

QPA Advisory Council Meeting Notes
April 5, 2010
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
1515 SW 10th Street
Marvin Auditorium (Room 101C)
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Diane DeBacker, Interim Commissioner of Education
(see handout – top 10 issues in education)

Diane DeBacker, reported on Race to the Top – KS application received 326.4 out of 500 from reviewers; 400 was the minimum to be considered as a finalist. Noted that KS may not apply again for second round due to several areas that would require legislative change; unlikely to get last minute change in legislation; talked about Charter school law and desire from USDE to see more Charter schools; also noted USDE desire to see a statewide single instrument for teacher evaluation linked to student achievement.

Noted that a recent meeting of CCSO with Secretary Duncan revealed more emphasis on competitive grants for the future of funding; also noted the potential disadvantage in Kansas as KSDE is not set up to write and manage federal competitive grants. Noted that Secretary Duncan's view was on flexibility and the choice of the State to apply for those they want and not for others.

Common Standards will go to the State Board in June for a first look. Standards are part of a national effort that Kansas has signed on as a partner. Suggested that Kansas state standards align well with the common standard. Suggested that the State Board may not adopt the national standards. Option two is to work with the Board of Regents on a common set of standards that all post-secondary institutes support. Early indications of Reauthorization of ESEA suggests that standards that states have will need to be fully vetted against national and international expectations.

ARRA – funding cliff

Economy – expect an additional \$172 million cut in FY11 on top of the \$300 million that has already been cut

Teachers and leaders – again, as part of USDE reauthorization of ESEA the move appears to be from quality to effectiveness.

Elections – Governor, entire House of Representatives, State Board of Education and Local Boards of Education

Rural Education – 91% of schools in Kansas are rural and will require a close look at how services will be delivered.

MTSS – Kevin Davis
Kansas MTSS Core Group
Project staff funded through IDEA part B discretionary funds
Greenbush and Keystone

FY11 – new structuring and implementation rules; changes – behavior will be included in the materials as well – aligned to PBS (Positive Behavior Supports); currently piloting the structuring process; MTSS and RTI – goal of MTSS is to develop a model of best practices coupled with school improvement.

MTSS - not required; however, Schoolwide Title I requires tiered language

Tom Foster

(see handouts – Kansas Additions to Common Core Standards for (1) English Language Arts and (2) Mathematics

Common Core Standards – 52 entities are participating in the process of developing the common core standards.

Noted the potential for rejection by the state board; noted that KSDE curriculum experts believe the current document is better than our current standards and likely to be what a Kansas product would look like when completed

Elephant in the room appears to be “what will be assessed” as the specifications have not been written

Tom suggested that new assessments might be available by 2014 at the earliest

Tom also noted concerns with regulatory requirements of the future, including reauthorization of ESEA and IDEA and the impact on the common core standards and assessments

Teacher Collaborative Workspace – online initiative to develop instructional resources tied to state standards and student deficiencies – noted that he has a prototype available now – current system allows the user to tell the system what is desired in the area of state standards (i.e. all 4th grade math computation standards).

(see handout – The Next Iteration) –

End of pathway assessments, requirement of career and tech education – need to learn more about this and see what Marty knows and understands.

Scott Smith – Assessment

Noted that he and his team have been in the schools monitoring state assessment administration. Suggested the effort of the work is to build relationships with the schools. Scott shared that the checklist and tools they use to monitor the administration of assessments is on the web site.

Check for information on pilot assessments that include CTE questions. Next year they are planning to have a pilot for the online writing tool.

Janette Nobo – Kansas Course Codes

Noted that the Course codes are attached to the system of teacher licensure and career pathways.

Pilot year for the student course records collection system tied to the teacher and course code; part of a federal requirement and will be required next year.

KIDS webpage – SCRS – FAQ on the new student course records collection system

Diane Stephan

Licensed personal report closed –

Pilot on teacher leader assessment

Shelby Hoytal , Executive Director of KVC

(see handout Kansas Volunteer Commission)

Kansas Volunteer Commission – spoke of two grant opportunities –

Service-Learning in Kansas

Learn and Serve Kansas funding is now available for 2010-2011 for school-based service-learning grants to local partnerships, including a state-defined Local Education Agency (LEAs) and at least one additional organization. This grant program is federally funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (the Corporation) and administered by the Kansas Volunteer Commission/Kansas State Department of Education (KVC/KSDE). Learn and Serve Kansas is a statewide grant program that supports service-learning in schools that help students from kindergarten through twelfth grade meet community needs while improving their academic skills and learning the habits of good citizenship.

Funding is intended to support the implementation and expansion of programs that advance service-learning as a teaching, learning and youth development strategy.

2010-2011 AmeriCorps State Grant Formula (Closes April 8, 2010, 4 p.m.)

Julie Ford

Title I update – addressing persistently lowest-achieving schools; school improvement (see handout Part I: SEA Requirements)

Title I School Improvement Grants regulations necessitated the need to identify the lowest persistently performing schools and define same; additionally, high schools in title I districts were to be included for assistance with Title I funds as defined by federal regulations; KSDE defined schools as either Tier I, II or III schools. Federal regulations require implementation of improvement plans in August of 2010 even though state application has not been approved. \$50,000 to \$2,000,000 per site per year available to help make improvements. Schools must select from among federally approved models – closure; charter; turnaround (replace 50% of staff and principal); transformational (similar to turnaround with a bit more flexibility). Sustainability must be addressed as part of improvement plan – noted its similarity with the Title I schoolwide application. Process is competitive in the sense of funding is approved by state based upon the improvement plan submitted. Questions raised as to the implementation of models that address diversity in the various schools.

(see handout from USDE “A Blueprint for Reform” the reauthorization of the elementary and secondary education act)

Noted that the reauthorization of the School Nutritional Program in the department of agriculture went through committee in one week.

Appears that funding is moving toward a competitive grant process wherein a school may or may not apply for funding with a specific set of criteria that must be followed to receive funding. Hints that Title I may move away from poverty numbers and move toward college and career readiness.

Discussions about moves away from different categories of Title funding going away and moving to a pool of money to support Charter Schools. Suggestions of moving away from a 100% target of proficiency to a growth model; however, accountability will remain.

Graduation rate – noted the federal government has required changes in the calculation of graduation rates for AYP; QPA previously required 75% with no subgroups; change will be to 80% and the inclusion of subgroups beginning with freshman next year. Feds have not approved KS changes, thus no word given to districts yet.

Teresa White

Presented PowerPoint presentation - Graduation Survey Results

Appeared the consensus of the group was to recommend to the state board of education not to increase graduation requirements; rationale included: same recommendation from the field; need for parents to be responsible for student's education; allow for local control; allow for flexibility of schools to meet the needs of students in their communities; uncertainty of state financing for public education; uncertainty of ESEA reauthorization; discussion of real purpose for increase and perhaps need to look at root causes and address same; suggested the need to address student engagement; more does not mean rigor; continue to allow for dual credits