

Meeting Notes
Quality Education Commission
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE Salem, OR 97310
Studio A
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present

Doug Wells
Sarah Boly
Beth Gerot
Colt Gill
Gail Rasmussen
Maryalice Russell
Julie Smith
Peter Tromba

Brian Reeder
Jenni Deaton
Whitney Grubbs
Michael Seelig
Laurie Wimmer

Welcome and Introductions:

Member Updates and Information:

Gail: The new school year has started, and the effects of larger class sizes and reduced staff are observable. OEA is working together with COSA and the OSEA to support district needs. Gail recently attended several educational convocations that set a promising tone for the new school year.

Julie: Exciting to be a part of Pendleton's recent roll-out of their pilot 290 evaluation work. Chalkboard provided train-the-trainer sessions for staff over the summer and teachers are feeling empowered with the new evaluation process. Julie will keep Commissioners informed regarding a possible blog about the QEC on Chalk Talk.

Colt: Great start to the new school year. A Bethel school has been selected as 1 of 4 schools for recognition during Oregon Safe Schools Week. Brian, Maryalice and Colt will share information about the new QEM during a Superintendent's meeting on Friday, September 21.

Doug: Great meetings with Dr. Rudy Crew and the OEIB since the last QEC meeting in August. New kindergarten readiness assessment is rolling out in 15 schools across the state.

Brian: Involved in recent meetings with Higher Ed regarding funding models, and how they may interact with K-12 funding models.

Sarah: Kudos to Brian and Doug for their great presentation to the OEIB on September 11. The conversation was productive and telling of what the Board is looking for.

Beth: Echoes Sarah's comments about the QEC presentation at the September OEIB meeting. Eugene's back to school kick-off was hosted by the Education Foundation at the Eugene Hilton. Classified staff and teachers were invited which created a strong feeling of team connectedness. The Task Force on Higher Education Student and Institutional Success recently held a meeting in Eugene, which included several attendees from Lane Community College. Beth will share a draft report from the task force with Commissioners for their review.

Peter: Started school year in new position as Eugene's technology director. College and career readiness is a focus area for the district (providing a college readiness dashboard for students/parents). Eugene is also working on a Race to the Top grant, which pulls together the best thinking of many in the district.

Michael Seelig: Strategic Initiatives Director for Dr. Rudy Crew and OEIB.

Whitney Grubbs: P-20 Policy Advisor for Dr. Rudy Crew and OEIB.

Report on Meeting with Dr. Rudy Crew:

Doug and Brian reported that the meeting with Dr. Crew went very well. There are still unanswered questions regarding next steps for the QEC.

Discussion with Michael Seelig and Whitney Grubbs:

Many possible angles for creating a supportive state infrastructure for education, and the QEC may be a vital resource for information and support.

Examining governance and board structures: Need to streamline? Role of OEIB/State Board?

Current work: preparing the Governor's recommended budget. Every section of state government is working on this task, and funding teams are researching history in consideration of any new or adapted possibilities with an outcome-focus.

Dr. Crew's priorities include: early literacy, establishing a professional environment that's supportive of teachers, college and career readiness, individualized pathways to graduation for students, and increased parent engagement.

The QEC could provide the OEIB with better analysis of data and improved quantitative perspectives, as well as assist with connecting best practices to the field and ensuring implementation.

Option of a policy research function out of the OEIB (instead of ODE); extend purview to include P-20 transitions.

- Broader scope but functionally the same. Closer connections as resource for OEIB and engaged in the P-20 model.
- Would QEC membership parameters change to reflect the inclusion of higher education? (there are currently 3 openings for the QEC)

Opportunity for QEC to expand research capacity (work with research organizations such as EPIC)

- Commission feels that if they would've had access to research resources, additional questions could've been addressed in the latest QEM report.

The OEIB is communicating with Linda Darling Hammond and Dave Conley; considering a possible pilot assessment of the additional essential skills not currently assessed in the state.

If the QEC is viewed through the lens of the QEM, the QEM will need to be expanded to include higher education to avoid becoming an education model that excludes part of its continuum.

The QEM is not currently aligned to the 40-40-20 goal.

Is early childhood data ready, or is it too pre-mature to broaden the QEC scope?

Brian: The foundational start of the Oregon P-K component could be based outside research sources, and refined as additional Oregon data becomes available. More higher education data is available for Oregon at this point than early childhood.

Target in K-12: Proficiency

Target in Higher Education: Need for remediation

Ultimately want target for K-12 and higher education to be completion/time to completion.

Access to data:

- ODE's contract with the National Student Clearinghouse allows the Department to share with individual districts where students attended high school, which can be matched with college attendance.
- There is initial talk of having the data accessible on the district secure website.

Maryalice: If the compacts require students to earn college credit hours, fees should be waived, or at least be consistent (fees vary by Community College, so students in certain areas of the state pay more or less based on their location).

Both transitions, from Pre-K to K and 12th grade to higher education, are critical.

Research focus suggested by Dr. Crew: ESL/ELL

The QEC would find it helpful if the OEIB would provide them with a menu of needs where efforts are not already being focused.

Idea for a district self-assessment tool that aligns with the QEM; an internal study to help districts stay on track for successful implementation

- Would require authorization if we wanted districts to participate
- Similar tools may already be available
- May be too broad-brush stroke when we want districts to dig deep
- Can be viewed as "compliance" by districts

Important for districts to have support, communication and guidance from the state regarding trainings and conferences (which are the most important to attend). Districts begin to wonder “who has the right answer” when there are so many versions of the same information available.

Commitments in Waiver; support model of what we’re trying to do for focus/priority schools

- Ideas to link health care and social service systems to education as well

QEM Whitepapers/Briefs:

Purpose: Way to hone in on findings (to avoid leaving the information in a 70 page report that many won’t read)

- An executive summary of the findings that explain what they are, and how to implement
- A way for districts to link “new” to their “known”

First paper narrows the focus on key take-away points from the report.

Consensus to all work on the first paper so it’s ready for the October 9th OEIB meeting.

Peter and Colt: Data information imbedded in the collaboration and formative assessment sections, but may not be enough for a brief. The product would instead cover information that was not addressed in the QEM.

Audience: Legislators/Governor, public/community, SD’s/teachers/administrators

May want to provide differentiated language to reach specific audiences

Implications for stakeholder groups:

- OEIB
- ODE
- Parents/public
- Policy makers
- Practitioners

Suggestion for document name: Best Practices Brief

Julie: Information may also be disseminated on a blog to reach audiences that will not read the briefs or the QEM.

Next Steps:

Second OEIB meeting in Salem on October 9

- Beth, Peter, Julie and Brian are available to attend/present

QEC presentation on November 9 at the OSBA Conference

- Colt, Maryalice and Brian are available to attend/present

Group goal is to have the first brief ready by Tuesday, October 2 to send to Seth Allen for the OEIB meeting. Sarah will make initial edits to the brief based on this meeting and send to the team for review and revision.

Next Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 10 am-12 pm, Conference Room 251B
- Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 10 am-12 pm, Studio A in Basement