

K-12 Education Coordination Council Meeting Minutes – SUMMER RETREAT

Thursday, August 11, 2022, Minot State University, Westlie Room

K12 Council Members Present: Chairman Luke Schaefer, Maria Neset, Melissa Vollmer, Rep. Pat Heinert, April Foth, Wayde Sick (Designee), Sonia Meehl, JoNell Bakke, Aimee Copas, Sara Medalen, Alexis Baxley, Nick Archuleta, and Jen Weber

K12 Council Members Attending Virtually: Jeff Fastnacht, Sarah Ricks, Rupak Gandhi, Brandt Dick, and Kyle Davison

Others Present: Kayla Effertz Kleven

Others Present Virtually: Mike Heilman, Ellie Schockley, and Laura Doll

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Luke Schaefer at 9:06 a.m.

1 – Approve Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2022

Maria Neset moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 30, 2022. Melissa Vollmer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2 – Election of Officers

Luke opened the floor for Chair and Vice Chair nominations. Maria Neset nominated Luke to remain as Chair and Melissa to remain as Vice Chair for next year. Rep. Heinert seconded. Discussion was held, and no other nominations were given. Rep. Heinert moved to approve Luke to remain as Chair and Melissa to remain as Vice Chair. JoNell Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3 – Review of 2021-22

Luke asked for any feedback from the members as far as areas of improvement, what things to continue to focus on, and thoughts on how everything went with the subcommittees, meeting dates, and times. Kayla stated the frequency of meetings at the end of the school year, it was hard to get a quorum, and whether the topics were timely and relevant. Discussion was held on meeting dates and times of the year that work best with school members' schedules. Luke stated the council is required to meet four times in a calendar year.

Luke asked for thoughts or feedback on the topics at the meetings. Jen Weber shared that once the subgroups were made, the regular meetings were much more valuable with not having to get to so many different topics. Liz stated that the meetings were organized and ran smoothly.

4 – Planning & Goals for 2022-23

Luke shared things to think about for the next year, the legislative session starts in January and goes until May. Luke added that the Full Council will not be meeting during this time; however, the subcommittees will continue to meet; work will still be done, but nothing will be approved until after the legislative session is over. Luke asked what focus areas the council should spend their time – Nick added he would like the committee to come together and get behind things that beef up public education. Rupak stated he agrees with Nick and shared that the council needs to

consider what its scope of work is and make sure it aligns with what it should be doing. Luke asked the council if there is anything specific they should be thinking about this year as a council. JoNell shared that the teacher shortage is the biggest challenge in the state. JoNell added that the council needs to get very direct on how to address it, stating the rural areas are really hurting to fill some of those positions. JoNell added she feels this is something K12 would want to look at seriously and possibly look at Pre-school, not just K12. Jen agreed and added that it may be more of an equity issue as far as kids who can afford to go to preschool. Luke added that this will take a coordinated effort from everyone to accomplish these things.

Kayla added that the chairs have looked at the scope of work as it relates to the legislature and, as a team pick a theme or programs to evaluate, review or discuss as far as the Support and Innovation Committee and the Statewide Projects, Duplication & Replication Committees. Kayla asked if there is value in taking more of a coordinated approach in saying each subcommittee focus on behavioral health for the first three meetings, or is it better to let the subcommittee pick the themes that are most appropriate as it relates to the legislature? Discussion held. Luke added that the subcommittee chairs need to determine what each committee will be evaluating this year. Rep. Heinert added from a legislature perspective that he hears nothing as to why we are short on teachers. Rep. Heinert questioned what is the activity to retain the teachers and to keep them. Rep. Heinert further added that there needs to be feedback as to what is working or what has worked from previous sessions. Rupak added that special education continues to be an issue with shortages across the state and has recruited internationally for those positions.

5 – Executive Committee Report

a. Budget Approval

Luke explained that this budget is different from other budgets with two defined areas and the remaining to be spent or not to be spent. The current budget was shared with the group. Luke stated that the executive committee agreed that Kayla and anyone working with her at the firm and Laura would conduct a time audit to see whether too much time is being spent by either party for what is budgeted. Discussion was held.

b. Committee Structure 2022-23

As decided by the Executive Committee, the Review of Initiatives subcommittee could be an ad hoc when there is an initiative to be reviewed, the committee can step in. The Legislative Review Committee was supposed to be an ad hoc committee; however, they met several times, so the Executive Committee thought to make it to a standing committee due to the frequency of needing to review different legislation that comes out. For now, the recommendation is to make those changes. Luke stated that he and Kayla will go through each committee and delegate the appropriate member to each committee. Each committee chair shared the duties of the committee. Luke asked that anyone who is interested in a certain committee to let Kayla know their preference, and they will have the subcommittees put together to start meeting in September.

6 – Legislative Brainstorming

a. Do we ask Senator Schaible to give an update on the property tax proposal?

Luke shared that this was not particularly an agenda item; Luke welcomed any thoughts. Several members agreed this was a good idea. Kayla will meet with Senator Schaible to

discuss this further. Aimee asked whether there could be a learning lesson for the council on the funding formula. Luke agreed that this could be presented to the committee.

b. Strategic Vision Dashboard Funding

Luke shared that the job of the council is to monitor progress against the outcomes that have been set along with the goals that are set. The question is, can a strategic vision dashboard be created to measure the outcomes? A discussion was held regarding the cost of the development and whether the data exists. Luke stated that it needs to be determined if this is a priority in terms of asking the legislature to include this or whether DPI adds it to their budget. A decision needs to be made soon.

c. K12 Council Funding

Luke stated the question is, is there enough funding to do all the work that is requested of the K12 Council? The request to the legislature is, do we back off on some of the requirements, or do we ask for funding to complete them?

d. Teacher Retention

Discussion was held on how to incentivize great teachers and how to keep great teachers in the classroom. JoNell stated find out why the teachers are leaving and are they overwhelmed by the structure of things; this could address some of the issues. Nick added higher pay, something ahead of the cost of living or to keep up with the cost of living.

e. Behavioral Health

Luke shared other issues that add to teacher retention are student behavioral health, teacher behavioral health, and burnout which are different in every community. Nick added that the mentorship program should continue even after the first and second years for teachers. Sara Medalen brought up mandates and there may be too many that it takes away the joy of being a teacher; for the new teachers and the teachers who have been in it for 30 plus years. Sara added bringing that joy back into the classroom. JoNell added there are too many things on their plate as far as mandates, and nothing is ever taken off and it gets overwhelming. JoNell stated that things have been lost by not having teachers' conventions any longer; it's an opportunity to talk with other colleagues and have conversations about how others are teaching. Nick added that teachers may attend a conference if it were a paid day for them to attend, as it was in the past.

Luke added during a discussion at the Executive Council meeting to enter funds into the formula that would allow schools to address the areas of teacher retention and behavioral health. Luke added that if the council considers asking for funding for schools, they need to think about what outcomes to attach. Kyle added that it is what outcomes you are trying to improve and put a framework on it and see what happens in the legislative process.

Further discussion was held regarding unpaid professional development for teachers.

Luke stated at the next meeting there must be a clear direction moving forward for recommended legislation, and this needs to be voted on at the next meeting.

Luke encouraged everyone to consider what was talked about, if there are stances or direction we want the legislature to consider, and forward those to be voted on, whether everyone agrees as a council that these should be recommended to the legislature. Luke asked whether there needs to be 100% consensus or move forward in a majority system.

Last time it was decided to go with 100% consensus, with everyone agreeing and standing behind it. JoNell added that legislatively the council may want to look at the CTE services.

Further review and discussions were held regarding the Legislation Ideas created by Kayla during the conversations at today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Luke Schaefer, Chairperson

An upcoming meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2022.

Minutes taken and prepared by Laura Doll