

## **Coalition of Innovative School Districts** **Unofficial Minutes – September 15, 2016 Meeting**

The meeting began at 9:00 am

**Members in Attendance** – Deena Horst – SBOE, Jim McNiece – SBOE, Randy Watson – KSDE, Mark Crawford – USD 418, Bill Mullins – USD 364, Todd White – USD 229, Cindy Lane – USD 500, Quentin Breese - USD 333, Brian Smith – USD 484, Adrian Howie – USD 210

**Guests in Attendance** – Leah Fliter – KASB, Brad Neuenswander – KSDE, Idalia Shuman – KNEA, Jennifer Hanni – Greenbush, Brian Houghton – USD 484, Aaron Chard – USD 484, Mike Myers – USD 484, Sue Dole – USD 229, Mike Slagle – USD 229, Mark Schmidt – USD 229, Tara Walrod – USD 229, Ronni Rosewicz – USD 229, Kellie Haeffner – USD 229, Callie Wietzel – USD 229, Krystal Breese – USD 333, Tricia Koester – USD 333, Cyndi Atwell – USD 333, Bryce Wachs – USD 333, Amy Hoover – USD 364, Mickie Crowther – USD 364, Ali Busch – USD 364, David Heyd – USD 364, Derek Pretre – USD 364, John Wyrick – USD 506

Today's meeting was a work session and no official action took place. These minutes reflect some of the most important discussions of the day.

### **Defining the work of the Coalition**

The discussion started with each school district sharing why they joined the Coalition and with both State Board of Education members sharing why they believe the Coalition is important.

The participants in attendance took a few minutes to discuss the following questions and topics and to record their thoughts on a Google Doc.

- What does innovation mean?
- Why did your district join the Coalition and why is the Coalition important?
- What are our core beliefs about ...?
  - Student success
  - Student engagement
  - Impact of teachers
  - Role of curriculum
  - Importance of programs within schools
- What is our vision for the Coalition?
- What do we have to do on a daily basis in order to achieve our vision?

### **Sub-Committee Work**

**Assessment Sub-Committee** – David Heyd, Sue Dole, Deena Horst, Kellie Haeffner, Callie Wietzel

This group talked about a variety of topics related to Social Studies Assessments. The group wanted to get some feedback from all districts about their interest in pursuing some Common Social Studies Assessments within the Coalition that could possibly replace the State Assessments. The discussion seemed to suggest that at least Marysville and Blue Valley were interested in pursuing this work. Some ideas included project-based assessments, starting with the end in mind by starting with seniors and working down to the lower grades, and having assessments at multiple grades not just 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of discussion about common rubrics and how that would work across the Coalition.

**Graduation Requirements Sub-Committee** – Cindy Lane, Mark Crawford, Todd White, Mike Slagle, Jim McNiece, Derek Pretre, Mickie Crowther, Brian Smith, Adrian Howie

The sub-committee reported about the diversity of the school districts represented in the group and how important it is to be flexible in how success is defined and measured because of the diversity within each school district and within the Coalition. The sub-committee also reported that now is the time to focus on this work and we are the Pioneers. The next steps for this committee are to do some research about different states and specific districts who may be further ahead than us in this work and to identify all of the different stakeholders who depend on the traditional system of assigning grades and calculating grade point averages.

**Social & Emotional Learning Sub-Committee** - Jennifer Hanni, Brian Houghton, Aaron Chard, Mike Myers, Krystal Breese, Quentin Breese, Tricia Koester, Cyndi Atwell, Bryce Wachs, Amy Hoover, Ali Busch, Mark Schmidt, Tara Walrod, Ronni Rosewicz

The sub-committee engaged in some good conversations about what was happening in each district related to Social & Emotional Learning. The sub-committee reported on five important pieces that they felt were critical to success in this area which included the following-

- Common language throughout the school
- Support from general education teachers
- Professional development and support for all staff
- Support and leadership from administration
- Clearly defined expectations and holding everyone accountable

Their next steps are focused around how to measure student growth related to this topic.

### **Guest Presentations**

We had two guest presentations. The first guest was Diana Wieland from Colby School District. She talked about their journey related to making the State Standards independent of content area and individual classes. The second guest was Jon Laffoon from Star City, AR. He talked about a flex-mod scheduling system that he had used at Pea Ridge High School in AR. This schedule included many new ideas that were much different than the traditional high school schedule. He talked about many of the benefits that he had seen in his school as a result of this new schedule.

### **KESA Conversation with Randy Watson**

The day ended with some conversation related to the new Accreditation System – KESA that will be implemented beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Some of the highlights of the conversation included the following-

- The new direction of Kansas education and the Kansans Can Vision
- The five outcomes from the Kansans Can Vision
- The five R's from the Accreditation System should serve as a Needs Assessment to help with planning for school improvement
- The goal of the State Board of Education is to Lead the World and they are interested in looking at different models that work
- There is interest in looking at some small scale work with competencies that could lead to alternative ways of earning academic credit that leads to graduation. He expressed that we

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should begin by thinking small and then expanding as the need arises and as we learn lessons about what works and what does not work.

- There is interest in looking at Civic Engagement and how to measure and document it