

Minutes
**State Board of Education Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and
Deeper Learning Grant**
Friday, March 9, 2018

The Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant met Friday, March 9, 2018, in the Arkansas Department of Education (Department) room 105-A. The meeting was called to order at 9:56 a.m.

Present: Mireya Reith, Co-Chair; Charisse Dean, Co-Chair; Geania Dickey, Facilitator; Meghan Ables; Kim Wright; and Mary Claire Hyatt (in place of Jennifer Dedman). Mr. Montemayor joined via conference call.

Absent: Jennifer Dedman; Freddie Scott; Courtney Cochran; Dr. Mike Hernandez; and Dr. Geraldine Mallette.

Consent Agenda

The task force members moved to approve the consent agenda with one amendment provided by Mr. Montemayor. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in Consent Agenda:

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Action Agenda

Update from the Core Team

Meeting with CCSSO and state peers.

Ms. Ables said the previous CCSSO meeting was positive. Department Family and Community Engagement (FCE) "core team" staff members include Dr. Geraldine Mallette, Ms. Meghan Ables, and Ms. Kim Wright attended. Ms. Ables and Ms. Wright shared the FCE definition draft. She said the draft definition would be sent to the stakeholder group for feedback.

Ms. Reith offered that the word "civic" be used in place of "community" in the sentence "Engagement that recognizes and encourages the role family and community plays in advocating for educational quality and the opportunity of all children to be college, career, and community ready."

Ms. Reith asked that the group work to define “engagement.”

Mr. Montemayor said the history of defining the work has been to add additional words to old terminology in an attempt to advance the work and outcomes.

Ms. Wright said the feedback on Arkansas’s progress was very positive. She said CCSOO leaders used Arkansas’s work as an example throughout the convening.

Ms. Reith said she recognized equity centers and Mr. Montemayor’s willingness to work with Arkansas at the last NASBE conference.

Mr. Montemayor asked whether there was feedback from the Pine Bluff FCE stakeholder event. Ms. Wright said there was a lot of positive feedback and speaking invitation offers stemming from the session.

Regional meetings: locations, dates, key purpose(s).

Ms. Wright said the “four domains for rapid turn-around” is the platform and structure for the needs-assessment that the Department is doing. She said the core team decided to use the same structure for the FCE work. She said the domains are leadership, talent development/professional development, instruction, and culture.

Ms. Ables said she and Ms. Wright asked what districts and families should be doing. She said there would be a coalition for each domain. She said each coalition would have 10-20 people.

Ms. Wright said CCSSO recommended Illinois and Georgia as example states based on the framework the core team articulated as the desired goal.

Mr. Montemayor said he sent the core team data that would help in the process.

Ms. Ables said parents and students would be part of each domain.

Core Team Present and Family and Community Engagement Task Force Provide Input and Guidance

Family and community engagement coalition.

Ms. Reith said the culture coalition members should include an Arkansas State Board of Education (State Board) member to provide backing and support in the culture change. She said adding Department leadership strategically is also a key component.

Ms. Ables said the core team would meet with the Department leadership team after creating the coalition to align and ensure that there is representation on the internal Department committees that are doing FCE work in their respective positions.

Ms. Reith emphasized that the core team focus on the process towards fulfilling the standards and not the standards themselves so that compliance and checking boxes would not become an issue.

Mr. Montemayor asked whether the core team considered the travel and per diem costs for coalition members. Ms. Ables said the core team planned to have community partners donate gas cards. Mr. Montemayor said travel costs for parent involvement is a valid Title I expense. He said districts should be encouraged to use the 1% allocation to provide transportation for families engaged through the coalition.

Ms. Reith advised the task force and core team to consider targeting schools identified with low scores per the A-F scores release in April 2018 for participation in the coalition.

Ms. Ables said creating the framework and planning regional events would be the dual purpose of the coalition. She said each coalition member would both be part of a knowledge-based subcommittee and a regional subcommittee.

Ms. Hyatt said non-traditional guardians of children face unique challenges that need consideration in this process. She said the group should include foster parents and non-familial caregivers in the process.

Ms. Wright shared an initial rubric for assessing how districts are engaging families and communities. She shared an example of the practice, "Customize and target support to meet needs."

Mr. Montemayor said one challenge in this work is capturing the process of family leadership. He said the core team would have to capture the qualitative data that demonstrates a family's leadership growth in their community.

Ms. Ables said the core team would like to end the coalition work in Little Rock with a large event and press conference.

Ms. Hyatt said the medical legal clinic at Arkansas Children's Hospital does a lot of education work. She recommended reaching out to the clinic so that they could reach out to parents for the culminating event.

Ms. Wright said CCSSO asked each state to come up with next steps. She said the next step for Arkansas is to finalize the coalition list. She said the core team gathered ideas from various attendees at a recent education-related state conference in early March. She said the Department website page for FCE was under construction and would share resources with the public. She said the Department is working on making the "Parent" tab on the Department website more user-friendly.

Ms. Wright said the Department wants to model the process of developing coalitions. She said this model would serve as an example for districts.

Ms. Reith said stakeholders need a one-page handout in addition to online activity. She said the face-to-face interaction would be a great benefit to communicating the coalition-building process to families.

Ms. Ables said the Department would like to receive professional development to understand the culture of regions and individual communities across the state.

Ms. Reith recommended talking to the Arkansas Department of Career Education and Higher Education as a bridge-building opportunity. Ms. Ables said there is an opportunity to meet with those groups alongside existing recurring meetings that

Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure Dr. Jeremy Owoh has with leaders of those state agencies.

Ms. Ables said the core team came up with a number of background information characteristics that coalition members should fit into in order to choose.

Ms. Wright said there were not many people who signed up to be part of the regional coalitions after the Pine Bluff Community and Family Engagement Stakeholder meeting.

Ms. Reith said these domains (i.e. leadership, talent development/professional development, instruction, and culture) be considered subcommittees of the overall coalition. She said the leadership subcommittee meeting could be referenced as the Leadership Subcommittee of the Family and Community Engagement Coalition.

Ms. Ables said the core team would recommend that students serving on subcommittees ride-share with a local teacher or administrator in the district.

Mr. Montemayor recommended that a short synopsis be written about the background of the coalition-building efforts of the core team and task force.

The task force members decided on Wednesday, April 4th, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. as the as the Leadership Subcommittee of the Family and Community Engagement Coalition meeting date. The task force said that the location would be confirmed at a later date.

Roles and responsibilities of members.

Ms. Dickey said the roles needed to be discussed for the subcommittees. She asked for feedback of the representation in the leadership subcommittee as a role. Ms. Dean said there was not anyone representing the faith community.

Ms. Ables said "leadership" in the context of a subcommittee is defined as "family, community, and schools."

Ms. Hyatt said many families get information about schools through their medical providers. She recommended reaching out to the medical community through clinics.

Ms. Reith said she is happy to serve on the leadership subcommittee as a community member after she finishes her role as a State Board member. Ms. Dean said she would like to take the official State Board title for the leadership subcommittee once Ms. Reith rolled off the State Board.

Ms. Wright said every State Board member is welcome to attend any of the coalition and subcommittee meetings.

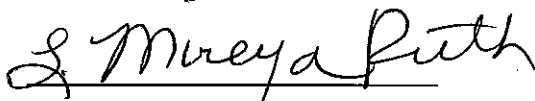
Ms. Dickey said she had mixed feelings about Department staff and legislators on the subcommittees. She said the core team might consider ex officio roles for these members involved. She said they could be a resource and an observer. She said having a State Board member in each committee would be good. Ms. Dean said the ex officio role would be good for legislators.


Ms. Dickey asked whether coalition members would serve for indefinite or limited terms. The task force members discussed a perpetual group that would naturally transition into different roles or off the coalition team for replacement. Ms. Dickey said a short-term tenure for coalition members should be set based on the CCSSO state frameworks timeframe with an option for continue into the future.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis.


L. Mireya Reith, Co-Chair


Charisse Dean, Co-Chair

