability and other details that are specific to Colorado. Needs to align with what is needed in ESSU. May still be a year out for the full implementation (07-08). May develop a pilot with a few districts. Mary McGrane asked that BOCES be included in any possible pilot. Evelyn Jacobi brought up the question of the next three-year cycle for consolidated application. Patrick Chapman indicated that some revisions to this past version may be made to move toward the e-grant system. Mary McGrane indicated that there may be ways to streamline the reporting, possibly including end-of-year requirements within the application. Sheryl Hutter suggested that reminders for dates and such would be helpful. Some of the data needed may not be available when the application is submitted in June. Paul Johnson noted that once you go to a checklist and reduce the program narrative, there's an issue of

how this relates to the program evaluation. Would want something that ties back to the application. Second, the needs assessment needs to be connected to the application as well. Larry Romine asked that the Committee be kept informed of the work. Paul Johnson also brought up the issue of signature and current status of this process. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of signatures and an e-grant system. Currently, district auditors require a paper trail of signatures, etc. Evelyn Jacobi encouraged that the State keep in mind that the current timeline aligns with the potential reauthorization of NCLB, therefore a need exists to be able to revise an application to meet any changes.

Highly Qualified (HQ) – One of the findings from the USDE audit relates to the parent notification when a classroom is taught by a teacher for more than four weeks, who does not meet the HQ requirements. A clarification letter will be sent out to LEAs regarding what is required. This letter explains that in schoolwide programs, parents need to be notified when their students are taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified. In targeted assistance programs, only parents of students taught by a Title I teacher who is not highly qualified need to be notified.

Committee asked for additional information and clarification in the statewide dissemination of information.

Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA): Currently out to vendors, but it appears that one will not be available statewide for this current year. Likelihood is that the adopted Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA) will be field-tested in Spring 06. The proposed timeline is for a screener version to be available in June 06 and available for utilization by districts in the fall. Full implementation in spring '07. Unclear if data from the pilots will be allowable for AYP purposes.

Work Session – 10:30- 12:30 p.m.

Public comment provided by Mike Miles, El Paso 8 School District; Ken Turner, Academy 20 School District; Mary Ellen Good (representing Dale McCall), Centennial BOCES; Lydia Guzman and Christine Muldoon, Adams County School District 14; John Hefty, Colorado Association of School Executives

Committee meeting reconvened at 1:15 pm

AYP Subcommittee: committee met on October 11, 2005. Notes provided. Looking for a common method for assessing growth for both SAR and AYP. Committee will look at the recommendations that come out of the AYP subcommittee.

Dorothy Gotlieb joined the Committee to answer questions related to the CELA. (See above notes and timelines.)

Committee Nominations: nominations to the committee from Angelika Schroeder and Anne Hausler, district school board members from Boulder Valley SD and Gunnison SD respectively, were approved.