

Performance Evaluation Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes from the May 18, 2012 meeting

Parke Hotel
1413 Leslie Drive
Bloomington, IL

Meeting Called to Order

The following PEAC members were present: Kristen Adams, Dr. Bette Bergeron, Carol Caref, Dawn Conway, Dr. Gail Fahey, Dr. Hector Garcia, Dan Lambolely, Joe Matula, Adriana Medina, Steve Ponisciak representing Rob Meyer, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Don Daily representing Jodi Scott, Audrey Soglin, Michelle Standridge, Dr. Linda Tomlinson, Richard Voltz, and Dr. Phyllis Wilson.

Also present were: Brad White from Illinois Education Research Council, Larry Stanton from LB Stanton Consult Inc., Meredith Byers from the Illinois Education Association, Kathy Shaevel, Amy Alsop and Sue Walter from the Illinois Federation of Teachers, Vicki Phillips, Christi Chadwick, Henri Fonville, and David Osta from ISBE, Jonathan Furr from Holland & Knight, Dr. Judy Hackett from NSSEO, Dr. Tim Thomas from NSSSED, and Margery Yeager from Education Counsel (by phone).

Mr. Matula made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting as written. This was seconded by Dr. Fahey and approved by the Council.

Special Education Presentation

Dr. Judy Hackett, Superintendent of NSSEO, and Dr. Tim Thomas, Superintendent of NSSSED gave a presentation concerning Evaluating Special Education Administrators as part of PERA. Dr. Hackett and Dr. Thomas made the following points: 1) The summative evaluation is one portion of an effective formative evaluation process. 2) The evaluation of special education administrators is more similar to the evaluation of all administrators than it is different. 3) Student growth can reasonably be included as part of the evaluation of special education administrators. During discussion Dr. Thomas indicated that any evaluation plan needs flexibility and adaptability. There is no one test that can or will measure student growth for special education students. IEP goals can be used to measure growth for some students but cannot be the only measure. Students with disabilities should not be held to the same measures as non-disabled students. Many PEAC members voiced concerns about using IEP goals as a measure, who will monitor this?

Race to the Top 3: Local Assessment Supports

Jonathan Furr, an attorney with Holland & Knight, gave a presentation concerning local assessment supports for districts participating in Race to the Top 3. Thirty-seven school districts have agreed to participate. Illinois is working with the state of Colorado to develop evaluation standards for non common core subjects. An RFSP is being prepared to acquire an LEA strategy contractor. This contractor will manage and administer a local assessment strategy that can

assist with procuring purchasing contracts for commercially-available assessments that ensure best available pricing and a simplified procurement process. This contractor will also develop and manage a network of Illinois educators and experts that will develop local assessment tools and supports. The funding source for this will come from *American Achieves*, a non-profit organization.

Announcements

Dr. Tomlinson informed PEAC that Darren Reisberg, ISBE's General Council, has left ISBE to take a job at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Tomlinson also informed PEAC that the Part 50 rules did clear the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) and a certificate of no objection will be issued within the next week. The rules will become effective once the certificate of no objection has been filed with the Secretary of State's office. The final rules include the changes adopted by the State Board of Education in February in response to public comment as well as the removal of Section 50.110(e) relative to the prohibition against the use of the state assessments for the evaluation of teachers in school districts outside of the city of Chicago. This change was made in response to concerns from the US Department of Education in consideration of the State Board's application for a waiver from certain provisions of NCLB. The timelines for implementation are the same and the intent of the rules is the same.

Update from ISBE and CEC on Evaluator Training

Mary Jane Morris from the Consortium for Educational Change gave an update on the principal and teacher evaluator training modules. Registration is right around the corner. At present, the training modules are being finalized, user tests are being run on the systems, and staff is working on the development of support materials and resources. A pilot process is being conducted so as to allow for review of all assessment items for each module while determining the difficulty of each assessment item. The pilot participants represent the range of participants statewide. The data collected will be analyzed and used to support the validation and setting cut scores. CEC wants to ensure the statewide training is valid and that high quality is maintained throughout each module.

A *Growth Through Learning* Advisory Committee has been formed made up of representatives from school districts, universities, professional organizations, and other stakeholders with interest and expertise in teacher and principal evaluation. The role of this advisory committee will be to 1) provide stakeholder feedback on program implementation and impact; 2) advise on short- and long-term goals and measures for program success; and 3) review program outcomes and measures to make program and/or policy recommendations.

Discussion of the Illinois Teacher Evaluation State Plan

Margery Yeager from Education Counsel joined the meeting by phone. Ms. Yeager gave an overview of the work yet to be done in order to distribute a teacher evaluation state model for districts to default to as needed. She suggested group discussion topics that PEAC can use in order to maintain a focus while completing this work. She also shared the following thoughts on how to move forward 1) Identify subject matter experts that can help. 2) Will each group have people or a facilitator with content knowledge? 3) How will growth measures and summative

scoring be brought together? 4) Will need to show how growth and practice measures come together. In the discussion that followed members were asked to email Vicki concerning which topic preference they were interested in working on. The choices were growth, scoring, or resources. No timeline for completion has been established and the rules will have to be reopened for revisions to include this next work. A PEAC facilitator will soon be on board to lead this work, thus far Education Counsel has done this work voluntarily. The *Growth Through Learning* Advisory Committee will be contacted about becoming a part of this group for the next three months as the work continues.

There was no public comment during this meeting.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned.

These minutes were prepared by Henri Fonville and approved at the July 20, 2012 PEAC meeting.