



Central Carolina
Regional Educational Service Alliance
Serving School Districts in the Heart of North Carolina

To: Board of Directors
From: Neil G. Pedersen
Executive Director
Subj: Recommendation Regarding Future of CCTI
Date: February 8, 2019

As you know, on Tuesday, February 12, we will be holding a special Board of Directors meeting from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., primarily to discuss the future of the Central Carolina Teaching Initiative (CCTI) and plans for selecting a new Executive Director. This memo pertains to the CCTI recommendation.

At our December Board meeting we discussed challenges and opportunities associated with the future of the CCTI and indicated that we were considering two options: (1) contract the program out to RTI, which would become the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP); or (2) enhance our in-house program in order to address some of the challenges encountered during the first two years of the program in which case the CCRESA would be the EPP. If neither of these options appears to be viable, Lisa Sonricker would continue on in the program through the 2019-20 year and support members of the first two cohorts as they complete all of the program requirements and the CCTI would be phased out.

In order to reach a decision, we scheduled a special Board meeting for February 12th and rescheduled the Human Resources Council meeting to February 7th so that the Board would have the benefit of the Council's feedback and/or recommendation. That meeting was held yesterday at which time Edna Wallace and Stacey Costello presented the RTI proposal and Lisa Sonricker presented the in-house proposal. Time was provided for questions and discussion at the conclusion of which we asked each district that was represented to fill out an online survey to communicate its interest in participating in CCTI next year, which of the two options it preferred along with a rationale for that preference, and a realistic estimation of the number of teachers that the district would commit to supporting.

In the email accompanying this memo, you will find the RTI proposal, the CCTI (in-house) proposal, a snapshot comparison of the two proposals, notes from the HR Council's discussion, and the results of the survey (without the accompanying rationales). Of the 12 districts represented at the meeting, 8 indicated that they wanted to participate in CCTI next year, 3 didn't, and 1 was unsure. Of the 8 that planned to participate, 7 preferred the in-house proposal, and 1 the RTI proposal. The expressed reasons for preferring the in-house proposal can be summarized as follows: (1) it builds upon the relationships and comfort level with the existing CCTI program, which is held in high regard by participants; (2) it has a strong, face-to-face coaching component offered through a partnership with the NC New Teacher Support Program;

and (3) it has a clearly defined supplementary program for EC teachers that is proposed to be led by Dr. Bosch, a professor in special education at Barton College.

As stated at the December Board meeting, we believe that we need at least 80 teachers in next year's cohort to provide a quality program that is fiscally sound. The combined estimates of enrollment from the interested districts ranged from 77 to 85. Six districts were not represented, one of which (Halifax) currently participates. We believe that we need a firm commitment by the beginning of March to fund 80 teachers in the program in order for RTI to implement its proposal or for the CCRESA to move forward with the EPP application and the filling of the instructor vacancy.

Edna Wallace and Stacey Costello will attend the Board meeting to present an overview of the RTI proposal. Lisa Sonricker will present the in-house proposal and will be accompanied by Dr. Patrick Conetta, Director of Teacher Induction and Development, North Carolina New Teacher Support Program at ECU