

## **K-12 Education Coordination Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Bank of ND, Bismarck**

K12 Council Members Present: Chairman Luke Schaefer, Senator JoNell Bakke, Nick Archuleta, Dr. Sarah Ricks, Rep. Pat Heinert, Dr. Jenn Weber, Sonia Meehl, Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, Wayde Sick, Alexis Baxley, Brandt Dick, and Melissa Vollmer

K12 Council Members Attending Virtually: Maria Neset, Sara Medalen, Kyle Davison, Marc Bluestone, Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Governor Burgum, and April Foth

Others Present: Kayla Effertz Kleven, Dawn Ulmer, and Laura Doll

Others Present Virtually: Ellie Schockley, Terry Effertz, and Donna Fishbeck

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Luke Schaefer at 8:30 a.m.

### **1 – Approve Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2022**

Dr. Jeff Fastnacht moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 11, 2022. Nick Archuleta seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2 – Legislative Brainstorming**

Luke stated Kayla prepared Legislation Ideas which were compiled from discussions over the past several months to think about; what are legislative priorities the council thinks would be beneficial. Luke stated there are several items to be discussed today to give Kayla and her team guidance to establish language. This will give the opportunity at the next meeting to vote on the specific types of bills the council may want legislators to carry forward.

Kayla shared the Legislation Ideas document which is a summary of the brainstorming list from the last meeting, with the addition of item F, from the executive committee meeting. Kayla stated a directive given at the executive committee meeting was a collection of the Interim Committee bills that have been publicly aired at the various Interim Committee meetings and a brief analysis of whether they have passed, or whether they will be forwarded on to Legislative management, or did they die. Kayla shared the 2021-2022 Interim Legislation document as it relates to K12 Education. Kayla compiled a scan of the bills that have been publicly aired and where they are sitting.

Kayla presented each item on the 2021-2022 Interim Legislation as it Relates to K-12 Education document for discussion by the group. Luke clarified that the council is not taking a vote on whether the council approves and wants to move forward with supporting this legislation, this discussion is to decide whether to talk about the topic later or not.

Assessment of Students will be kept on the list for further discussion

Computer Science & Cybersecurity will be kept on the list for further discussion

Teachers' Fund for Retirement (2 items) both will be kept on the list for further discussion

Scholarships & Loan Forgiveness - four of the items will be kept on the list for further discussion. It was decided not to move forward with #3 which relates to back-to-school scholarships, and this does not fit with the K12 council

Luke stated discussion will take place at a later date. Kayla and her team will draft language for the council to move forward with a vote on whether or not the council agrees and affirms the work.

Discussion was held on Legislation Ideas as to what direction should be given to Kayla and her team in drafting language to move forward and address these Legislation Ideas.

a. Teacher Retention. Luke summarized the discussion for Kayla as follows:

1. Kayla will work with ESPB on the continued sustainability of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year mentoring program
2. Kayla will move forward with language for a study that will focus on leading indicators of teacher retention, including why college students are going into education, the role and scope of the teacher in our current education system, and why teachers would recommend the profession.

Kayla verified questions as to direction on who would be doing the study and if it is external, would there be a discussion on appropriation? Luke asked whether legislators would conduct the study or find an external source to conduct the study. Kayla added the following items to the synopsis Luke had shared. Kayla suggested adding the following:

3. Explore an alternate pathway for professionals and/or enrolled education students to be placed in a classroom sooner; and
4. What is the role and scope of teachers NOW.

Appropriation to market the education profession will be included in the language to be decided whether to keep it or not.

Luke agreed with the additions. Luke stated Governor Burgum offered his staff to support how to educate our legislators. Luke asked that each representative of their agency come up with talking points specific to teacher retention to be shared with Kayla. Kayla will assemble a set of talking points for the council that can be utilized as CC members. These talking points will be agreed on by the CC Council members.

Governor Burgum shared a story of shadowing a student in Beulah. The Governor challenged everyone to make an invitation after the November election to invite every legislator to spend a day or half a day shadowing a student; not visiting the school but sitting in the classroom and connecting with the students. Governor Burgum suggested publishing a list of the findings of the impact and what was learned shadowing a student and possibly driving change. Governor Burgum encouraged everyone to think about how to execute shadowing a student. Governor Burgum shared point #2 which he shared a book that he had read and purchased a copy for every cabinet leader in ND. The name of the book is Making Numbers Count. The Art and Science of Communicating Numbers. Governor Burgum stated there are breakout charts that show how to talk about a number, and a better way and best way based on science of how people hear things. Governor Burgum added that while everyone is working to improve our ability to influence and educate for everyone to get a copy of the book.

Luke added there is a framework to shadow a student with directions to contact the school and sign up, etc. Luke asked what everyone's thoughts were to issue this to the legislators. Senator Bakke suggested shadowing a teacher and knowing what it is like to not have a break for the bathroom and understanding the demands of a first-grade teacher in her classroom. Senator Bakke shared legislators need to see that going into a high school classroom is very different from a first-grade classroom. Senator Bakke feels that it is important to see that teaching is not an easy profession, especially with special needs children and with 25 other children. Senator Davison supports

Governor Burgum's suggestion to shadow the students. Alexis Baxley agreed and suggested anything they could do to promote through the boards so they would get a local invitation. Luke responded that if everything comes together, this could be announced in November.

b. Expand ND Insights to include a Strategic Vision Dashboard.

Dr. Jennifer Weber offered options for the SLDS budget and does not believe the money is accounted for anywhere in the planning:

1. Ask for \$20,000 as an agency and expect to bill back from NDIT
2. Go to Duane Schell who was putting in his budget to the Governor's office and ask to account for this in that budget
3. Or just ask the SLDS Governance Committee that if they get \$10 million this is something we want prioritized and covered. There should be fall back onto the Governance Committee.

Governor Burgum added this data is so important and should not never be a budget problem. Senator Davison agreed this needs to be supported moving forward. Dr. Weber added that as a committee there should be continued support of the funding of SLDS. Luke stated there will be a vote on the council supporting the continued funding of SLDS, an estimate of \$10 million. As for the legislative piece, Kayla and Dr. Weber will follow up with Duane Schell. Senator Davison suggested having the language to support the development as a council, not the dollar amount in the dashboard.

c. Council Scope & Operations: Scale the objectives of the Council back or increase funding for the Council to achieve the full list.

Luke addressed April Foth in regard to two outstanding reimbursements that are not reimbursable due to being outside of the K12 Coordination Council's authority. Luke apologized to April and stated that CREA will be reimbursing these expenses.

Luke stated there is a serious problem with the budget and there are more duties that require more than an executive director and not able to do them unless someone volunteers. Luke stated that without the authority to spend dollars to do the work tasked, the work will not get done. Luke asked for any input on language to have the authority to spend or scale back on tasks. Senator Davison stated with a new organization and as new organizations develop you run into challenges. Senator Davison suggested moving forward with changing the spending authority of how it can be used and what the purpose is, and one of the legislators will bring that forward if the council is comfortable with that. Luke asked for consensus for Kayla to expand the language to be very specific with the issues that have been happening.

d. Prioritize professional development topics and funding associated.

Luke shared the current legislation has three required professional development days. Luke asked the council what professional development legislation should look like and to bring forward a bill to outline an approach. Discussion held.

e. Encourage development of Career & Technical Education

Luke stated this will be discussed at the December meeting; looking for legislative ideas that can come forward that would be supported or not and deciding on how to move them forward and who will look at them.

f. Study/Analysis of communities who have strong childcare options. Further, explore the data of children who have attended pre-k versus children who have not had exposure to pre-k.

Luke stated it would be beneficial to have a study done on children who attend pre-k versus children who have not attended, and a study of communities that do have effective pre-k models. Discussion held. There are two things to consider at this point, Senator Bakke will be drafting a bill and the Governor has a proposal. Nick stated this could be kept on the table for further discussion at the December meeting.

Luke stated the voting will be held on these items in December by the council. Kayla clarified the council will work together to gather the language on ideas and the legislators will decide whether they want to group or break out the bills.

### **3 – Executive Committee Report**

- a. **2023-23 Budget** – Luke stated this topic be tabled until another time as currently not able to spend from the budget. Until the spending is determined, this will be tabled. Jeff Fastnacht moved to approve Chairman Schaefer to have the authority, in addition to the executive committee, to draft the budget recommendation for the K12 Council. Nick Archuleta seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- b. **Committee Placements** – Luke stated Kayla has the committee work completed, however, the placements have not been sent out as of today. The placements for each committee are as follows:
  1. **Strategic Goals** – Chair to remain with Kirsten Baesler with members Maria Neset, Melissa Vollmer, and Sonia Meehl. Ex-Officio members Wayde Sick and Dawn Ulmer to remain.
  2. **Statewide Projects, Duplication & Replication** – Jeff Fastnacht has accepted the Chair position with members being Nick Archuleta, Brandt Dick, Marc Bluestone, and Senator JoNell Bakke. Ex-Officio Members are Wayde Sick, Dawn Ulmer, and Alexis Baxley.
  3. **Review of Systems** is now an ad hoc subcommittee with Dr. Jennifer Weber remaining as Chair. Members are Rep. Pat Heinert, April Foth, and Alexis Baxley.
  4. **Support and Innovation** - Dr. Rupak Gandhi with remain as Chair with members Senator Davison, Sara Medalen, Dr. Jennifer Weber, and Dr. Sarah Ricks. Ex-Officio Member Dawn Ulmer.
  5. **Legislative Approval Initiatives** – Alexis Baxley as Chair with members Marc Bluestone, Nick Archuleta (or designee), and Luke Schaefer. This subcommittee change came from Rep. Heinert suggesting that legislators not be involved in the legislative approval process. Therefore Rep. Heinert has been removed from this subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Luke Schaefer, Chairperson

An upcoming meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2022.

Minutes taken and prepared by Laura Doll