

Meeting Notes
Quality Education Commission
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE Salem, OR 97310
251 B Conference Room
Thursday, June 9, 2011
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present

Susan Massey
Sarah Boly
Beth Gerot
Frank McNamara
Gail Rasmussen
Peter Tromba

Brian Reeder
Jenni Deaton
Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann
Tom Owen
Aaron Cook, Best Practices Panel

Absent

David Bautista
Lynn Lundquist
Mark Mulvihill
Maryalice Russell
Duncan Wyse

Welcome and Introductions

Reports

- Member Updates and Information:
 - Peter: Connected with John Tenny, visitor at the September 2010 meeting, regarding his iPad software for teacher evaluation. Peter introduced this information to Eugene, and the few classrooms that piloted the product had great results. All administrators that evaluate teachers will now have the software, which interfaces with student information for a better focus on learners and student achievement than the former imbalanced focus on teacher behavior.
 - Gail: OEA is wrapping up their end of the year recognition activities with the *Working Wonders* video contest. This contest invites OR schools to submit videos of good work going on in classrooms. This year 3 schools were honored, out of approximately 70 entries.
 - Beth: The Eugene school board is currently working on civic stadium issues. New Superintendent Shelley Berman will start the first of July.

- Sarah: Participated in a review of draft budget documents being prepared by Gov. Kitzhaber's pre-Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) budget work team. The early drafts of the budget work team seemed to be very aligned with the QEC's work plan for the coming year. Specifically, our intent to further clarify and determine the cost of implementing effective practices in improving student achievement will be helpful to the Governor and any current or future budget work group responsible for making education investment decisions.
- Brian: Contributes as a member of the budget group for the OEIB. Their charge is to present budget proposals for outcome-based education, focused around learner groups rather than traditional elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary groupings. (*Where should resources be focused? *How do we devise a funding system that promotes what we want to happen for students?)
 - Holding institutions accountable for previous institutions' "outputs" (students' preparedness)
 - If we can't control pre-k, how do we determine in kindergarten who comes in deficient, and how to target their needs?
- Too soon to approach Governor's Office re: connecting OEIB and QEC, but may be valuable to have conversations with Duncan Wyse and Roger Bassett around common threads and what their views are.
- Important that we bridge gaps when valuable and ensure that separate silos are using the same language.

Discussion

- Scaling Up, Dianna Carrizales-Engelmann, ODE:
 - Initiative in its 3rd year in connection with State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices (SISEP) Center in North Carolina. Oregon is one of three states initially chosen to develop the capacity to introduce and implement evidence-based practices statewide.
 - This new infrastructure should support/ be fully accessible to all 197 school districts within the next 5 years.
 - Oregon leadership is practicing new skills with Education and Behavior Instructional Support Systems (EBISS), Response to Intervention (RTI), and Positive Behavior Instructional Support (PBIS) initiatives.
 - Take effective practices and "scale them up" statewide. Implementation is key.
 - "Effective practices" = those proven statistically to be significantly effective.
 - Through process, have learned to *slow down* to focus on intentionality.
 - Currently, working in zone 1 (Portland metro area) with 8 school districts
 - Engage leadership to make the best decisions

- In the field, rely on professional development, as each district has differences in capacity, alignment, vocabulary, achievement, and collaboration.
 - Exciting results: Big ideas have come out of this work that can be applied in all directions.
 - Implementation must be deliberate to work well; can't assume that school districts want to openly share their effective practices, or pick up new ones.
 - Community connection is a new important component of the work.
 - Timeline: Currently working on a grant that would extend funding support through 2016, giving ODE 4 years to engage 90 school districts with the initiatives.
- Best Practices:
 - Drill deeper into work of last cycle with a focus on implementation.
 - The schools/cohort narrowed down for surveys and interviews may be very similar to last cycle.
 - Interview teachers, superintendent, principal, and school board of schools surveyed.
 - Hypothesis: Schools selected based on the same filtering criteria for three years probably have strong leadership and student achievement.
 - Other topics such as governance, implementation, etc. can be worked into broad subject of math.
 - ***Commission consensus:** in favor of using a similar selection process for schools and digging deeper into last cycle's topic.
 - Timeline: (subject to change)
 - List of who will participate/interview schedule in July
 - Questions and protocol for talking to schools/principals in August
 - Analysis of school/principal interviews in September
 - Preliminary report: May 2012
 - (Specifics may be sent out via email, and updates/summaries will be presented at meetings)
 - Thank you's from Commission or Governor's Office to encourage schools to participate/stress the importance of this work.
 - Regions:
 - Do we need geographic diversification, or could we limit the number of places visited and spend more time at each one?
 - Frank mentioned that in the last round of interviews, rural/diverse areas appreciated having a voice.
 - The survey could reach out to diverse areas of the state instead of in-person interviews.
 - Partner with events already happening?
 - COSA/OSBA conventions
 - Gather information from focus groups

- Implementation could be linked more with resource allocation than best practices; connection with best practices re: what should/can be implemented first.
- Resource allocation work could be happening parallel to best practices work.
- In final report, QEC's charge is to present costs of best practices
 - Part of charge is to identify 2 alternatives to meeting quality goal: *If you have x amount of dollars, where would be the best place to spend it?*
- Next Steps:
 - July meeting: Brian will outline optimal resource path, and Sarah and Peter will have a fleshed-out best practices plan to share.
 - Susan will contact Duncan Wyse and Roger Bassett to see what their thoughts are regarding connections between OEIB and QEC.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Thursday, July 14
- Thursday, August 11
- Thursday, September 8