

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP
Hartford

Draft Minutes of Meeting (Subject to Revision)
May 15, 2012

Call to Order

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The meeting was held in room 1A of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members present were: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner, Department of Education
Donna Cambria, Department of Children and Families
Roderick Bremby, Commissioner, Department of Social Services
Catherine Smith, Commissioner, Department of Economic and Community Development
Jeffrey Beckham, Department of Administrative Services
Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management

Absent: Michael Meotti, Executive Vice President, Board of Regents for Higher Education
Leonard Lee, Department of Public Health.

Others Present: Charlene Russell Tucker, Chief Operating Officer, CSDE

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from February 29, 2012
Minutes were unanimously approved.
- IV. Update on Linking School and Community Resources
Charlene Russell Tucker discussed the Community School Roundtable that was held on April 17, 2012. There was a positive response to the event by attendees. Development has begun on an action plan, establishing a framework and having the community and parents as key stakeholders. The CSDE conducted a follow-up survey and are working on analyzing those results in order to create the next steps. We have learned from the roundtable that people want to get involved. A meeting will be scheduled with the subcommittee to discuss the outcome of the survey.
- V. Economic Implications and the Achievement Gap
Commissioner Smith presented statistics about jobs throughout the state. The statistics indicated that there are more manufacturing jobs than suitable and reliable people. The needs of the state indicate that entry level, mid-level and management jobs are needed across the board. Employability, punctuality and work ethics are still very important in the state. Connecticut ranks among the top quartile states in economic growth. Our mission is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We need to be proactive in Connecticut about growing businesses and

retaining talent. We, also, need quality affordable housing. STEM is critical across the state and is a gap. Talent is critical to growth.

III. Update on the Education Reform Agenda

Commissioner Pryor discussed the six principles of the education reform bill that was passed. The Commissioner discussed that the programs to be created by the Governor's legislation, combined with the accountability system proposed by the state's federal ESEA waiver application, will allow the State Department of Education to focus increased resources and interventions on the schools and districts attended by our state's most disadvantaged students -- augmenting the Department's existing work with these schools. And, importantly, the initiatives will enable us to elevate achievement statewide.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2012.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.