

Meeting Notes
Quality Education Commission
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St NE Salem, OR 97310
Conference Room 200A
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

QEC Commissioners Present

Sarah Boly
Beth Gerot
Colt Gill
Ana Gomez (by phone)
Greg Hamann
MaryAlice Russell
Julie Smith
Judy Stiegler
Hanna Vaandering (by phone)
Doug Wells

ODE Staff

Stephanie Parks
Brian Reeder

Member Updates and Information

- Judy Stiegler shared that she has been teaching Poly-Psych classes in Prineville, and that it has been nice to see a different mix of students. She has also been involved in the Deschutes County Family Access Network, working with Early Learning Hub efforts.
- Julie Smith has been working with the Department of Education to get conditional aspects of the recently approved No Child Left Behind waiver proposal signed, sealed and delivered among all partners. It will go to USDOE May 1.
- Brian Reeder has been working on performance models trying to get a better sense of how resources affect performance. He is looking at cohorts over time, expanding on the work.
- Greg Hamann has been appointed chair of an education subcommittee for the Department of Corrections Re-entry Council, the Education Implementation Team. Its task is to develop policy recommendations on how to help reduce recidivism. One of the goals is to create greater access for postsecondary education while in prison.
- MaryAlice Russell shared that McMinnville School District was named one of only three STEM Showcase Districts nationwide by the U.S. Department of Education. It is one of the top providers of science, technology, engineering and math programs in the country. A video production highlighting STEM programs in the district will be posted on the district website later this spring.

MaryAlice also shared that Stephanie Legard, principal of Sue Buel Elementary School in McMinnville, has been named Oregon Elementary Principal of the Year, and Cindy Hiatt Henry, food service director, was named the top nutrition program director in the state.

- Doug Wells attended the National School Boards Association meeting in New Orleans April 5-7, where Thomas Friedman was the keynote speaker.

He was invited by STAND for Children to talk about QEC, and found them to be very supportive of our mission.

Doug said that the Quality Education Commission has been asked to play a more integral role in providing input to the Governor's 2015-2017 budget. He and Brian Reeder will be testifying before OEIB's Outcomes & Investments subcommittee on May 29th.

Update on Best Practices Research

Sarah Boly updated Commissioners on the proposal for changes to QEC's Phase 1 Research Plan, discussing current research implementation issues. She also provided a proposed outline for the Best Practices section of the 2014 QEM Report. She mentioned that it will be up to the Commission to weave its findings into the context of how resources affect achievement. The Commission voted to move ahead with the proposal.

There was some discussion as to how to frame findings in the report. It was agreed that it should be written in two volumes; the first one being an Executive Summary framing the context of the Commission's findings and what it means for policy as it relates to the whole continuum, and the second volume presenting the "nuts and bolts."

QEM Cost Model Update

Brian Reeder discussed the QEM Cost model, saying that the promise of the model was that we tie resources to outcomes. Greg Hamaan mentioned that it was his hope that we be able to identify data down to individual students, and not just school-based data. There is a shift in K-12 away from graduation and courses to how successful students are when they leave. The goal is that students be successful in life; graduation from college is not the goal. How do we create models that help us to think differently? Brian said it makes us look at interim benchmarks (e.g., high school graduation and college graduation) in a different way.

Brian walked through a linear probability model where he followed cohorts of students over time. He found that gender differentiation persists in every subcategory, but said we must be cautious on how we capsule this. He emphasized that we must be careful not to overreach and that we need to look at multiple cohorts in different times. If consistency is seen across cohorts and subjects, then it would be meaningful.

He is also working on a pre-K piece, and is finding that what we don't know is immense, particularly on the financial side of things. He said the pre-K model will be simple, but as we learn more from the Hub and data from kindergarten readiness/assessment we will be learning a lot in the next few years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

The next meeting of the Quality Education Commission will be May 14, 2014.