

Rural Education Council
Meeting Notes
December 15, 2011

Common Goals/Envisioned outcomes

- Finding balance to the battle that rural education is not one size fits all
- Serve as a voice for rural community in reforms and initiatives to help CDE understand the specific rural needs
- Work and learn together and share existing resources.
- CDE participants aim to listen, hear what we are doing well and areas of improvement and strengthen relationships
- Strategize a better way to implement reforms: Many wear multiple hats, and don't have the bandwidth to carry out some of the requirements. How can we help each other? How can we do more with less
- Education of the general public as to what rural education really is
- Greater utilization of the local BOCES

Logistical Considerations:

- Length of term:
 - Staggering 2-3 year terms/institutional representation ongoing
 - Ongoing - CASE/CASB/Rural Caucus/CBA
 - 2 year term – Board members/Teachers/Principals/SW and NE Supers
 - 3 year term - BOCES Directors/all other regional supers

**After first initial stagger of term the terms become 3 year terms. Group norm expectation is physical presence at council meetings except for extenuating circumstances.

- Replacement Strategy of Council members:
 - Superintendent SAC/Association groups and the professional organizational groups represented on the council will be asked to nominate representatives for the council whenever possible. The Commissioner of Education will make the final determination of representation.
- Share funding proposal with Colorado Legacy Foundation – January 2012
- Frequency of Meetings:
 - Set 6 meetings for 2012 at most practical site in each region.
 - Schedule quarterly after 2012.
 - Try and tag into major conferences if possible.
 - 3 on east side of state and 3 on west side.
 - Noon – 3:30 pm.

Rural Concept Paper verse Regional Service Area Plan discussion

Goal: How do we put together a structure to push support to the State?

- Regional Service Areas:
 - Dale McCall is working with Senator Massey on the reinstatement of the regional services funding with the following proposed changes

- The current governance structure is extremely cumbersome. Proposed changes include pairing back the governance council and incorporating the BOCES to shoulder the responsibility
 - The original bill ties the funding to local initiatives. Proposed changes include tying the funds closer to state initiatives and the advancement of those initiatives.
 - Historically, more funds are allocated to the Denver Metro area districts; however, the intent is to help the rural district, so the formula for distribution would need to be modified.
 - Can we tie the Massey initiative to the Rural Concept paper?
- Questions to consider moving forward:
 - Can BOCES serve as governance for Regional Service Area plan?
 - Goal being to simplify and align plan with the State's priorities
 - What will provide the rural education community with sustainable and meaningful support?
 - Can these two plans support and strengthen each other
 - Find clarity between roles of a governing Regional Service Area the numerous BOCES who reside within the area.
- How have we changed since the first implementation of the regional service area plan?
 - BOCES are now working together
 - Resources are being shared
 - Budgets and reforms have forced this partnership
- Challenges:
 - Who will be the regulatory agency?
 - Functional capability of BOCES in small areas? Can they handle the additional responsibility?
 - How do we handle uninterested BOCES

Race to the Top Update: (Handouts are attached)

- How do we serve, in a meaningful way, all of the districts?
- Phase 3 would equate to \$17.9M with 50% going to the state level and 50% going to the district level based on Title I share. Colorado has asked for permission to grant full amount in year one to provide the most meaningful impact to the districts.
- Colorado's Phase 3 application focuses on the following:
 - **State capacity to support reforms**
 - CDE capacity to implement and sustain reforms
 - Grant management
 - **Standards implementation**
 - Creation of Content Collaboratives
 - Teams of educators with content and assessment expertise
 - Standards-aligned instructional materials
 - Measures of student learning for all grades and content areas
 - STEM thread
 - **Education effectiveness**
 - Development of the state model evaluation system
 - Piloting of the system
 - Statewide training
 - **STEM in action**

- Connecting educators to STEM resources outside their school/district
- District Participation
 - The state has up to 100 days following the grant award to work with districts on their participation
 - Memorandum of Understanding
 - Local scopes of work
 - Local use of funds:
 - Districts may pool funds
 - Districts must use the funds in alignment with the grant objectives:
 - Standards implementation
 - Educator evaluation
 - STEM activities
 - Reporting
 - Annual progress reports on goals, timelines, and budgets as outlined in the scopes of work
 - Survey questions to gather data on performance measures outlined in the grant (e.g., questions regarding use of materials created by the Content Collaboratives, quality of the materials, etc.)

Future Agenda Items:

- What actual service is out there now? Content Collaboratives? BOCES initiatives?
- Online rural delivery of curriculum – build quality and consistency
- Highlighting what is happening in rural areas