

K-12 Education Coordination Council Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting with Workforce Development Council (WDC)
Thursday, December 1, 2022 – Ramada by Wyndham, Bismarck

K12 Council Members Present: Marc Bluestone, Sr., Jeff Fastnacht, Sonia Meehl, Melissa (Liz) Vollmer, Maria Neset, Sarah Ricks, Sara Medalen, Rep. Pat Heinert, Brandt Dick, and Jennifer Weber

K12 Council Members Attending Virtually: Superintendent Baesler, Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Nick Archuleta, and April Foth

Others Present: Aimee Copas, Mike Heilman, Wayde Sick, Kayla Effertz Kleven, Terry Effertz, and Laura Doll

Others Present Virtually: Superintendent Baesler, Ellie Schockley, Dawn Ulmer, and Stacy Duffield

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Liz Vollmer (Liz), Acting Chair, in the absence of Chairman Luke Schaefer.

1 – Approve Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022

Marc Bluestone, Sr. moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 14, 2022. Rep. Pat Heinert seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2 – NAEP Results and Agency Responses

Superintendent Baesler shared information on the NAEP results. Superintendent Baesler stated this was no surprise of the results; the majority of the nation went backward. Superintendent Baesler stated 4th Grade reading for Native American students went up on the NAEP results. Superintendent Baesler shared the theory of this result on NAEP. Superintendent Baesler stated that the investment needs to continue in the teachers to provide them with the necessary toolbox of instructional strategies that are reaching the learners.

3 – Subcommittee Reports:

a. Consider Approval of the Students with Disabilities Aspirational Goal

Liz Vollmer shared that the Aspirational Goal for Students with Disabilities was completed last week with the help of Shelby Hubach. Superintendent Baesler thanked the committee members; the committee consisted of Liz, Sonia Meehl, Maria Neset, and Superintendent Baesler. Superintendent Baesler summarized the timeline of this goal. Superintendent Baesler shared that the workgroup felt that 25% was too aspirational and not attainable for the Students with Disabilities. The recommendation was to reduce the gap by 4% each year for 5 years. The subcommittee did not feel that 4% was aspirational enough, therefore, the subcommittee agreed on 12%.

Shelby shared a graph and charts to explain the process of getting to this number.

Superintendent Baesler asked whether everyone agrees that 12% is the appropriate aspirational goal for Students with Disabilities. After much discussion, Superintendent Baesler asked whether this committee would adopt the 12% aspirational goal with the caveat that

while using the Progress Monitoring Reports on the calendar that is being shared, this will be revisited in 2 years to ensure that the right measure is being used. Shelby stated these will be monitored on a yearly basis and at 2025-26 be reassessed to see if new goals need to be set based on the current numbers.

Marc Bluestone moved to approve the aspirational goal for Students with Disabilities of 12%. Jeff Fastnacht seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Sonia Meehl	Y
Nick Archuleta	Y
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	Y
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	Y
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y

Superintendent Baesler explained that the only way to make progress on these goals is for each and every individual and entity to drive towards these goals. Superintendent Baesler further stated this should drive the work of this committee.

b. Website Subcommittee

Terry Effertz stated Jenn Weber led this subcommittee and one of the directives in century code was to establish a one-stop communication and information hub to provide the public and interested parties with seamless access to state entities that deliver education services and programs. Terry stated they took a look at the resources that are available including the Learning for a Lifetime webpage which is housed on nd.gov and instead of reinventing the wheel, they looked at that webpage and come up with any updates that may be needed.

The subcommittee was led by Jenn Weber and composed of Alexis Baxley and Tom Gerhardt, and they went through the data and made a list of the updated links for that page. The subcommittee is currently working with Commerce, and there is a meeting next week to get the information passed and updated, which should fill the requirement for the one-stop communication hub.

4 - Legislative Recommendations

Chair Liz opened for approval or discussion of the K12 Coordination Council Legislation document.

1. Educator Attraction and Retention – Kayla clarified that the request for increased funding would bring the total budget for this program to \$5.5 million per biennium.

Discussion was held. Liz summarized that the language that could be used could be to support additional appropriations for the mentoring of administrators; another statement could be added. Jeff moved to add another statement and support both. Sarah Ricks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Nick Archuleta	Y
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	n/a
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	Y
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	abstained
Sonia Meehl	Y

2. Appropriation to market the education profession (no specific bill drafted)

Chair Liz explained that there was discussion in September about doing some marketing to make teachers going into education more attractive and desirable. Maria shared there may be dollars that the Governor can advocate for this state-wide campaign. Sara M. shared information about a mass campaign with a billboard in the works and t-shirts to show support for North Dakota Teachers. Rep. Pat Heinert suggested running this past the workforce group later in today's meeting with Commerce/WFD. Kayla stated to strike #2 from this list and create a separate recommendation with this language to be forwarded to the Governor and the Dept of Commerce and WFD Council. Sonia Meehl moved to strike #2 from the list and create a separate recommendation with this language to be forwarded to the Governor and the Dept. of Commerce and WFD Council. Jenn Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	n/a
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	Y
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Jenn Weber	Y

Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y
Sonia Meehl	Y
Nick Archuleta	Y

3. Conduct a research study of leading indicators of education attraction and retention:

Chair Liz clarified the items in this list are what we are supporting but not making legislation. We are supporting these items with the hope that someone will carry it forward or authorize it. April Foth stated that educator needs to be defined specifically, as with school counselor, is this part of the “educator”. April further explained concerns with other professions and how they would fall into the educator area. April mentioned clearly defining educators; does that include support staff such as custodians, kitchen staff, and paraprofessionals? Discussion was held on items a, b, and c. Rep. Pat Heinert suggested adding a line to identify other professionals within the school district which should include other professionals or licensed professionals such as school counselors, social workers, paraprofessionals, etc. Nick added possibly call them education support professionals. Superintendent Baesler interjected that when legislative studies are directed through legislative council, this would be handed to the agency, which Superintendent Baesler would be directed by legislative council to help them do the research. Brandt added that there should be a line added, with the understanding that without cooks, bus drivers, and janitors, that creates challenges to learning as well. Kayla suggested the following wording, *study the indicators of all positions within a school building*; and give examples if necessary. Nick agreed on the language as long as it is noted specifically what is to be studied by name. Rep. Heinert stated that the list should be specific as to who is to be studied and also put in a priority pattern.

Discussion was held regarding the alternate pathways for teacher licensure. Chair Liz shared Kayla’s wording of understanding if an alternative pathway for professionals has an effect on retention. Jeff suggested that it simply could state that we support research in this area and define education attraction retention with school personnel to be the scope of who we are digging into and what questions once approved. Once it is approved the request would go back to the Coordination Council to help define the “scope”. Jeff suggested asking the legislators to lean on the coordination council to help define “scope”. Jenn suggested adding a few research questions depending on how deep to go - 1) are the alternate pathways to teacher licensing retaining teachers in ND? There was discussion to be more specific. Jeff stated #3 is too broad.

Jenn stated that the work has been done on #3. Jenn stated 3g has not been done yet. Rep. Heinert suggested forming a small committee to put the language together, and he will carry it forward. Jeff moved to approve this council to authorize a study in the area of legislation in the area of education to be defined by a committee of the coordination council with the power to define the question before going to legislation. It was noted this will be an Ad Hoc Committee. The members of that committee will be Nick Archuleta, April Foth, Sara Medalen, and chaired by Jenn Weber. Kayla repeated the motion to move to create an ad hoc committee to determine the scope of work for a legislative study of the leading indicators of education attraction and retention with a focus on items a through c. Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	Y
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	n/a
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Jenn Weber	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y
Sonia Meehl	Y
Nick Archuleta	Y
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y

3d-h. Professional Development

There was discussion held. Jeff moved to approve a legislative study of training required by state agencies of educators and schools. Nick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. There was further discussion that there are other things not related to professional development that get added to educators' requirements. Kayla clarified the item listed on the document would be to study the training requirements that are required by state agencies; all of the other supporting information would be removed. Jeff clarified that with local it is too broad; therefore, find what is required by state agencies.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Sonia Meehl	Y
Nick Archuleta	Y
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	Y
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	n/a
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Jenn Weber	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y

4. Data Analysis, Use & Transparency / Expand ND Insights to include a Strategic Vision Dashboard

Chair Liz shared that this is to add the Strategic Vision to the dashboard or add a dashboard and this was a general request for funding. Item c has been struck from the document. The request is for funding for SLDS and support continued funding for SLDS. April Foth moved to include the SLDS funding into the legislative priorities. Brandt seconded the motion. Maria asked Dr. Weber if this funding is to do the upkeep to SLDS and the dashboard or both. Dr. Weber responded that this is to build up the dashboard. Dr. Weber explained that SLDS is seeking the support of the council because prior to this year, SLDS was funded federally and is no longer being funded federally; therefore, support is needed. Dr. Weber stated the funding amount should be removed from the document and noted to support funding for SLDS and would like it prioritized. Chair Liz stated that would be an amendment to eliminate the number of \$10 million. Kayla clarified that the request is for the dashboard, and instead of asking for a separate appropriation of such a small amount, the thought process is there is a big amount of money that is supposed to be doing these things, so we are saying to do this state appropriation that used to be federally funded and then prioritize this to eliminate asking for \$40,000. It was decided after discussion to request this to shift the support and prioritization through the Governor and the SLDS Committee.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Nick Archuleta	Y
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	Y
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	n/a
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Jenn Weber	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y
Sonia Meehl	Y

5. Council Membership & Operations / Council Membership changes as per study

Chair Liz shared that this came from a study conducted through Rep. Heinert’s committee and his committee reviewed the language and made the proposed changes; Luke brought this to the Interim Education Policy Committee. Chair Liz shared the changes of the Proposed Amendments from the Legislative Approval Initiatives Subcommittee Meeting held December 16th; the proposed amendments are taking out the hub and changing the council meetings to at least six times per biennium instead of four times per calendar year; other changes with representation included changing tribal schools to tribal interests. They increased the members

of the legislative assembly from three to four, changed the one member of the majority party to two members from each chamber of the legislative assembly, one member selected by the respective majority leader of each chamber, and one to be selected by the respective minority leader of each chamber. They also added one secondary school teacher and an elementary teacher, where there was only one representing all teachers. All the changes were noted in red. Sonia Meehl moved to support the proposed amendments to the legislation. Maria Neset seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held. Rep. Heinert stated the way the legislative assembly item is worded, it will never pass, not with two members from each chamber. Rep. Heinert stated it would pass if it were three from the majority and one from the minority. More discussion was held as to where the change in the number of legislators came in. Rep. Heinert stated the language can stay as it is, and they will go from there.

Chair Liz also added there was discussion to change the spending authority under this same category; there have been multiple discussions on how this does not work for this committee the way it is currently set up with limited spending. Chair Liz asked if this could be recommended to change the spending authority. Maria asked if there was going to be one vote or two separate votes for these 2 items. It was decided to leave both items as one vote. Sonia Meehl moved to change her motion to include the two bullet points and approve as amended, and Maria seconded as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

NAME	VOTE Y/N
Dr. Sarah Ricks	Y
Sara Medalen	Y
Melissa Vollmer (Liz)	Y
Dr. Jeff Fastnacht	Y
Brandt Dick	Y
Maria Neset	Y
April Foth	Y
Dr. Rupak Gandhi	n/a
Superintendent Baesler	Y
Jenn Weber	Y
Marc Bluestone	Y
Rep. Pat Heinert	Y
Sonia Meehl	Y
Nick Archuleta	Y

4 – Legislative Recommendations

Chair Liz shared that the legislative recommendations and the recommendations to the Governor and other agencies involved in the recommendations have been discussed and the outcomes from the discussion today.

5 - Subcommittee Meeting Dates: January – April

Chair Liz shared that there are four full council meetings and subcommittee meetings scheduled for the beginning of 2023.

With no further business before the committee, Jeff Fastnacht moved to adjourn the meeting. Marc Bluestone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Luke Schaefer, Chairperson

An upcoming meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2023

Minutes taken and prepared by Laura Doll

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL for Joint Meeting

Dave Farnsworth, WDC Chair, and Liz Vollmer, acting Chair for Luke Schaefer, called the WDC and the K-12 Education Coordination Council meeting to order. Members of each council welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

WDC Members present: Dave Farnsworth, Pat Bertagnolli, Becca Cruger, Kellie Carlson, Cindy Griffin, Mark Hagerott, Katie Ralston Howe, Lyn James, Dusty Jensen, Tim Johnson, Jan Kamphuis, Howard Klug, Landis Larson, Perry Lubbers, Matt Marshall, Guy Moos, Stan Schauer, Cindy Schreiber - Beck, Wayde Sick, Taya Spelhaug, Arnie Strebe, Damian Schlinger, James Upgren, Kasper Ziegler

Staff present: Phil Davis, Tammy Barstad, Kerri Kraft, Ryan Volk, Sherri Frieze

K12 Members present: Marc Bluestone, Sr., Jeff Fastnacht, Sonia Meehl, Melissa (Liz) Vollmer, Maria Neset, Sarah Ricks, Sara Medalen, Rep. Pat Heinert, Brandt Dick, and Jennifer Weber, Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Nick Archuleta, and April Foth

Others Present: Superintendent Baesler, Ellie Shockley, Dawn Ulmer, Stacy Duffield, Aimee Copas, Mike Heilman, Wayde Sick, Kayla Effertz Kleven, Terry Effertz, and Laura Doll

WDC OVERVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Katie Ralston Howe

WDC Charter, Membership, Themes, and Recommendations of the council were discussed.

CHARTER

Katie Ralston Howes shared the role of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) in advising the Governor and the public concerning the nature and extent of workforce development needs in North Dakota. In addition, identifying how to meet these needs effectively while maximizing the efficient use of available resources and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

MEMBERSHIP

Katie shared the following:

- 33 members on council
- 51% of membership – Private Sector
- 20% Labor Organizations and workforce representatives,
- Education, local and state elected officials, community-based organizations, and state workforce agencies.

WDC THEMES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Katie shared the following: In promoting the recommendations, it will allow statewide impact and encourage Private Sector Partnerships to coordinate and maximize Federal resources, all pushing for more scalable solutions to balance current and future needs.

CAREER EXPLORATION

1. Create and train Work-Based Learning Coordinators, Career Advisors
2. Hire an Apprenticeship Coordinator

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

1. Funding for local workforce solutions
2. Funding for talent and retention initiatives
3. Create Global Talent Task Force
 - Endorsement - NDSU Re-Energize ND

ADDRESSING TECHNICAL SKILLS GAP

1. Invest in Automation Enhancement Workforce Training Grant
2. Technical Skills Training Grant (TSTG) – Endorsement
 - Endorsement - Workforce Education Innovation

REMOVING BARRIERS

1. Develop job placement pilot program for formerly incarcerated individuals
2. Leverage federal Digital Equity Act (DEA) funds to advance digital skill training opportunities for adult learners, jobseekers, and workers.
 - Endorsement - Supporting Working Families Childcare Plan

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REFORM

1. Develop a central directory of all licensing boards
 - Endorsement - Policies that expedite the pathway to licensure for current and new North Dakotans.

K12 EDUCATION COORDINATION COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Liz Vollmer, Acting Chair in the absence of Chairman Luke Schaefer, shared the 2023 Legislative Recommendations supported by the K12 Coordination Council meeting that was held earlier:

EDUCATOR ATTRACTIONS & RETENTION

1. Increased funding request
2. Support an additional appropriation for mentoring of administrators
3. Conduct a research study of leading indicators of education attraction and retention:
 - Current education college students in North Dakota
 - Current teacher's scope of work and current attitudes towards the profession of teaching
 - Alternative pathways for teacher licensure
4. Study the training and other requirements for professional development that are required by state agencies of educators
 - Committee has been formed to determine the scope of work and priorities of the study to be more specific.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

5. Membership changes per study
 - Membership and scope changes
 - Changes to the spending authority of the K12 council

GOVERNOR, ND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Appropriate dollars to market the education profession with the request for funding.

GOVERNOR AND SLDS SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expand ND Insights to include a Strategic Vision Dashboard – included in NDIT budget
 - a. Support state funding for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)
 - Request SLDS governance to prioritize the expansion of ND Insights within the total appropriation
 - b. Support the continued full funding of SLDS (federal funding is no longer available)

KEYPOINT ITEMS FROM DISCUSSIONS

- Success with dual credit courses for high school students
- Building of less college real estate
- Net immigration and welcoming workforce to the state
- Alignment with recruitment and retention, Technical Skills Training Grant for teachers, more marketing on this, opportunities missed to promote this program with education
- Supporting of teachers that want to advance with licensing under one agency
- Defining of high school requirements, allowing Apprenticeship for Graduation
- Learn Everywhere Bill – with local board approval, too many hoops to go through currently
- Teach core competencies at Career Academy – build the system, innovation is coming and must be done at every school level
- Find a different way to teach the fundamentals for jobs of the future, automation
- Adjust standards to fit the learning model within the schools, testing model

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, members from both councils adjourned the meeting unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.