

Parent Community Engagement and Involvement Advisory Council

Meeting Notes: **October 25, 2012**

Federation for Children with Special Needs

Schrafft Center 529 Main Street Suite 1102 Boston, MA 02129

In attendance: Kimberly Artez, Evelyn Bouley, Clay Connor, Patricia Gorham, Jo-Anne McCormick, Peggie O'Hare, Stuart Peskin, Special Guests: Barbara Dee, Special Education Planning & Policy, ESE, and Sarah Stevenson, Federation

Absent: Kristine Coffey-Donahue, Abigail Hanscom, Mal Hughes, Kim Hunt, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen Meagher, Brian Middleton-Cox, Julie Salois, Michelle Sylvaria, Kathy Rodriguez, ESE Liaison.

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am by chair, Peggie O'Hare, asking members to introduce themselves and **share updates**.

- Stu Peskin announced the Title I Dissemination Project annual conference is scheduled for March 4, 2012. He asked members to consider presenting at the conference.
- Peggie O'Hare reported that work was done over the summer with Kathy Rodriguez on a crosswalk between the Fundamentals and DESE Evaluation Models for Teachers, School-Level Administrators, Superintendents and Specialized Instructional Support Personnel. This crosswalk needs further discussion at PCEI and with other parts of the Department.
- Clay Connor reintroduced the work that was done last school year by the PCEI on identifying exemplary practices. More discussion with ESE will be needed if we are to move forward with developing a way for acknowledging current practices in the field.
- An example of current practice is Boston Public Schools' Parent University which will be held at Northeastern University on November 17, 2012.
- Peggie O'Hare and Matthew Nixon presented at the Title I Technical Assistance conference on 10/19 on family and community engagement. During the presentation, she mentioned several of ESE programs that are inclusive of family and community engagement as integral parts of the programs:
 - Wrap-Around Zones
 - Massachusetts Tiered System of Support
 - Family Literacy Month

Members discussed the **instructions and charge from Commissioner Chester** given to the PCEI for this school year.

- There will be no new members appointed for any of the Board's Advisory Councils this year.

- Advisory Councils are to have only three official meetings to this year. (Today's meeting is unofficial.) Members talked about having longer meetings in order to complete the work that we want to address this year.
- Commissioner Chester gave the following charge to the PCEI: *Document the family role in helping children become career and college ready continuously across a student's life beginning in infancy and extending through college and career preparation programs by identifying effective FCE in early education; elementary school; and middle and high school settings.* Discussion focused on:
 - College and career readiness of students is being emphasized both at the federal and state level.
 - The “family role” should be facilitated by the school. Lack of parental involvement should not be an excuse for schools not outreaching to families and working to engage them in students' education.
 - How can the PCEI accomplish the charge as well as complete its own tasks carried over from last year? This is the question we must answer together. Peggie will send links to materials from Harvard Family Research Project that address the issue of family roles at various stages of a child's education. If members could read these before the next meeting, they will serve as a good basis for discussion.
 - Early education will be a new area for the PCEI to discuss. The intersection between EEC and ESE about family engagement needs more work.
 - How does “Strengthening Families” link with the Fundamentals?
 - How does “Head Start” link with the Fundamentals?
 - How does “Early Intervention” link with the Fundamentals?

Barbara Dee from ESE presented a PowerPoint about the **Parent Involvement Survey** developed and distributed by Special Education to districts. (See attached presentation.) Key questions that Barbara asked the PCEI members to consider was how to get more parent involvement. Some suggested ideas included:

- Create pathways for parents to get involved.
- Personal contact with parents asking them to complete survey
- Give parents access to school computers (for survey) during an evening event or throughout the day in the office/library/computer center
- Go where the families are: churches, community centers

Discussion of **dates for three future PCEI meetings**. It was decided by members present that the next meeting would be held at the same location, Federation offices at Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Suite 1102, Boston. At that meeting, members will decide where the next two

should be held. Peggie will send out a “Doodle” asking members to decide upon which of the following dates is preferred: 12/11/12, 12/12/12, 12/13/12. The meeting will start at 10:30 pm and go until 2:30 pm. The morning session will focus on the charge as it applies to the role of families in elementary school. We will break for a quick lunch and then focus on the tasks that PCEI members want to address, starting specifically with the cross walk between the Fundamentals and the Teacher Evaluation rubrics.

Other meeting dates that Peggie will send a “Doodle” to members about:

Second meeting: 1/23/13 or 1/24/13 with Snow Dates → 1/30/13, 1/31/13

Third meeting: 4/10/13 or 4/11/13

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by Sarah Stevenson and Peggie O’Hare