

Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership

September 27, 2012 / 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
30 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55101

MEETING NOTES

Members/Designees Present:

Steven Rosenstone-Chair, Brenda Cassellius, Eric Kaler, Jim Bartholomew, Bill Blazer, Paul Cerkvenik, Jim Fields, Joellen Gonder-Spacek, David Isham, Grace Keliher, Carlos Mariani-Rosa, Robert Meeks, Jo Olsen, Gene Piccollo, Larry Pogemiller, Jeanne Poppe, Kathy Sweeney, Chuck Wiger

Others Present:

Jodie Buhre, Mary Lou Dresbach, Jennifer Dugan, Andrea Lynn Johnson, Janice Kwallek, Irene McAfee, Leslie Mercer, Mary Parker, Julie Sweitzer, Cliff Wittstruck

Welcome and Approval of May 2 and May 31 meeting notes

Steven Rosenstone welcomed everyone and thanked them for enduring the downtown construction. He noted that the objective of the meeting is to develop a game plan. The next topic on the agenda will be a review the major activities of the partnership in FY2012 concerning the Achievement Gap that culminated in the dialogue and presentation by Dr. Ronald Ferguson in late May. Once we have recapped our discussions and agreements, we will move to developing a plan of action.

The meeting minutes for May 2, 2012 and May 31, 2012 were approved as written.

1. Brief review: what we have learned about the achievement gap in Minnesota and the approach suggested by Dr. Ronald Ferguson as a strategy for action

Carlos Mariani-Rosa and Leslie Mercer spoke from the attached slide presentation. Key points included:

- The achievement gap is present and pervasive at all levels of education in Minnesota.
- Dr Ferguson argues that we need more than equity; equity with excellence is the goal that can drive all stakeholders' support.
- We need to close the gap if we are to remain a state that is economically complete.
- Transition points are key; they are often where students run into barriers.
- The Ferguson model focuses on five key stakeholder groups and sees them as an interdependent system.

2. **Brief update on the “Strive” initiative in Minnesota** (President Eric Kaler, co-chair Minnesota Strive Initiative)

Dr. Kaler noted that 18 months ago, members of the African American Leadership Forum identified Strive as a potential vehicle for improving the performance of all students in the Twin Cities, especially students from their own community. They partnered with the University of Minnesota to launch a formal investigation of Strive and engaged many people from across the Twin Cities in a discussion of the merits of bringing Strive to Minnesota. We are now moving forward with Twin Cities Strive using a Cradle to Career Framework that was originally developed in Cincinnati.

5 core elements of Collective Impact:

- Common Agenda – shared vision for change
- Shared Measurement – common and consistent understanding of what data is being collected and that it is accessible in a timely fashion
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities (emphasize this one!) – Strive does not mean “cookie cutter” programs, but rather better understanding and coordination of programs
- Continuous Communication – across all stakeholders. This works to ensure a common agenda.
- Backbone Organization – current partners are already stretched thin; in order to coordinate effectively, a separate set of staff need to be entirely devoted.

Greater Twin Cities United Way will serve as host organization to get Strive off the ground. They are providing in-kind resources, such as office space and HR, as well as a team of interim staff. Strategic partners include Wilder Research, who will be providing expertise and support around data and measurement; and Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, who will be engaging the community at multiple levels.

The Vision and Mission has been approved by the Twin Cities Strive Board on Monday, September 10th, 2012. There was significant debate around whether the vision/mission should solely focus on closing the achievement gap or on all Minnesota children. The initial scope of Strive will focus on Minneapolis and Saint Paul, with possible expansion outward.

The Goals were approved by the Twin Cities Strive Board on Monday, September 10th, 2012. The measures are still being refined.

- Each young person in middle grades through high school is connected to others and engaged in learning.
- Each high school graduate is ready for post-secondary success.

Specifics around the community goals continue to be vetted and 2 additional goals may be added around youth engagement and college/career readiness.

During the discussion the following questions were asked of Dr. Kaler:

Q: Why is there no representation from the for-profit college sector?

A: Representation from the for-profit sector is being considered.

Q: When will the STRIVE initiative be brought to the suburban and out-state communities?

A: We needed to start small and thus focused on Minneapolis and St Paul; it will be at least two years before we have enough experience to expand.

Q: Have you agreed on the baseline measures and is that data available?

A: No – we haven't agreed on what the uniform standard will be.

Q: What are you anticipating as a budget?

A: \$1.2 million for a 2-year operating budget. We need to raise funds.

Q: What is STRIVE's interaction with students?

A: It varies, but Pre- or after school programs that pull kids from school into the STRIVE initiative.

3. Review and discussion of Proposed Action Plan 2012-2013

Chancellor Rosenstone facilitated the discussion on proposed plan. Many members had favorable comments in support of the proposal. Suggestions for changes or amendments included a more limited focus on one sector or transition point. Examples included a greater focus on the transition from high school to college and college success. At the other end of the spectrum some suggested that early childhood would be the best place to focus attention. Another suggestion was that the P-20 Partnership become the clearing house for all programs similar to STRIVE – that's how we can make all things mesh for the state. Another partner urged the group to use its ability to shape constituent and public opinion: *Systems and networks across the state are at this table with strong relationships. Each one of us should reach out to our constituency to ask "what are you doing to make a difference?"*

The group did not reach a consensus on the plan of action.

September 27, 2012

P-20 Education Partnership meeting notes

Page 4

Report and recommendations on one transition point – high school to college. *Post-secondary Success for All: Increasing Awareness, Aspiration, Opportunity and Attainment*

Commissioner Brenda Cassellius and Director Larry Pogemiller, OHE reviewed the attached presentation. They noted that the objectives of this initiative are:

- Better prepared students
- Better alignment of high school and postsecondary education
- Better alignment with the workforce needs of Minnesota
- Increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness

They suggested several areas that could be redesigned to meet these objectives:

- Align high school assessments and college standards for readiness
- Identify and help students who are not on track while they are in high school
- Enable more high school students who are ready to earn college credit to do so while still in high school
- Help students align their interests and skills with college programs and careers