

Minutes State Board of Education Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant Wednesday, May 16, 2018

The Task Force on Family Engagement in Learning and Deeper Learning Grant (Task Force) met Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College Business and Industry Center. The meeting was called to order at 2:38 p.m.

Present: Mireya Reith (via conference call), Co-Chair; Charisse Dean, Co-Chair; Geania Dickey, Facilitator; Meghan Ables; Kim Wright; Courtney Cochran; Dr. Geraldine Mallette; and Mr. Aurelio Montemayor (via conference call).

Absent: Jennifer Dedman; Dr. Mike Hernandez; and Freddie Scott.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Reith moved to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Items included in Consent Agenda:

- Minutes –April 30, 2018

Action Agenda Debrief Subcommittee Meetings

Mr. Montemayor said the dialogue at the tables was the most dynamic portion of the meetings.

Ms. Dean said cutting down on the slips of paper helped facilitate deeper conversations. She said this was an adjustment from the previous evaluation feedback.

Ms. Ables said the team extended the meeting time by 30 minutes based on feedback from earlier subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Dean said there was a lot of diversity, but there was not enough diversity from the faith-based community. Ms. Ables said there were two (2) members of the faith community in the last subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Montemayor said there was not enough representation from parents. Ms. Ables said two (2) grandparents were scheduled but not able to attend due to last minute conflicts.

Ms. Ables said two (2) EAST facilitators were present at the May 15, 2018, meeting. She said both facilitators brought students who were engaged in inviting other students into the work.

Mr. Montmayer said intentionally reaching out to different ethnic groups would continue to be important.

Discuss Ideas for Regional Meetings

Ms. Wright said there was a list of locations based on feedback from representatives in all five (5) regions.

Ms. Ables said September 18, 2018, was the first tentative date for a regional meeting. She said that meeting would be in southeast Arkansas. She said Monticello and McGhee were recommended as locations. Ms. Reith said her non-profit had immigrant resource centers in both towns. She said the Family and Community Engagement (FCE) team would travel for the national Council of Chief State School Officers meeting the following week. Ms. Ables said she believed McGhee would have very active community-based engagement. Mr. Montemayer said the FCE team would need to consider the physical location of those two towns in relationship to geography and the ease by which stakeholders in southeast Arkansas could commute to either town.

Ms. Dickey recommended that the morning meetings be in one town and the evening meetings be in a nearby town within the same region.

Mr. Montemayer said the language used in the meetings should be family-friendly and not full of education jargon.

Ms. Reith said the main takeaway from the ForwARd Arkansas community meetings was that schools needed to increase family and community engagement. She recommended that the numbers of minority and marginalized voices be at a critical mass so that participants did not feel tokenized and uncomfortable.

Ms. Ables said coalition members could be facilitators of the regional meetings. Ms. Reith and Mr. Montemayer said the FCE team could coordinate facilitation trainings for coalition members to take ownership of the regional meetings.

Ms. Dean recommended that a toolkit be produced so that each region could use it as a basis to reproduce community engagement meetings. Mr. Montemayer said he could produce a training packet for facilitators. Ms. Dickey said the toolkit should include a step-by-step process including how to send out save-the-date invitations all the way through how to execute the meetings.

Update on Focus Groups

Ms. Wright said the FCE team considered having Chamber of Commerce, men-focused, faith-based community and other affinity groups present. She said they would be organized as information sessions on what is happening across the state with family and community engagement.

Ms. Reith said the affinity groups would be useful for identifying the pieces that may be missing as part of this process. She said they could also provide physical space for future work as well.

The Task Force decided to postpone additional meetings to focus on the regional meetings.

Update on Funding

Ms. Wright said \$15,000 was the projected budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. She said this number was based on specific needs and not all-inclusive. She said the Department was working on W.K. Kellogg Foundation funding.

Ms. Reith said she had contacts at the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She said she has asked for NASBE's support. She said she is looking at another foundation for funding.

Ms. Dean said she would discuss funding opportunities with a philanthropist.

Present Updated Timeline

Ms. Wright said a Leadership Subcommittee Zoom meeting was scheduled for May 29, 2018, and the Talent Development Subcommittee Zoom meeting would meet on May 31, 2018. Ms. Wright said these meetings would be used to synthesize and discuss the conversations in all of the subcommittee meetings. She said the FCE team would solicit feedback on the language of the preliminary state standards for family and community engagement.

Ms. Dean said the FCE team should ask that stakeholders present at the upcoming Zoom meetings return to their communities to seek additional funding sources.

Ms. Ables said save-the-dates would go out in July and August for the regional coalition meetings.

Ms. Cochran said the family and community engagement work was a source of pride for the state.

Dr. Mallette said there is a federal toolkit for Title I. She said the guidelines were not extensive. She said having suggestions for districts on how to engage families and communities instead of just checking boxes to comply with federal requirements would be beneficial for communities.

Adjournment Ms.

Dean adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Kelicia Hollis

Mireya Reith

Mireya Reith, Co-Chair

Charisse Dean

Charisse Dean, Co-Chair