

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

Ad Hoc Committee on Accountability

Ellen Camhi, Chair
Estela López
Allan B. Taylor

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

Call to Order

Ellen Camhi called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. The meeting was held in room 307A of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Present were Ms. López and Mr. Taylor. Ms. Camhi was present by phone. Also present were Commissioner Stefan Pryor, Chief of Staff Adam Goldfarb, Bureau Chief Lol Fearon, Assistant to the Commissioner and State Board of Education Pam Charland and Attorney for Legal and Governmental Affairs Laura Anastasio.

Others Present: Carol Clifford, AFT

Discussion on Alliance Districts

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what is happening beyond the first round of Alliance District applications. Commissioner Pryor wanted to present the Ad Hoc Committee with an overview of the process before final approval of the second round of applications.

The districts are using a combination of Alliance funds, Title I and district funds. The approval process has included a review by the State Department of Education staff, an expert panel and the Commissioner's staff.

Mr. Goldfarb went over the timelines of the Alliance District process and approvals. He also discussed the tiering of the district schools and that there were opportunities for districts to apply for three competitive grants, K-3 Literacy, Extended Time and Learning, and Family Resource Centers. The Addendum that all Alliance Districts signed and that was attached to their application was discussed. The handout entitled, Potential Alliance District Application Approvals, was discussed.

Ms. López would like a report showing her how Alliance District applications have a direct impact on students and schools affected by the proposed initiatives.

Mr. Fearon went over the monitoring process of the applications. It was discussed that student achievement, district growth and school growth were included in each application as were changes in adult actions (practices) and instructional strategies.

Mr. Taylor wanted to make sure that SDE is helping the districts with the Common Core Standards. He asked if the Literacy Specialists named in many of the proposals are trained to help with the curriculum in the districts. Are we working with the districts on infusing literacy across all subject areas?

Commissioner Pryor said that right now we are not involved in this process because of SDE capacity issues. Diane Ullman, Chief Talent Officer, would like the districts to take the initiative on this. Our agency can provide direction and support on literacy. Commissioner Pryor will connect with Dr. Ullman on this. Dr. Ullman's staff has reviewed the applications that addressed literacy. We are making sure that the applications have best practices incorporated into their initiatives.

Mr. Taylor had a concern about the districts not having a data platform. Commissioner Pryor discussed a competitive procurement with the RESCs called My Learning Plan that could be used for data for all of the school districts.

Mr. Taylor had a question about School Quality Officers described in the Hartford application. Who and what are they? They are coaches and give support to the principals of the schools.

It was discussed that Year 2 of the application process would be more intensive and that the next meeting of the committee should review this process.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Dube