

Coalition of Innovative School Districts
Unofficial Minutes – October 13, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

Members in Attendance – Deena Horst – SBOE, Jim McNiece – SBOE, Randy Watson – KSDE, Mark Crawford – USD 418, Bill Mullins – USD 364, Tonya Merrigan – USD 229, Cindy Lane – USD 500, Aaron Chard – USD 484, Adrian Howie – USD 210

Guests in Attendance – Leah Fliter – KASB, Brad Neuenswander – KSDE, Idalia Shuman – KNEA, Brian Houghton – USD 484, Diana Wieland – USD 315, Kati Thul – USD 267

1.0 Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Deena to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of item 5.2 Discussion about Defining the Purpose of the Coalition. The motion passed 8-0. (Randy had not yet joined the meeting.)

2.0 Public Comments – There were no comments from the public.

3.0 Consent Items – A motion was made by Aaron and seconded by Cindy to approve the minutes from the August and September meetings. The motion passed 8-0. (Randy had not yet joined the meeting.)

4.0 Reports

4.1 Updates from Districts

USD 229 reported that they have been working on a Middle School Study in their district to evaluate the structure of their middle schools. They also have a Mental Health Task Force working in their district, and they have started evaluating their World Language Program K-12.

USD 484 reported about their efforts to improve student advocacy throughout their district. They also reported about the changes they have made this year related to planning and collaboration time as well as changes in their professional development structure.

USD 210 reported that they are changing their focus at Elementary School to concentrate on individual students and their growth rather than achieving a benchmark score. They also reported on the challenges they are facing as they move toward standards based reporting at their Elementary School. They have also started having discussions about requirements that students must meet to move from Middle School to High School. They also reported about not allowing the high school schedule to dictate the post-secondary options for their graduates. They have also started a strategic planning process to improve their district.

USD 500 reported that they are on schedule to fully implement their College and Career Academies in place of traditional high schools next year. Their 8th graders will soon be making decisions about which Academy they wish to attend. They are looking to expand opportunities for their Middle School students. They are also working on implementing a model of instruction for all of the classrooms in their district.

USD 418 reported that they have been focused on the Jason Flatt Act and Mental Health issues in their district. They are investigating the idea of adding Social Workers. They are also having discussions about the juvenile justice act and how to incorporate citizenship and community resources to help achieve their goals.

USD 364 reported about the bond issue work that is ongoing in their district and how this work will ultimately impact teaching and learning in the district. They are focused on improving academics within their district. They are having some challenges in the district related to mental health, however they did hire a social worker this year and they are seeing some benefits from this new position.

4.2 Updates from KSDE and SBOE

Randy Watson talked about the Department moving forward with Year 0 implementation of the KESA Accreditation Model. The training for 2nd Quarter will be rolled out soon. He also talked about the availability for pilot implementation of interim assessments through CETE. These interim assessments can be piloted at the district level, building level, or the teacher level.

Jim McNiece shared about the work of the State Board of Education. He talked about the next steps being taken at the State Board level related to the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Sub-Committee. He talked briefly about AdvancEd and the alternate options available as part of the KESA Accreditation Model. He also talked about the Kansas Teacher of the Year Program and the upcoming NASB Conference in Kansas City.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Sub-Committee Reports

5.1.1 Graduation Requirements/Individual Plans of Study

The sub-committee reported on the work that is going on behind the scenes regarding the current rules and regulations of KSDE related to graduation requirement, what other states are doing, and identifying the stakeholders in KS who rely on our current structure of grades and credits. Members of the sub-committee are also looking at academies and alternate ways of awarding high school credit. Members of the sub-committee also encouraged all districts to begin having community conversations about this topic.

5.1.2 Social and Emotional Learning

This sub-committee is working to identify best practices at the local level and then begin moving forward to develop a common language related to Social and Emotional Learning so that all staff members can be involved in promoting and supporting this aspect of learning. The sub-committee also hopes to begin working on a common assessment related to this topic.

5.1.3 Assessments and Data

This sub-committee reported on the possibility of developing some common Social Studies assessments for schools in the Coalition. At this time, there is interest in this from Blue Valley and Marysville. The other schools feel like their plates are full enough right now but might be interested in this at a later time. The sub-committee also reported about the upcoming focus on data and how it is being used in each district.

5.2 Defining the Work of the Coalition

The Coalition had a follow-up discussion about the following topics –

- Definition of Innovation
- Vision of the Coalition
- Mission of the Coalition
- Core Beliefs of the Coalition

This topic will be discussed further at the November meeting of the Coalition.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Coalition Statement on School Finance

The Coalition discussed the topic of school finance with the goal of developing a Coalition Statement on School Finance that will be shared with Governor Brownback and shared with others around the State. The desire of the group was to make sure that our statement was not in conflict with any of the other positions presented by KASB, USA, and other organizations. Bill Mullins will work on a draft statement and this will be finalized at our November meeting.

6.2 Outside Vendors/Researchers

Bill Mullins shared that he is getting several requests from vendors and researchers who wish to partner with the Coalition. The consensus of the group was to allow presentations from outside vendors if and only if their presentations would connect to one of our sub-committees and/or focus areas of the Coalition.

6.3 Presentation to the State Board of Education

The Coalition reviewed a draft Powerpoint Presentation for our upcoming presentation before the State Board of Education on Tuesday October 18th.

7.0 Announcements

There were no announcements

8.0 Adjournment

Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52. The motion was seconded by Adrian. The motion passed 7-0.