Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) Advisory Council Tuesday, September 3, 2013 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. DCF Learning Center Room B 2600 SW East Circle Drive South Topeka, KS

Present: Tom Armstrong, Cindi Barta, Tammy Bartels, Jennifer Bessolo, Nancy Bolz,

Cathy Brandt, Mary Colvin, Mary Cooper, Julie Doyen, Mark Farr, Kelly Gillespie,

Jane Groff, Kenneth Jantz, Karla King, Bert Lewis, Suzan Patton, Jeannie

Pfannenstiel, Sherri Rawlins, Mandy Rohr, John Schifferdecker, Katherine Sprott,

Pam Stranathan, and Ronald Walker

KSDE Staff: Bill Bagshaw, Brad Neuenswander, Jessica Noble, Amanda Noll, Vicki Seeger

Welcome

Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting asking everyone to introduce themselves, where they were from and what they do.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ron Walker. Bert Lewis seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Approval of December Minutes:

No motion was made since the minutes were not included in the meeting packet. A motion will be requested at the December meeting.

Orientation to the QPA Advisory Council for New Members:

Julie explained the new member notebook. It was suggested the council meet in Junction City for the December meeting instead of the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. Chairwoman Doyen asked to have five more notebooks made for members that have never received new member notebooks. These will be distributed to new members at the December 2, 2013 meeting.

Overview of the Waiver; 2014 Assessments:

Brad Neuenswander presented an update on the waiver and an overview of the 2014 assessments. Individual states may apply to seek two additional flexibility options if the state feels it helps during the transition to new assessments. The delay would allow building and district leaders to wait for one additional year in using student growth data to inform personnel decisions. This would move the use of student growth data from the 2015-16 year to the 2016-17 year. The deadline for updates to the waiver is September 30, 2013. The timeline for implementing new evaluation instruments does not change. The Teaching in Kansas Commission II Sub-Committee will be meeting on August 7, 2013 at which time the delay will be

discussed. Extended time would allow for 1) additional professional learning opportunities to inform the field about multiple measures of student growth and using student growth data to inform personnel decisions; 2) additional student academic growth data would become available; 3) relief of pressure to the field as they implement new evaluation instruments; and, 4) allow more time for technical assistance from KSDE. For the 2013-14 academic year, students will not be double tested if they participate in a field test for the assessments.

Kansas has received verbal communication from the United States Department of Education that the Kansas waiver will be extended for the 2013-14 school year. Currently, we are waiting for a letter for any conditions that may still be associated around Principal 3 of the waiver. Kansas has an ESEA Waiver monitoring visit from USDE scheduled for September 11-12, 2013.

We want a system that measures the Kansas definition of college and career ready that is appropriate for and meaningful to all Kansas students. College and Career Ready means an individual has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, and employability skills to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Mr. Neuenswander addressed a question regarding special needs children unable to communicate and whether or not those students will be tested in the same ways and considered for demonstrating student growth on teacher evaluations. There will still be testing for a certain percent of students but the assessment may not be the same.

School Counseling Standards and Social-Emotional Charter Development Standards:

Mr. Kent Reed presented on the school counseling standards which provide schools with the framework for a comprehensive school counseling program. These standards were approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in April 2012. Kansas was the first state to adopt the standards.

Mr. Reed also updated the Council on the Safe and Supportive Schools Grant addressing school climate. This grant has provided tools and professional development for Kansas Schools including the Bullying Prevention Hotline (1-800-CHILDREN), Bullying Policy Workshops, and Alternatives to Punitive School Discipline (Restorative Practices).

In a partnership with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disabilities (formerly SRS) Prevention Services, mental health mini-grants are provided to Kansas schools to specifically provide evidence-based interventions addressing mental health issues in schools.

Kansas 21st Century Accreditation Model Update and Next Steps

Vicki Seeger, Jessica Noble, and Bill Bagshaw presented an update on the new accreditation model to the Council. This work included finding common language between the rubrics and enlisting assistance from the internal work group to revise the rubrics again in July and August.

In addition, definitions for each of the R's were developed. These were sent to the QPA Advisory Council subcommittee tasked with developing the definitions:

Cindy Barta Nancy Bolz Katherine Sprott Melinda Stanley

The definitions were revised based on their collective feedback.

In a substantive review of the rubrics there were five common threads that are easily identifiable and appear throughout the documents including:

- Professional learning
- Resources
- Technology
- Data
- Leadership

There are other threads that surface at times, but do not appear to be consistently present. The QPA Advisory Council was tasked with reviewing the rubrics to make certain the following topics have been addressed and make recommendations for addressing them if they appear to be missing or under-represented. These include:

- Global competence
- Diversity/equity
- Tiered systems of support
- Teacher quality
- Higher education
- Alternative education needs for some populations (at-risk services, gifted education, online students)
- English Language Learners
- Special Education Students

A different process for accreditation based on innovation was presented to the Council. This new process is based on holistic growth by a school district based on using the rubrics as a needs assessment tool. In this new process innovation would be stripped from the rubric (it appears to be a weaker sub-R as the rubrics are now written). District accreditation would entail asking the districts to complete the rubrics as a needs assessment, identifying two areas for change (innovation), selecting and implementing strategies to address those areas, collecting and analyzing data over a four-year period about how the strategies for change are working, and submitting evidence for each of the sub-Rs that demonstrate the rubric rating.

An accreditation protocol handbook is in the beginning stages of being developed. The handbook currently includes a philosophy of accreditation developed from documents already published by the agency and the developed definitions for the Rs and sub-Rs. A bibliography has also been started. Jessica Noble is working on the glossary of terms that will be included. We want the teacher and leader evaluation system and the new accreditation model to interface and look very similar.

Jessica Noble and Kayeri Akweks compiled results from the field study about what artifacts or evidence could be submitted to an electronic repository to demonstrate the levels within the rubrics. The QPA Advisory Council was tasked with adding to this compiled document in order to consider all of the evidence that could be submitted so that informed decisions can be made about what will be submitted as we move forward with the new accreditation model. Concern was expressed about the number of artifacts currently proposed, what documents will be meaningful to the process, and making certain that accreditation does not become a process of collecting evidence with little meaning.

Meetings with IT have been getting more detailed as the accreditation model becomes more clear. There are still lots of decisions to be made about what we want the web page to look like, but work has begun. It is hoped the repository for evidence will be in place by January 2014 so that a field test could be underway in the spring of 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Noll