



Central Carolina Regional Educational Service Alliance

Serving School Districts in the Heart of North Carolina

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Neil Pedersen
Executive Director

SUBJ: Executive Director's Report

DATE: March 15, 2019

Looks like after struggling last fall through all the disruptions caused by the hurricanes and then the snowstorm in December, you've been fortunate with the weather over the last couple of months. Knock on wood, but, hopefully, it will be clear sailing for the remainder of the school year.

Recent Programs

- We've recently had some well attended sessions at the CCRESA of which you may not be aware.
- On February 19th, we had more than 100 principals and other administrators register for an in-depth session held on how to make effective use of EVAAS.
- On March 5th, the Human Capital Alliance held a second session on effective teacher recruitment and retention strategies with this program focused on the critical role that principals can play in these efforts. We had about 10 districts send teams of principals and HR staff, and HCA provided them with some excellent insights and tools that can be used in their home districts.
- On March 1st, Lisa Sonricker and a number of consultants offered a full-day professional learning session for our lateral-entry teachers on teaching EC and ELA students. Last Saturday, March 9th, Lisa hosted a test-prep session for teachers in the CCTI program who are preparing to take assessments necessary for their licensure.
- This week Anna Brady facilitated the fourth Lead and Learn program for first and second year principals. There are approximately 30 school principals participating, and Anna has been wonderful.

School Turnaround Meeting with State Board Representatives

On March 4th I met with Amy White, J.B. Buxton, and DPI staff regarding school turnaround and the Innovative School District. They were asking for feedback about how processes currently were working, and they shared a draft continuous improvement model for providing a system of support. The biggest change was providing the lowest performing schools an opportunity to undertake a "District Self-Directed Intervention" before being considered for inclusion in the ISD. This would provide them with two or three years to make improvements before being identified as an ISD school. Clearly, the School Board is trying to find an

approach that would be acceptable to the General Assembly and to local school boards that would not feel so much like a state takeover.

Legislative Breakfast

As you know, our second annual Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th. We have shared a Google doc with you that allows you to see who has responded. If there are legislators representing your school district from whom we have not heard, please follow up with them. So far, we have about a dozen legislators indicating that they will attend. That's a good start.

Looking Ahead

This year, as in years past, we have a fairly light program agenda in April – June. In April, districts are taking Spring Breaks at various times, so this presents scheduling challenges. In addition, teachers and school leaders are very focused on instruction with EOGs and EOCs looming on the horizon and, then, of course, tests are being administered throughout May. We, however, will be holding Council and Board meetings through the end of May. May and June also will be particularly busy months for the CCTI program as we try to move teachers in Cohorts 1 and 2 toward licensure and prepare the many program revisions that we will make for Cohort 3.

I am reluctant to make too many plans for next year in deference to whomever will be stepping into the Executive Director position. I do, however, look forward to having some overlapping days when I can orient him or her to what the CCRESA has been doing and the logic behind our strategies.

I estimate that we'll end up the year with about \$385,000 in fund balance, excluding funds reserved for CCTI. We've been spending down this fund balance by about \$30,000 - \$40,000 per year in that it's not healthy for a non-profit to maintain such a large fund balance. The CCRESA should not experience any financial pressures for another 5-10 years depending upon the programming that you choose to do.

Our dinner in Asheville this summer will be held on Sunday, June 23rd (6:30 p.m.) at Bouchon, a "French comfort food" restaurant located within walking distance of the Renaissance Hotel. I've eaten there several times and think that you'll enjoy it. I hope that many of you will be able to attend as it will be my last occasion with you and, hopefully, the first for your new Executive Director.