

Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2010- Curtis State Office Building, Topeka KS

Commission members in attendance:

Acting Secretary John Mitchell, Jessica Noble, Harriett Johnson, Senator Anthony Hensley, James Mireles, Jana Shaver, Malissa Martin-Wilke, Miriam Krehbiel, Tanya Keys, Nicolette Geisler, Deputy Secretary Roger Haden, Denise Wren, Keil Eggers, Judge Tom Webb, Linda Kotich, Donovan Karber, Blake West and Dr. John Heim

Support personnel, proxies and presenters:

Dr. Julie Ford, Kathy Hund (for Secretary Thornton), Bobbie Bower (for Nancy Keel), Randy Bowman (for Acting Commissioner Casarona), Kathy Gosa and Steve Williams

Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Agenda:

- Acting Secretary John Mitchell welcomed everyone and shared regrets that Commissioner Dr. DeBacker was out of state at another meeting. Dr. Julie Ford, KSDE, served as Co-Chair. Special thanks to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for hosting today's meeting and to the Kansas State Department of Education for sponsoring today's lunch.
- Jessica Noble explained that there are two topics that have not been covered during any of the previous meetings. In order to keep on schedule, a teleconference will be held on Dec. 21st to discuss and make recommendations on the two topics. The time will either be 10-12pm or 1-3pm. Jessica will send out a meeting wizard request and whichever time receives the most votes will win. All Commission members are invited to participate. The two topics are: providing financial incentives for districts that are effective in graduating at-risk students and recovering high school dropouts AND establishing a threshold annual dropout rate for each school district such that rates in excess of threshold levels would establish a mandatory requirement on districts to adopt and implement a district-wide action plan to reduce dropout rates.
- Motion to approve minutes as presented moved by Denise Wren and seconded by Miriam Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Recommendations from Last Meeting:

- Steve Williams, CCSR Facilitator, led the group in a review of the eleven recommendations from the 11-15-10 meeting. (Red indicates original recommendation) (Blue indicates adopted recommendation) (If no changes were made to the original recommendation, it will only appear in blue)
- I. Stakeholders should participate with school districts in developing programs that provide an alternative to suspending students for attendance-related issues. Stakeholders should participate with school districts in developing programs that provide an alternative to suspending students for attendance issues.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Denise Wren and seconded by Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.

2. The Kansas State Department of Education should provide guidance on what constitutes an excused absence.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Keil Eggers and seconded by Judge Tom Webb. Motion passed unanimously.
3. The Commission recommends that schools create an attendance council to identify students with chronic absences and create an action plan for addressing absenteeism. Schools and stakeholders should work together to establish an attendance council that will create a schoolwide action plan for addressing absenteeism and develop individual action plans for students with chronic absences.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by James Mireles. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Target and educate parents, community and school staff on the importance of regular attendance. Educate students, parents/guardians and the community on the importance of regular attendance (this could be accomplished by the school attendance council).
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Blake West and seconded by Donovan Karber. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Students who are actively engaged in school activities are more likely to have regular attendance; therefore support should be given to continuing extra-curricular activities. Schools should be provided the resources to continue and develop extra- and co-curricular activities and all students should be encouraged to participate.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Blake West and seconded by Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.
6. The Commission's collaborative work should be continued under the format of the P-20 Council with the Council's membership broadened to include representatives from communities and other agencies. The Commission's collaborative work should be continued under the format of a P-20 Council with the Council's membership broadened to include representatives from communities and other agencies.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Malissa Martin-Wilke and seconded by Miriam Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Identify and establish public/private sector partnerships. Identify, develop and engage public/private sector partnerships to support individual student success for graduation.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Malissa Martin-Wilke and seconded by Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Look at established collaboration models that have been successful particularly involving rural areas. Examine established public/private sector collaboration models that have been successful particularly involving rural areas.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Denise Wren and seconded by Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Provide the opportunity for every student in Kansas to take the Kansas Career Pipeline Assessment and be counseled about career opportunities that are available. Include representatives from the schools, community, business, industry, and agencies in the

counseling process. Provide the opportunity for every student in Kansas to take the Kansas Career Pipeline Assessment and be counseled about career opportunities that are available. Provide access to representatives from the schools, community, business, industry, and agencies in the counseling process.

- Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Malissa Martin-Wilke and seconded by Miriam Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **Recommend and support the sharing of appropriate data across all agencies.** Recommend and support the secure sharing and appropriate use of data across agencies.

- Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Judge Tom Webb and seconded by Donovan Karber. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **Every high school student should be tested on a nationally recognized college entrance exam (e.g., ASSET, COMPASS, Accuplacer, WorkKeys) prior to his/her sophomore year and again prior to his/her senior year to ensure that the student and his/her parents/guardians understand the student's readiness for postsecondary education, training, and/or employment.** Every high school student should be given the opportunity to be tested on a national exam prior to his/her junior year to ensure that the student and his/her parents/guardians understand the student's abilities and readiness for postsecondary education, training, and/or employment to develop an action plan for skill enhancement.

- Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Keil Eggers. Motion passed unanimously.

Small Group Work:

- The large group divided into the following two small groups:

Group One: Explore funding sources (public, private and non-profit) and identify resources that may be available to implement and sustain the work and recommendations of the Commission

- Discussion led by: Steve Williams, CCSR

Group Two: Overview of KSDE longitudinal data system and development of an early warning indicator system

- Presentation and discussion led by: Jessica Noble, KSDE and Kathy Gosa, KSDE

- Each group was given time to work on their topic before they reported out their recommendations to the large group.
- Group One Recommendations:
 - Develop a long-range (10 year) strategic plan for funding education linked to implementations of the Commission's recommendations.
 - Leverage the positive/collaborative education community in Kansas to attract external funding in support of the Commission's transformational recommendations. (e.g., Federal dollars, private national foundations such as Gates Foundation)
 - Identify key champions in the state to facilitate meaningful collaboration among stakeholders.

- **Group Two Recommendations:**
 - KSDE should develop an Early Warning Indicator System that includes K-12 students and focuses on prevention rather than remediation.
 - The Early Warning Indicator System should place the least amount of burden on the schools.
 - The Early Warning Indicator System should encompass a school and community-based intervention component.
 - Identify key markers at each grade level that would indicate a need for intervention.

- Voting on these recommendations was postponed to the next meeting to give Commission members an opportunity to study the materials and reflect on the recommendations.

Public Comment:

- No public comments were made

Closing Remarks:

- Next meeting date: Jan. 4, 2010-Kansas National Education Association Building, 715 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612