

**School Success Task Force (SSTF)**  
**Meeting of February 13, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Illinois State Board of Education**  
**100 N First Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (V-Tel)**  
**Springfield, Illinois**

**Illinois State Board of Education**  
**James R Thompson Center**  
**100 West Randolph Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor (V-Tel)**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**I. Welcome and Introductions:**

Representative Davis welcomed everyone to the School Success Task Force meeting.

**II. Roll Call of Members: (No Quorum)**

***Members present:***

Christine Boyd, Illinois Department of Corrections  
Ava Carpenter-McPike, Member  
Representative William Davis, Co-Chair  
Debra Dyer, Illinois Department of Children & Family Services  
Kye Gaffey, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice  
Leslie Juby, Member  
Jennifer Loudon, Chicago Public Schools  
Kerrie Rueter, Illinois Department of Human Services  
V. Sue Taylor, Illinois State Board of Education

***General Public present:***

D'Athlone Brown, Florida Virtual Schools (FLVS)  
Lynda Forester, Illinois African American Family Commission  
Melva Clarida, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice  
Terry Solomon, Illinois African American Family Commission

***Illinois State Board of Education present:***

Beth Hanselman, Illinois State Board of Education  
Sally Veach, Illinois State Board of Education

**III. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2012 Meeting:**

Minutes could not be approved – No Quorum

**IV. Presentation – FLVS Leadership**

Presentation presented by the Florida Virtual School, D'Athlone Brown, regarding the Leadership Skills Development course. This course is designed to develop students' non-cognitive skills. It focuses on internal leadership and external leadership skills. Initial

results reflect positive results for students completing this course and a decline in suspensions for these students. Research is ongoing.

## **V. Best Practices Sub-Committee Report**

Leslie Juby updated the task force on the sub-committee activities. The sub-committee has not met since the last task force meeting. The sub-committee did receive feedback, regarding the survey, from Ms. Dyer and Dr. Sutton. The Best Practices Sub-Committee would like to send out the survey to the 43 high performing schools. They noted that they felt this information could be beneficial to the task force when compiling recommendations for the final report.

The sub-committee asked permission from the Task Force to proceed with disseminating the survey, through Survey Monkey, to the superintendents of the 43 targeted schools. A letter from Representative Davis, explaining the importance of the survey, will accompany the survey information.

Jennifer Loudon, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), requested that the sub-committee send the survey directly to the CPS principals rather than the Chief Education Officer.

Representative Davis agreed that the Best Practices Sub-Committee should proceed in sending the survey to the 43 schools. Except for CPS schools, the surveys will be sent to district superintendents. Representative Davis agreed to work with Ms. Juby in drafting a letter to be used for this purpose.

## **VI. Task Force Recommendations & Suggestions for SSTF Report:**

Representative Davis stated that in order for the School Success Task Force to continue in an official manner there would be a need to complete a Resolution to extend the end date for the Task Force.

Beth Hanselman stated that, per the Illinois State Board of Education Government Relations personnel, the SSTF can continue to meet without the extension. Ms. Hanselman further stated that the Resolution would need to be completed to extend the SSTF but that meetings could continue in the interim.

In December, Cynthia Riseman had stated that she would draft the Resolution for the extension of the School Success Task Force. However, Ms. Riseman is no longer employed at ISBE. Ms. Hanselman agreed to make an inquiry with Government Relations in order to determine who could work with Representative Davis to complete the Resolution to extend the SSTF.

Representative Davis asked the members is there was anyone who would like to no longer continue as members of the task force. He asked if there were any such individuals that they contact him.

Representative Davis inquired about the status of members who have consistently not been in attendance. Sue Taylor will forward a list of members and their attendance for each meeting. Representative Davis stated that he would like to follow-up with members who have not been in attendance, to ensure they are still interested in being a part of the task force.

Representative Davis acknowledged that four members and Dr. Soloman have volunteered to work on recommendations for the task force. Representative Davis asked if ISBE could provide a template to be utilized for the completion of the Final Report and the recommendations.

Beth Hanselman stated that any correspondence with ISBE could go through her and Sue Taylor. Ms. Hanselman noted that the two of them would work with ISBE Government Relations. There is no formal template for drafting a report, but we have previous reports that could be used to create an outline. The outline should describe the background of the SSTF, what the resolution stated, the member representation, the research from the Best Practices Sub-Committee, what type of data was discovered, what was learned from the hearings, and lastly, the recommendation of the School Success Task Force. According to Ms. Hanselman, these are the basic pieces to the outline that have been utilized to complete reports in the past. Ms. Hanselman further agreed to forward a copy of these basic elements to the SSTF members.

Representative Davis asked Dr. Solomon to coordinate the meeting of the four members to work on the report.

Kye Gaffey asked if suspensions and expulsions were going to be the focal point of the report. The consensus was yes.

Dr. Gaffey also asked if Jennifer Loudon could share information from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) best practices for reducing suspensions research.

Representative Davis agreed with Dr. Gaffey that the information from CPS for reducing suspensions could be beneficial to the Best Practices Sub-Committee. He asked if Ms. Loudon would pass this information to Leslie Juby for the Sub-Committee's review.

Ms. Loudon stated that the preliminary results of the best practice for the CPS schools looks promising. The impact appears to be both in reducing the number of out-of-school suspensions and in increasing school attendance. According to Ms. Loudon, this is still a fairly new program so the data is still preliminary. Ms. Loudon agreed to share the information that CPS has gathered to this point. She tentatively agreed to present the information during the next School Success Task Force meeting.

## **VII. Set Future Meeting Dates:**

The recommendation was made to conduct two additional public hearings. One public hearing would be held in East St. Louis and one in Cicero.

In a previous meeting it was discussed that the hearing in East St. Louis would be conducted during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> and hearing in Cicero would be conducted in April 2013.

Beth Hanselman stated that she will reach out to Art Culver from East St Louis to determine if there is a time and location that would work for them during the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was agreed that the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday) would work best for the Cicero public hearing. Ms. Hanselman also agreed to reach out to Cicero to inquire about scheduling a hearing.

The next meeting of the School Success Task Force was scheduled for March 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. The following School Success Task Force meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. after the Cicero public hearing has been conducted.

**VIII. Other Business:**

Quorum was not present to conduct a formal meeting.

**IX. Public Comment:**

None

**X. Adjournment**

Representative Davis adjourned the meeting.