

Quality Education Commission

7/09/14 Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 10:00 am.

Present: Members Doug Wells, Sarah Boly, Beth Gerot, Greg Hamann, Colt Gill, Judy Stiegler. Absent: Ana Gomez, Julie Smith, MaryAlice Russell, Hanna Vaandering. Staff: Brian Reeder

Discussion of the Commission's charge and whether the QEC should consider Pre-K and post-secondary as part of its work. There was general agreement that even though our statutory charge is limited to K-12, to better understand and serve K-12 we need to consider the connection between Pre-K programs and the degree to which they prepare kids for kindergarten. We also need to understand how well the K-12 system is preparing students for post-secondary if K-12 is to turn out students that are prepared for post-secondary.

Colt Gill indicated he has not heard from anyone outside the QEC who is opposed to the QEC considering Pre-K and post-secondary issues when doing its work.

Sara Boly gave an update on the best practices work, presenting the document she created which reported on the EPIC work and the other work related to best practices.

Doug Wells indicated that full-day Kindergarten and facilities issues need to be addressed in the report because full-day kindergarten is required in 2015-16 and facilities issues have gotten a lot of attention lately—there is a task force.

Discussion of programs that affect student learning and the lag time between early grade programs and the effect on the graduation rates of those students. For programs implemented in the later grades, the impact will be seen in graduation rates earlier. The success the Chicago Public Schools are having with their Chicago on Track program was mentioned.

Discussion of the process for getting the final report written. Brian Reeder will coordinate the writing and editing process. Brian will send out the latest draft every Monday afternoon, will incorporate any edits sent in by commissioners during the week, and will send out a revised draft on the following Friday. The final round of edits will be during the week of July 28, with the final report due August 1.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.