

Meeting Notes
Quality Education Commission
Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol St NE Salem, OR 97310
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

QEC Commissioners Present

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

ODE Staff

Stephanie Parks
Brian Reeder

Member Updates and Information

- Judy Stiegler is currently working with students at Central Oregon Community College on voter registration. She commented that it is nice to see the efforts by community colleges to get students involved in this process.
- Brian Reeder discussed the performance model update, saying he was looking at longitudinal data for cohorts of students to try and follow them through high school. He said he is looking at multiple cohorts and not just a single group of students, which means we can follow one group for ten years, one group for nine years, another for eight years, etc. He is looking at developing interim indicators of success at specific grade levels (e.g., 3rd grade reading; 5th grade math), and timing the programs at benchmarks so we have a set of predictors of later success. The idea is to suggest types of program interventions that are most effective.

Brian also discussed the work of the School Funding Task Force, which he also staffs. This task force was convened by statute and its members were appointed by the governor. The Task Force's chair is Senator Devlin, and Senator Komp is co-chair. Brian said that the task force had invited consultants from Colorado to come and discuss school funding formulas as the charge of the group is to look at school funding formulas and recommend any changes.

Discussion took place on how the work of the task force linked to the work of the Quality Education Commission. The distribution formula is very important, as it affects the ability of the state to meet its 40-40-20 goals.

- Doug Wells commented that having Brian Reeder staff both the Quality Education Commission and the School Funding Task Force is significant as it shows that ODE is refocusing to include early learning, as serving the needs of higher education includes providing the "raw materials."

He and Peter Tromba, now at the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) have had several meaningful conversations on how to bring all this together. Doug said, "The time is right."

- Julie Smith participated in a Harvard grad school institute of education for a week, where she was "inundated with the latest research." She mentioned that according to research, 3rd grade reading should be considered a benchmark.
- Colt Gill said he is working on the construction of three new schools, and staffing up for a CTE revitalization grant. He has also been working with COSA on envisioning its work for the coming year and the next legislative session. He has also been serving on the Chalkboard Distinguished Leaders Council.
- Beth Gerot has been involved in hiring for key positions and construction of two new elementary schools. She mentioned they are building in flexibility in order to provide the kind of instruction that "we don't even know what is going to be needed." Beth mentioned that OSBA would like to have someone from QEC present at their September 19-20 board meeting in Salem.
- Sarah Boly is continuing her work on researching best practices. She mentioned that site visits are important as schools like to talk about what they are doing. The early college/high school model is expanding, which is very different from the 5th year model. Sarah said great things are happening in schools; everybody displays their own pockets of excellence across the state. She commented that strategic investments are for the purpose of seeing what works, and informing on the how.
- Ana Gomes brought three students to the meeting. They have been attending the Latino partnerships with the Oregon Community Foundation, and went to Tillamook to visit Junto people there. They met families from that region and had the opportunity to see how Latinos are doing around the state. Her purpose was to expose the students to Oregon's diversity, and to how much can be done if you "go and get" the higher education opportunities.
- Greg Hamann talked about his activities on an OEIB task force and the Department of Corrections Education team. He has written papers on the topics of free tuition and dual credit, and has a meeting with Ben Cannon, Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to talk about these issues. Greg also said that community colleges are developing outcomes funding models, trying to do things at a local level. He said there is work being done on a P-20 regional achievement compact that will replace individual achievement compacts. Greg also said there will be over 800 5th year students at Linn-Benton Community College next year. There are a variety of programs and a number of models doing different things that come out of K-12 funding.
- MaryAlice Russell, participating in the meeting by phone, said McMinnville is celebrating a lot of achievements by staff and teachers at the building level. They are also in the process of contract negotiations with classified staff. There are tours going on today, which is why she was participating in the meeting by phone.

- Hanna Vaandering reported that through the Oregon Education Association, 650 educators came together and are calling for a moratorium on the smarter balance assessment. They feel students are not ready and that time needs to be taken to put a plan in place. She said she attended an OEIB meeting where they are working on several issues, one of which is 3rd grade reading. A lot of work is going into creating a process on how we will provide best practices. She suggested the QEC arrange to present to OEIB regarding what are best practices that we should be implementing.

Hannah also talked about the TELL Oregon 2014 Survey (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning), which had just short of 60% participation of Oregon educators (the third highest in the nation). “We will be moving forward using this data to make a difference for our students. There will be some conversations that are really positive, and some things with issues asking what are we going to do to make it better?” She said there are leaders across the state willing to facilitate these conversations.

- Doug Wells said that the QEC has been asked to play a more integral part in helping provide input to the Governor’s 2015-2017 budget. OEIB’s Outcomes and Investments subcommittee (of which Hanna Vaandering is a member) is asking for stakeholders to come and give testimony around best practices that should be considered. He and Brian Reeder will testify before the subcommittee on May 29th. He has also told them that the QEC would be available to come to each of their convenings to provide additional thoughts and guidance as they hear from other groups. “Of particular value that QEC brings to the table is a true cross-silo group that represents the whole P20 continuum.” Doug suggested that this is a real opportunity for the Quality Education Commission to play a much more integrated role, and said that it should recommend a list of 3-5 best practices for consideration.
- There was some discussion regarding the Quality Education Commission’s mandate, the way the group was formed and its charge according to the law. The Commission is comprised of volunteers and has no budget; discussion took place on how to provide a framework to do requested work.

QEM Cost Model Update

Brian Reeder said he is putting together data sets for cohort analysis and will have them ready for the next meeting.

Colt Gill said that the deadline is next week for OSBA’s call for presentations for the 68th Annual Convention November 13-16 in Portland. Doug Wells told him to put a placeholder in for members of the QEC to present.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

The next meeting of the Quality Education Commission will be June 11, 2014.