

Citizens Advisory Council Minutes
January 13, 2015

Attendees: Edward Gold, Jeff Hill, Barb Jacobsen, Laura Lancaster, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Annette Martinez, Monica Noraian, Mark Pickering, Kathy Pierce, Kacy Rader, Laurel Schumacher, Stephanie Stork

Absent: Rod Bray, Wilma Bates, Amy Fritson-Coffman, Andrea Markert, Rob McDade, Charlie Schlenker

DISCUSSION POINTS

Next Meeting

Our next meeting has been moved March 24

Communication feedback

Regarding the snow day, Barb Jacobsen appreciated the CAC being asked for their input. Mark Pickering commented that all communication of late has been timely and appropriate.

Regarding the student issue, Monica thought that including mental health resources was helpful. It was mentioned that this communication did not include Metcalf families and that was done based on the fact that the student was not a former Metcalf student. Jeff shared that about 75 students showed up on that Friday night and therapy dogs were brought into the school on Monday.

Vision 20/20 Resolution

Materials were included in the meeting packet. Different school boards in the state are adopting resolutions in support of the plan. Basically the plan calls for state funding for the program, mandated relief, differentiated accountability, teacher prep, help to “fast track” outside experienced professionals to teach.

Monica stated that in regards to fast-tracking, there still needs to be a formal education path with flexibility given to the districts to help the process along. Barb mentioned that this was tried at ISU previously and the program wasn’t successful. Another issue is state reciprocity with teacher licensing. It currently isn’t easy to become licensed in other states and vice versa.

Kathy asked if the changes outlined in the plan would have to go through the legislation process before schools could adopt the program. Jeff stated that the funding model (adequacy based), class size, student counselor ratio, will be addressed further down the road with along with general state aid.

Barb attended the open forum at Sugar Creek and was impressed with the information presented, not sure about the enhanced district flexibility. Discussion resulted in the following points:

1. The exemption of the Lab Schools from some of the state requirements such as the PARCC test. UHS is not taking the test since they have used the Explore, Plan, and ACT assessments and have documented history and tracking of student progress that would be lost by using PARCC. Also excluded are the teacher evaluations.
2. What about the waiver, if growth is proven and schools are able to evaluate teachers, how will the waiver work? Conversely, if not performing at the minimum level, do you still get the funds?
3. Based on local values, socio-economic status, difference in opportunities may seem unequal, cost per pupil is uneven, new model will balance that to reflect success.
4. Differences will be based on community expectations, local control of school systems.
5. Is there a lobbyist for Vision 20/20? IASA has support with a lobbyist, political capital. Will this also have to be approved at the federal level?

Mark recently met with representatives of the schools associations and many small districts represented. The principles were widely accepted with the toughest challenge being the political process and getting the community involved. Vision 20/20 is a great starting point for an IL state education plan.

Kathy asked if there are opposing school districts. There are, but there is more support than dissent. This also can be a platform for the Lab Schools to assist other schools with their changes/implementations. The Lab School faculty feel that this is not a big change, or new way of thinking. They like the “norm” with education decisions being made by people within education.

Faculty handbook review

The last update was in 1998. Human resources is working with administration, faculty. There will be faculty/staff input and will review tenure law and modify as needed. Hopefully we will be in a good place by this same time next year.

CAC nominations

For the FY15 elections, Jeff will send a Lab School email to parents with a link to fill out forms and at the next meeting we will choose our new members. We’ve updated our roster to include term length and representative area. We will send out the email within the next few weeks. Term length differences were brought up and the length of term depends on the area representation. Second terms were also brought up and have been used in the past when there have not been enough interested applicants.

Meeting Dates FY15 – January 13, and March 24

Minutes of our September meeting have been posted at:

<http://education.illinoisstate.edu/labschools/cac/previousmeetingminutes/>.