

# MINUTES

## Public Schools Commission Task Force II meeting

Minutes of July 13, 2009 – 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Conference Room 2

### Members Present

Paul Daigle  
Bruce Sievers  
Dave Ferreira  
Martin Gray  
David Raiche  
Maryann Minard  
James Morse

### Members Absent

Ed Higgins

### **Call to Order at 10:00 am**

Chairman Daigle welcomed members to the third meeting of Task Force II and introduced new member Martin Gray replacing Thomas Moore who is unable to continue his service. Mr. Gray also served on the committee for Public Schools Commission Task Force I.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the July 13 meeting. The minutes will be posted on the NEASC website.

**It was so voted.**

### **Letter to the Membership**

Paul Daigle highlighted the contents of the June 19 letter which was sent by Executive Director Jacob Ludes' to update the membership of the three Commissions.

There has been no feedback received via the NEASC web site, although Dave Ferreira, as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, has received some phone calls.

All three public school commission directors, Paul Bento, Dave Flynn and Janet Allison support combining the three commissions.

### **Testimony of Jacob Ludes**

On June 23, the Joint Committee on Education reviewed the testimony of Executive Director Jacob Ludes. Chairman Paul Daigle subsequently spoke with Jake regarding the testimony. This is the first time NEASC has been invited to make a presentation at the state level. It is on the agenda and will

be revisited next season. There are potentially 1500 new schools, mostly at the elementary level, yet to be accredited.

Janet Allison joined the Task Force committee members to explain the accreditation process and answer questions regarding their standards. She supports the charge of the Task Force in combining the three commissions into one public school commission.

She stated that we need to be attentive to phasing and timelines in pulling three commissions into one public school commission and that CTCI was different. She cited Oxford Hills, who prepared one self-study for both CPSS and CTCI, with representatives from CTCI serving on the evaluation team. CTCI spends a considerable amount of time looking at programs. We should be very attentive to that. We have had representatives from both commissions on other teams, i.e., Waltham High School. There are a lot more similarities between elementary and middle level than with CTCI but thought that it could be brought together. It could bring member strength to the public schools growth potential. We may be in a position to do some district accreditation

Janet suggested we might consider having a deputy director who works very closely with the director and with all groups involved.

A school would not hold individual accreditation if it was included in district accreditation. A protocol would be needed for district accreditation.

Chairman Paul Daigle said that district accreditation was looked at several years ago. There were 5 or 6 meetings. The stumbling block was there were 3-4 commissions at that time and that we would need one Commission to offer district accreditation. Financially for numerous schools, it would cost less if accredited district-wide rather than by three different commissions.

It was stated that VT, ME and NH, may buy the district accreditation, but not MA or CT as many of the schools are not district-wide. It would be a good selling point to have technical schools accredited by the same commission as the high schools, although district accreditation for larger communities would look different and would need to be discussed.

Janet stated that training/mentoring should be provided and that there is a great deal of intellectual wealth among the three commissions.

### **New Configuration of CPS**

Task Force members continued discussions on the two charts of potential Commission configurations developed by Chairman Paul Daigle.

Of the two proposed charts outlining possible professional staff assignments under a single Commission, it was voted to accept the configuration the various Associate Directors of each committee reporting to one Commission Director.

Janet Allison to call Commission Directors Paul Bento and Dave Flynn. She suggested a Deputy Director to report directly to the Commission Director.

Paul Daigle stated that Executive Director Jacob Ludes said there would be no staff reductions.

Accreditation of early childhood is something CPEMS would be doing more of. It is not the Task Forces' responsibility to set up positions on the new commission and Martin Gray did not recommend adding a Deputy Director. People could be added as needed. The three committees would work collaboratively.

Task Force I heard testimony about no crossing over in commissions. One public school commission would negate that.

Paul Daigle stated that Val Gardner was hired to review standards and come up with commonalities with each group developing their own indicators. It was suggested that representatives from each group meet and come up with commonalities and that the Task Force represented those groups, although it was mentioned that perhaps someone independent would be advantageous. Paul Daigle questioned the need to still utilize Val Gardner's services in finding the commonalities among the three sets of standards.

## **Standards**

The names of each commission's standards were compared. After much discussion, it was decided that this group would come together on commonalities with indicators to be done by each committee. The following seven standards were suggested (not in final order) for the single public school commission, with unique indicators for each committee:

1. Core Values and Expectations
2. Curriculum
3. Student Services and Support
4. School Finance and Community Relations
5. Culture and Leadership
6. Assessment
7. Instruction

A postsecondary standard may be separate for CTCI, but may be able to be included as a separate indicator under Curriculum. There may also be a separate standard for CPEMS on early childhood.

It was determined that each standard included in the three separate sets of standards was covered by one of the above seven. The example of educational media not having its own standard but is imbedded in the other standards.

A description of each standard will need to be developed that would suit all three commissions. Schools would be phased in to use the new common standards because they are in different phases of the accreditation process.

## **Commission Meeting**

There was a discussion of what a commission meeting would look like. The individual committees may continue to meet as they currently do but could they attend one joint meeting of the commission with items of concerns, i.e., probation? This would involve approximately 60 people. The use of a consent agenda was discussed, which CPSS currently uses due to the volume of reports on their commission

agenda. Would there be equal representation from each committee? CPSS has the largest number of Commission members, followed by CPEMS and CTCI being the smallest.

### **Next Steps**

At the next meeting on July 27, the Task Force members will continue discussions on:

- what the Commission would look like
- commission/committee meetings
- timeline
- additional services to be offered to schools

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl O'Connell