

Central Carolina RESA Board of Directors Meeting

NCSBA Assembly Hall

March 18, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Minutes

Board of Directors in Attendance

Rhonda Schuhler (Franklin), Cathy Moore (Wake), Eric Bracy (Johnston), Rodney Peterson (Person), Lane Mills (Wilson), Steve Ellis (Nash), Patrick Miller (Greene), Cindy Bennett (Vance), Valerie Bridges (Edgecombe), Pascal Mubenga (Durham), and Alisa McLean (Granville).

Guests

Geoff Coltrane (Senior Education Advisor) and Melany Paden (NCDPI)

Staff

Ed Croom and Dana Stutzman

Call to Order

CCRESA Executive Director, Ed Croom called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dr. Croom welcomed guests Geoff Coltrane from Governor Cooper's office and Melany Paden from NCDPI.

NC Governor's Office Priorities

- Mr. Coltrane voiced appreciation for Superintendents' leadership over the last two years in educating and taking care of our students.
- Governor's focus of advocacy for education, health, and more money in pockets.
- Governor has 4 focus areas for K-12 and higher education
 1. Support student recovery from COVID
 2. Ensure we meet Constitutional obligations
 3. Diversity of Educators

- 4. Ensuring higher education is affordable and accessible to all students
- Leandro
 - WestEd study “State of Public Education”
 - March 2021 created an 8-year plan to meet constitutional compliance
 - We do things well; we just need more of it – increase teacher/Principal pipeline
 - Evidence based plan of what we need to do 5.5 billion to local level. 2 billion focused for at risk students.
- Every Child NC Coalition – live now
 - Defines at-risk student groups. Impact analysis tool to see your districts funding and positions.
- Drive Task Force – Exec. Order in 2019: How to diversify teacher workforce
 - Affinity Groups
 - 2 million post HS degrees/certifications by 2030
- Longleaf Commitment Grant
 - HS NC grads whose family makes under 100k gross income can attend any community college 1 year for free. Renewed for 2022.
 - Students complete a FAFSA form and they will be automatically enrolled
- RFP for second phase funding purchase of electric busses. State will cover the difference in cost between electric and standard – around 250k to 300k.
- COVID funds at state level/American Rescue Plan
 - Large portion went to expand broadband
 - Fund Longleaf grant
 - Small amount allocated to flexible funds
 - Mr. Coltrane will check to see if there are any funds available over the next couple of months
- Budget Surplus - more revenue than anticipated at state and local levels
- Districts request the Governor’s office address the low morale/perception of public schools. Seems to be a narrative that Charters are “better” because public schools are not meeting needs. Charters are not being held to promises made in their applications.
 - Consideration for charters moving under the umbrella of LEAs.

- Public Schools need to be able to “market” themselves
- Support and positive messages need to come from Governor’s office
- Compensation – 35k start will not keep teachers or entice millennials to become teachers. COLA in the area is not sustainable.
 - PEPSC has revamped licensure compensation system with starting salary pathway at \$45,000
 - Budget past year included a raise for teachers’ salaries that is state subsidized for all but 5 districts. Funding is necessary for those districts; however, this should not stop conversation regarding teacher salary funding at state level
 - Superintendents are concerned about the potential funding cliff in 2024 regarding ESSER funds and the state needs a large-scale plan to maintain budget
 - Federal level help with financial incentive/housing packages to push talented people towards education is needed

Portrait of a Graduate Update

Melany Paden from NCDPI updated the Board on status of the state Portrait of a Graduate initiative.

- Districts will not have to change work that they have already done. If information from DPI does not fit with work you’ve already done, this is not mandatory.
 - There is concern over timing and request of the amount of time from parents and the team of 20 people. District PIOs have dates for upcoming meetings.
 - Goal is to be done in 4 months
 - Other concerns that this model is not a new concept.
 - The state wants to be at the same level/in step with what is happening at local levels
 - Superintendents are interested to know if new policies will be based off information collected, and if so, what if those policies do not meet with LEAs current Portrait of a Graduate?
 - DPI’s role should be to help those/create a template for those who have not done this work to create a Portrait of a Graduate based off what they have already collected.

- Other updates from NCDPI:
 - Rethink Education flyer included in folder. Cohort 2 deadline is April 8th.
 - David Stegall will meet with CAOs on April 8th for the quarterly meeting.
 - LETRS training - RESA can pay to host virtual or face-to-face sessions. Cost would be between 6k-7k per session for 40 people across the RESA.
 - Would need to consider timing and availability of company

CCRESA Business

Rhonda Schuhler asked Board members to review Minutes from the February 18th and asked for a motion to approve. Rodney Peterson motioned to approve, Alisa McLean seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Alisa McLean reviewed the financial position of the CCRESA and asked members to review the report included in their meeting materials. Motion to approve the Finance Report was given by Cindy Bennett, Valerie Bridges seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Croom would like to use the May 13th Board Meeting as an opportunity to honor districts' Principals of the Year by hosting a breakfast. The RESA would put together a flyer that includes best practices from their schools and host a short award ceremony. During the business portion of the meeting, Principals would meet in the conference room for collaboration and discussions. CCRESA will send out more information as the date approaches, but please keep this date on your calendar and include your Principal of the Year.

Dr. Croom would also like Superintendents to encourage the participants registered for the upcoming BetterLesson sessions to attend. We are still struggling getting registrants to show up to the sessions. Dana Stutzman shared the registration spreadsheet with Superintendents. On the same note, please encourage your council designees and support them in attending regularly scheduled meetings.

Open Discussion

Superintendents would like a good understanding of why North Carolina uses ADM instead of actual enrollment for funding. ADM takes absences into account, and due to COVID over the past year, absences have an impact on the formula for school funding. Numbers show ADM dropping, but enrollment really has not changed. Charter schools are allowed to use actual enrollment numbers for funding from LEAs. This could be an area of potential advocacy at the state level and a topic for Katherine Joyce.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am and Superintendents were encouraged to stay for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alisa McLean

CCRESA Secretary/Treasurer