

Meeting Notes **Quality Education Commission**

Oregon Department of Education

255 Capitol St NE Salem, OR 97310

Conference Room 200A

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

QEC Commissioners Present

Sarah Boly
Beth Gerot
Colt Gill
Greg Hamann
Julie Smith
Judy Stiegler
Hanna Vaandering
Doug Wells, Commission Chair

ODE Staff

Stephanie Parks
Brian Reeder

Guests

Laurie Wimmer, OEA

QEC Commissioners Absent

Peter Tromba (on leave)

Member Updates and Information

- Judy Stiegler shared that her 5-year old granddaughter in California is participating in a Spanish immersion kindergarten class, where they don't converse in English at all. She said talking to the teacher afterwards was quite interesting. She also said it was "fun to get her feet wet again," not having been involved in day-to-day operations at a school district for some time.
- Hanna Vaandering attended a meeting in New Orleans where the topic was common core; she said everyone is working hard on common core implementation. "We can make a difference for kids if it's done right." She said a lot of discussion took place about things happening in various states and how state leadership can be engaged. Hanna said that she spoke with Linda Darling Hammond about assessments, and the way they are currently being utilized in schools. Hanna is looking forward to seeing some real collaboration and believes that best practices mean engaging parents in the learning process.
- Greg Hamann said he was excited about the work going on in the community college arena over the next three years, where they expect to double their technical capacity and move career technical education forward. He was in Washington, D.C. last week, where he was a keynote speaker at the American Association of Community College's fall conference. He discussed the role community college presidents play in transforming community colleges nationwide. He also shared that he will be teaching a finance course in OSU's doctoral program.
- Beth Gerot visited two elementary schools in the Portland area where students were included in the schools' design process. She said it was very evident that "kids' eyes" had been there. Beth also had an opportunity to meet with a group of principals and counselors to look at SMART goals.

- Julie Smith said she is “working with folks from Hanna’s shop” to ensure that we push for best practices and safety nets around teachers and kids. She has been involved in rural initiatives and offered that she is finding that we need clear criteria on what “rural” and “small” mean.
- Colt Gill said his district has been busy trying to figure out common core and proficiency-based instruction while dealing with limited resources. They are constructing two new elementary schools, and incorporating technology at the high school as well. He said their districts came together with the University of Oregon and successfully got a regional achievement collaboration in Lane County which he hopes to see grow over the next few years.
- Doug Wells attended an OEIB Early Learning Council meeting. He and Brian Reeder will represent the Quality Education Commission at an OSBA meeting where they will be doing a presentation regarding QEC.

Best Practices Research Proposal Updates

The QEC’s 2013-14 research project includes three stages, the first of which involves contracting with a research vendor in the development of a statewide model showing the relative success of Oregon’s students in transitioning from secondary to postsecondary education. The identification of matched pairs of high schools to enable the comparison of practices in schools where students perform better than predicted and schools where students perform less well than predicted in postsecondary transition and perseverance is also underway. The research vendor procurement process for Stage 1 has been completed, and the QEC will provide the vendor with key research parameters.

QEM Cost Model Update

Brian Reeder reported on his cost modeling work using numbers from census information specific to Oregon. Distribution across age groups was based on percentages from the census, which provided opportunities for different modeling methods or sets of parameters for students of different ages and different economic circumstances. Factors considered included teacher quality, health care, FTE, class size, salaries, ages served, retirement plans, supplies, etc. (capital costs, which are funded differently, are not included in the QEC model). Models were shown with costs ranging \$4K to over \$9K per student. Brian reiterated that this model was not to advocate or propose anything, but instead represented a cost structure to use as a starting point. Some items are merely placeholders, and a lot of numbers are preliminary. Brian indicated the number one indicator of success is the quality of the educator.

Brian also mentioned that he is learning from the literature that the performance side of the cost model is critical. He will continue to work on the performance piece of the model, as it is important to include how early learning experiences have impact on later performance and achievement that is independent of accumulated cognitive skills kids have and are tied up in non-cognitive skills that kids learn.

OEIB Data System

Peter Tromba began work on the Oregon Education Investment Board’s (OEIB) longitudinal database project two months ago. He is charged with creating a business case to define and justify a longitudinal database system to measure the success of efforts to create a seamless birth to college and career education system. He said current issues with the database system include:

1. The OEIB and other policy makers have no means to track expenditures and measure progress.
2. Institutional and agency databases are not compatible.
3. Students and families have no personal and portable method to track achievement.

QEC Meetings

2014 meetings of the Quality Education Commission will take place the second Wednesday of every month (excepting December):

January 8
February 12
March 12

April 9
May 14
June 11

July 9
August 13
September 10

October 8
November 12

Other

Hanna Vaandering said that the TELL Oregon Survey , which is sponsored by the New Teacher Center (NTC) working with a variety of stakeholder groups representing teachers, superintendents, communities and businesses, will be available soon. TELL (which stands for Teaching, Empowering, Leading, and Learning) is an anonymous statewide survey to assess teaching conditions at the school, district, and state level. School-based licensed educators will be able to complete the survey any time during the four-week window between February 24 and March 24, 2014. The TELL Oregon results will provide educators with data, tools and direct support to facilitate school improvement.

Miscellaneous

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting will be January 8, 2014.