

Meeting Notes
Quality Education Commission
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE Salem, OR 97310
Conference Room 251B
September 23, 2010
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Present

Susan Massey
Vic Backlund
Beth Gerot
Frank McNamara
Mark Mulvihill
Gail Rasmussen
Maryalice Russell
Peter Tromba

Brian Reeder
Marjorie Lowe
Morgan Allen
Michael Van Kleeck
John Tenny
Jenni Deaton

Absent

Duncan Wyse
Lynn Lundquist

Welcome and Introductions

- Susan announced that there are two new members, to be confirmed this afternoon, in line for the Quality Education Commission. David Bautista to replace Emilio Hernandez, and Sarah Boly to replace Vic Backlund. Both were unable to attend the meeting due to scheduling conflicts.
- Susan extended a warm thank you to Vic Buckland for his service and contributions to the QEC throughout his years of membership. All of his efforts and support have been much appreciated and he will be missed.

Reports

- Member Updates and Information:
 - Beth: At regional OSBA meetings, focusing on the QEM as a standard has been a topic of discussion. Some pushback has been voiced due to the current economic environment, but Beth communicated that the report is not all about dollars.
 - Mark: ODE, OSBA, and other education organizations, as well as school principals, will be invited to a Superintendent's Summit, hosted in July. The math portion of the QEM, specifically the research around looping, will be used as a conversation starter for high school math PLC's, and changing the

image of the QEM from unattainable to being a valuable tool and resource will be stressed.

- Gail: OEA is investigating/planning a symposium around innovation in schools; focusing on the great things happening within our schools regardless of the challenges. It is scheduled for November 6th at the Tigard Embassy Suites. More details will be emailed out to Commissioners at a later date.
- Visitor Updates:
 - John Tenny: Retired Director of the School of Education at Willamette University. He has taken on re-writing a data software program that provides valuable feedback for teachers. The data produced serves as professional development for educators.
 - Michael Van Kleeck: Recently purchased an iPad, which opened his eyes to the potential benefits of this device for teachers in the future. All information would be stored in one convenient place, and software tools could be added to help teachers identify trends in their classroom.
 - Morgan Allen: Replacing David Williams at OSBA; will continue to attend future QEC meetings. OSBA is making an effort to bring educational discussions with legislatures back to the QEM, with a focus on the long-term benefits.

Steve Lamb informed Susan that the QEC was invited to have a table at the OSBA Convention, early Sunday morning.

Mark asked if the QEC had ever presented at the OSBA Convention, and Susan answered that they have in the past, just not in a long time. It was suggested that the QEC consider presenting at the Spring Convention, with a spin on best practices. This idea was supported by Beth from an OSBA perspective.

- Governor's Office Update (Marjorie Lowe)
 - The Governor is in the process of "finishing up" his framework of recommendations to share in November
 - An education panel was chosen to help with the educational portions of the reset package:
 - To bring endeavors for education to a common table
 - Develop commonalities for a more organized legislative session
 - Explore best ways to prioritize with constraints on resources and create efficiencies to preserve dollars for the classroom
 - We did receive federal Edujobs funds, which have parameters for the use of the money within school districts
 - Edujobs will be audited similarly to ARRA funds, but will not require as much detailed reporting

- These funds are plugging a critical hole for this biennium
- Marjorie will be completing the MOE for the funds mid-November
- No easy answers for school districts right now: funding will be very difficult when the federal dollars are gone
- The next forecast, which will serve as the basis for the Governor's recommended budget, will be the end of November

- Legislative Update
 - Autumn Wilburn has replaced Morgan Allen as the Legislative Liaison in the Superintendent's Office. She plans to attend future QEC meetings and present a short legislative update. Autumn was unable to attend this meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

- Next Steps for the Commission and QEM report:
 - Summary of last meeting's discussion:
 - The "big three," COSA, OEA and OSBA to provide an evaluative analysis of their thoughts on the report
 - Provide links to the report on critical websites
 - Create and market the report in a more user-friendly way for school districts
 - Ensure that the group is aligned to tailor the QEM report to the legislative audience as appointed in the charge to the Commission
 - Focus on simple readability
 - Develop a feedback loop; how the report is helpful, where to improve, etc.
 - What happens to the report now, and what will we do in the next cycle 2 years from now?

 - Maryalice's suggestion for dissemination is to strategically place the report where people will review; possibly on agendas for regional OSBA meetings and as a discussion point with COSA for Superintendent's meetings?
 - Gail agreed that there should be more intention with the report, and the Commission should embrace the opportunity to partner with education groups and organizations to communicate the QEM message.
 - Mark proposed the goal of developing an annual communication plan that would first of all include the identification of audiences to communicate the message to.
 - Frank shared that the Commission has had effective communication panels in previous years to help with this work of dissemination.
 - The QEM executive summary could be extracted and "dressed-up"/made attractive so folks would want to read it. Pull out particular bullets of interest to highlight relevance for audiences.
 - Attach a cover message with a link to the executive summary for email-dissemination.

- A short-term subcommittee will do the heavy lifting for communications:
 - Committee: Beth (co-chair), Maryalice (co-chair), Mark and Gail
 - Timeline and Assignment: By the October meeting, have a communication's plan to be rolled out after the next meeting
- Mark proposed looking into the possibility of meetings by phone utilizing a VTEL system. This would be especially helpful in the winter months when travel is difficult.
- Projects for Next Cycle:
- Mark presented the idea of focusing on increased efficiencies and integrating services. As an example, he mentioned school facilities and custodial grounds maintenance. This is an area where schools don't really know how many custodians/groundskeepers to have, as there is no standard. The general theme for this specific example would be the efficient use of resources around custodial/grounds maintenance activities.
- Maryalice suggested looking at building square footage and job responsibilities based on location and need to determine the distribution of duties on an equitable basis (this is the system used in the McMinnville school district).
- Most school districts do not land for these topic areas (business services, food, maintenance, etc.) because they do not have data to determine what to keep and what to cut.
- Peter added to the idea of focusing on efficiencies by stating that the only "sacred cow" is classroom teachers and class size; making teachers more efficient, which may involve the implementation of educational technology.
- The QEM is primarily based on brick and mortar schools: what about the growing virtual school movement?
- Beth mentioned that we must look at the effectiveness of alternative educational tools for students that could be learning just as much or more in settings other than the traditional classroom (virtual avenue). What would be the possible cost savings?
- Mark has interest in researching how many high schools integrate community college or four year universities with OTM/OOAT.
- For the next round of the best practices panel, Frank mentioned a body of work around the resource challenge to parade for legislatures and school personnel.
- Part of the communication's plan could be to solicit suggestions of efficiency areas directly from school districts; this would create anticipation for the data and results that would be presented in the next QEM.
- What useful information could the QEM provide for schools?
 - Maryalice suggested how we're moving student learning forward. Address instructional strategies and standards for skill sets. Also touch

on possible education standards that new teachers should graduate with.

- Gail: How to utilize the QEM in the here and now, focusing on providing the highest quality education for our students.
- Also provide support to parents, especially since more learning is taking place at home now with virtual options.
- Wraparound programs: integrating and sharing resources, as various state services are often targeting the same audiences and populations, which creates a duplication of service.
- For the integration of services, Peter said that often it is not space that's the problem, but "turf" issues.
- Frank mentioned that this is a recycled idea, as he has attempted on numerous fronts to publicize and carry out these wraparound programs in the past. In these situations though, school principals generally take the heat for what happens on the school campus, and this can be a challenge when outside services occupy space within schools.
- The release of student information can be another potential roadblock to implementing wraparound programs.
- Alternatives to the researched efficiencies would have to be investigated in order to capture why our proposed model is the best.
- Susan added that with the core standards coming up, there may be value in plugging in some information on this topic, as well as possibly addressing use of time in learning (explore efficiencies of year-round school programs).

Next Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, October 21, 2010
- Thursday, November 11, 2010 – 11am to 1pm at the OSBA Convention, Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland

Adjourn