

# **Standards of Learning Innovation Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Accountability 2.0 Subcommittee Meeting

Conference Room 3, Patrick Henry Building

April 29, 2015 10:00am-1:00pm

### **Attendees**

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#### **Present (Sub) Committee Members:**

Dabney Carr, Dr. Jared Cotton, Sarah Gross, Dr. Laurie McCullough, Dr. Stewart Roberson, Dr. Alan Seibert, Dr. Steve Staples, Karen Thomsen, and Ben Williams.

No members present via conference call.

#### **Absent (Sub) Committee Members:**

Dr. Shawnrell Blackwell, Kelly Booz, Chris Braunlich, Karen Cross, Dr. Kim Dockery, Deborah Frazier, Meg Gruber, Anne Holton, Dr. Susan Magliaro, Dr. Chriss Walther-Thomas, and Bill White,

Kim Dockery sent Craig Herring as her substitute, Meg Gruber sent Sandra Barnstead as her substitute, and Chris Braunlich sent Diane Atkinson as his substitute.

### **Scribe**

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Lisa Jackson

### **Agenda**

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- **Review of Preliminary Report**
- **Presentations**
  - **Inclusion of Students with Disabilities**
  - **Inclusion of English Language Learners**

- **Discussion**
- **Next Steps**
- **Adjournment**

## **Review of Preliminary Report**

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- **10:05am** – Laurie called meeting to order and gave welcome remarks to the committee.
  - Subcommittee members provided brief introductions.
- Laurie began the meeting by discussing future work of the subcommittee and unresolved issues.
  - Subcommittee members provided input into recommendations pertaining to on-site reviews, English Language Learner, and special needs issues.

## **Presentation on Inclusion of Students with Disabilities**

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- Guest speakers were introduced.
  - Dr. Samantha Hollins is the Director of Special Education Program Improvement in the Division of Special Education & Student Services at the Virginia Department of Education.
  - Dr. Debbie Speece is the Associate Dean of Research in the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. She was a former Commissioner at the National Center on Special Education Research for the U.S. Department of Education.
  - Dr. Tom Farmer is a full professor in the Special Education and Disability Policy Department in the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University.
- During the discussion Samantha touched topics involved with the relation between special education and accountability, the need to provide accommodations, the need to look at school climate. Recommended allowing greater flexibility with testing for students with disabilities.
- Debbie emphasized the critical role of formative assessment in guiding instruction in the classroom. Discussed the need to make policies that will penetrate the classroom. Provided recommendations to the committee regarding early identification, and formative assessments.

- Tom discussed the need to look at the student as a whole child. Emphasized that there are other domains to be concerned with – social skills, behavioral skills, and academic skills. Lack of adaptation of any of these would likely lead to failure and dropout. Recommended that support should be consistent and the importance of interventions in the classrooms.
- Subcommittee were given chance to ask questions of the panel.
  - Questions were asked that pertained to measuring socio-emotional needs of children, need for non-cognitive skills, and the need to have students present during instruction time.

## **Presentation on Inclusion of English Language Learners**

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- Guest speakers were introduced and joined via Skype.
  - Corey Alder is the Coordinator of English Language Learners Program for Roanoke City Schools.
  - Dr. Kris Tilley-Lubs is an Associate Professor of Education at Virginia Tech; she specializes in English as a Second Language and Multicultural Education.
- The guest speakers spoke about the impact of accountability over the years, and the negative consequences associated with the change in test over the years. Despite the WIDA being given to students, the measure is not included in school accreditation or on school report cards.

## **Discussion**

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- Subcommittee members broke into small groups to discuss items of concern for report.
- Small groups were also tasked with summarizing and synthesizing take-aways from the meeting.
  - Groups reported that the most significant of the take-aways to be school climate, lack of capacity to handle and manage data, accommodations for English Language Learners and the need to make alternate opportunities available, use of WIDA, and link between the needs of businesses and special education policy and the need for socio-emotional learning.

## Next Steps

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- Laurie suggested having a conference call prior to the next Assessment 2.0 subcommittee meeting being held on May 19, 2015 to allow for the public and subcommittee to give input and feedback of the draft. Other members of the Subcommittee recommended a face-to-face meeting with the option to call in.
  - Subcommittee will meet at 11am on May 19, 2015, prior to the 1pm Assessment meeting.
- A draft of recommendations will be out at least 10 days prior to May 19, 2015.

## Adjournment

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- 12:50pm – Laurie adjourned the meeting.

## Next Meeting

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- May 19, 2015 11:00am-1:00pm – Accountability 2.0 Subcommittee, Conference Room 2, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Richmond VA 23219
- May 19, 2015 1:00pm-4:00pm – Assessment 2.0 Subcommittee, Conference Room 3, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Richmond VA 23219
- June 2, 2015 time TBD – Full Body Meeting
- August 26, 2015 1:00pm-4:00pm – Full Body Meeting, West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Richmond VA 23219
- October 29, 2015 1:00pm-4:00pm – Full Body meeting, West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Richmond VA 23219