

Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence

Meeting #5

September 22, 2005, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
John Stanford Center Auditorium

Welcome

Trish Dziko, committee co-chair, welcomed everyone and stated that the work of the committee is now into the details. On the agenda today is beginning to craft the framework for the final report.

Community Subcommittee

The first public meeting was September 13 and the next is September 27. There is a good format because everyone was able to participate. There was a full house and the quality of the participants was impressive. Reporters present commented on the high quality of participants and said they had not seen this quality before. This showing is a credit to our community. The September 27 community meeting will focus on possibilities and priorities (it's not time to talk about tradeoffs yet).

A summary of participant feedback was reviewed (available on the website).

Latinos and African Americans were under-represented at the community meeting. The committee is considering alternate and additional ways of reaching out to these communities in the course of its community engagement process.

Academic Subcommittee

Originally, the committee said it would not interfere with District academic plan activities. However, after receiving the draft plan, members realized it wasn't easy to understand. It didn't point to how we would verify that methodologies would work when implemented. A lot of good work has gone into the plan so the committee wants to repackage it so everyone can understand and see where we're going. The committee specifically asked for a separate team to repackage the plan and to include internal and external participants. The Committee has recommended to Raj Manhas that Mary Alice Heuschel from the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) lead this group and pull together all the work. The Committee has been told that a draft of the plan is scheduled to be completed for Board review on October 12.

Integration of Work Product

There was discussion about the focus of the committee and its current timelines. It was agreed that the committee needs to strongly focus on the long-term to make significant and lasting recommendations. The short-term will need to be addressed however, and timelines may need to be revised so that short-term needs do not take over and then the committee dismantles. The Committee is likely to explore extending its term to deliver thorough, defensible long-term recommendations. The current state of the Academic Plan means the committee does not, at the present time, have the necessary inputs to execute against its original time frame.

Finance Subcommittee

This group has identified three areas that are different from other districts and is studying them deeply: transportation, facilities utilization, and special education. They are also looking at District finances from the perspectives of short-, mid-, and long-term and from local, state, and federal government. They will finish looking at transportation today and concentrate on facilities next.

Final Report

The committee provided feedback on what their final report might look like and suggested it include sections on purpose, process, assumptions, a definition of accountability, a stakeholders section about who needs to be involved in implementation, short- and long-term recommendations, and an executive summary of each proposal (possibly as an attachment).

Other comments included “naming the crisis” but also to highlight examples of schools that are performing at high levels and providing details on what is working so we can replicate them. Also recommended was listing barriers to academic achievement.

Committee members noted the committee’s recommendations will only be as good as their ability to be implemented.

Adjournment

The next meeting is on Thursday, October 13, 7:30 a.m., at the John Stanford Center.