

MEETING NOTES/MINUTES

January 22nd, 2015

Start Time: [10:13 am CST]

End Time: [11:34 am CST]

Committee Members Present

Rickey Berry, Vickey Berryman, Ricky Boggan, Louise Davis, Juanita Johnson, Jenny Kern, April May, Jennifer McNeal, Lora Mederos, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Mimmo Parisi, Sandra Parks, Marcie Skelton, Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Jennie Sturgis, Rhea Williams-Bishop, Carolyn Willis

Others Present

Kelsey Risman, Aaron Petrillo

Motions Passed

1. Carolyn Willis motioned to approve the minutes. Richard Berry seconded the motion. The council unanimously passed the motion.
2. Parks motions to integrate the engagement and partnerships committee with other committees to make sure engagement and partnership is a part of those committees. Willis seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.
3. Willis motioned to approve the SECAC bylaws as written. Dr. Parisi seconded the motion to approve the bylaws with the two amendments (amendments detailed in minutes). The council unanimously approved the motion.
4. Berry motioned for adjournment. Mimmo seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion. Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Meeting Notes

Chair Ricky Boggan called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Carolyn Willis motioned to approve the minutes. Richard Berry seconded the motion. Rhea Williams-Bishop asked if there could be a conversation about the prekindergarten development grant at the next meeting. The council unanimously passed the motion.

Dr. Laurie Smith said the Christian Learning Center in Canton would receive the spotlight next month. The representative for the center couldn't attend the current meeting.

Dr. Mimmo Parisi said the data committee will meet in February. He said the technical staff has met with state agencies to map out the pieces of the data system. He also said the policy questions have been approved and have been sent out in the survey. He said eight SECAC members have responded thus far. He said he hopes to have the full report on the results in the next SECAC meeting.

Williams-Bishop said the Standards committee met immediately after the last SECAC meeting. She pointed out that the committee is waiting on the revisions of the standards from MDE. She said the committee can move forward once it receives the revised standards. She said the committee will focus on developing a cost-effective way to get the standards and guidelines into the hands of providers. Willis said providing the technical assistance to implement the standards is critical. Jennifer McNeal asked if the standards will be emailed directly to providers. Williams-Bishop said yes and added that the committee is exploring all the many ways to deliver the standards to everyone.

April May discussed the deliverables of the KRA committee and said the next meeting in March would occur after meeting with the collaboratives. Dr. Parisi said he was invited as chair of the Data Committee to the last Assessment Committee meeting, and he said Dr. Wright is committed to working with the Data Committee. He said Dr. Wright and Johnny Franklin have spearheaded this committee collaboration. McNeal asked what can prekindergarten classes do to be prepared for the assessment? April May said she thinks there is a sample of the assessment on the MDE website. She said the alphabet and basic mathematics are covered and that operating a computer is emphasized. Dr. Smith said there are webinars for childcare centers to learn more about the assessment. Dr. Smith also said the committee will look for other ways to get childcare centers involved.

Dr. Parisi asked McNeal if there is anything that can be done to keep childcare centers in the loop. McNeal said the webinars are a good idea, but she said the centers need to know what they need to do with the children to get them prepared for the assessment. May said the standards and guidelines will help once they get revised and sent out. Williams-Bishop said the report card that the Standards Committee is handling will help keep parents informed. Dr. Parisi clarified that the Assessment Committee will present a plan on getting childcare centers on the same page.

Dr. Louise Davis said the PD and Workforce committee is meeting immediately after the SECAC meeting. Dr. Davis said the committee is waiting on data for the workforce. Dr. Parisi said the request for the data is in the system. He said it's going through the regular rules and regulations. He said nSPARC is working with MDHS on this request. Dr. Davis said that will help because the committee cannot have its sub-advisory council until the data come in.

Berry said the QRS tour meetings are scheduled throughout the spring. Dr. Smith said the Frank Porter Graham evaluation has to be done by the end of July. She said there will be online feedback forms to collect everyone's thoughts and opinions on the process. Kelsey Risman said there is an updated work plan for the committee and a brief recap of the Biloxi meeting in January that the council can review. She said some themes are the benefits of getting involved in the system and the costs of advancing in it. Dr. Parisi said he would like to clarify that Risman is just providing technical assistance. He said any questions need to be directed to the chair of the QRS committee, Dr. Smith, or Dr. Tate Gould. Risman said the meetings will be transcribed and the themes will be shared.

Norphlett-Thompson said the Engagement and Partnerships committee decided it will disband. She said committee members will support other committees. She said most of the deliverables are covered by other committees. She said the committee members' time and efforts would be better spent in other committees to ensure parental/community engagement is a vital part of what the committees are doing. Marcie Skelton said this is commendable for a committee to realize this. Norphlett-Thompson

said Willis deserves all the credit, as Willis made the observation that the committee has no traction given that other committees were already addressing different issues. Willis said if a need for the committee arises, the committee can reconvene.

Chair Boggan asked for a motion for the disbanding. Willis motioned to dissolve the engagement committee with the caveat that the engagement work be taken up by other committees, and if at a future date it is determined that the committee needs to reconvene, the committee will do so. Dr. Parisi said he has mixed feelings about dissolving the committee; he said he would prefer for the committee to table its activities. Willis said she likes the language change to tabling. Norphlett-Thompson said I don't know. She said the committee isn't important -- it's the work that is important. Dr. Parisi mentioned the importance of developing a plan to reach families. Willis said that is already happening in other committees. Willis said part of her reasoning is to make sure engagement committee members work with other committees to address the engagement element fully. Williams-Bishop said there are valid concerns about substantial overlap between committees.

Sandra Parks said the motion should dissolve the committee and integrate the committee with other committees. Chair Boggan said that sounds like a good motion. Parks motions to integrate the engagement and partnerships committee with other committees to make sure engagement and partnership is a part of those committees. Willis seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion. Willis said the council needs to take care of getting the engagement committee members integrated with other committees. Chair Boggan said this can be handled via email.

Chair Boggan opened discussion on the bylaws. He said he hasn't received any feedback about changing the proposed bylaws from SECAC members. Dr. Smith said the original official bylaws and minutes for the bylaws have not been located. Dr. Parisi said Berry made a point about proxies. Chair Boggan said yes, other than Berry's comment, there hasn't been any feedback.

Chair Boggan directed the council's attention to the comparison handout that outlines differences between the old and new bylaws. He clarified that any board has the authority to modify bylaws at any time. He recommended getting satisfied with the proposed bylaws with the knowledge that they can be changed in the future. Norphlett-Thompson asked if the comparison handout reflects the language that was in the original bylaws. Chair Boggan emphasized that the old bylaws don't have any real consequence to the current council's decisions on bylaws. Norphlett-Thompson asked if the "major changes" language means "no change" or "minor changes" in the current document. Dr. Parisi said his understanding from the legal counsel is that the substantive meaning of the sections hasn't been changed but text could have been tweaked to accommodate legal concerns. Chair Boggan said he thinks that is the case. Norphlett-Thompson said words being changed are words being changed. Chair Boggan said the council can work under the assumption that minor tweaking was made to sections labeled "No major changes."

Willis motioned to accept the document as written. Berry brought the council's attention to an error. Skelton said that under the membership section, didn't we say there would be more representatives of providers? Skelton said the document says "a representative." She said we have more than one, does that matter? Holly Spivey said you can have a representative as long as the organization is deemed relevant by the governor. Juanita Johnson said she is fine with moving forward with the bylaws. Delores

Suel said she would like to know about the new provider representatives and what districts they are serving. She said she didn't know whether that should be in the bylaws. Dr. Smith said she would get that information to Suel. Williams-Bishop said she was wondering whether the designees section had been discussed. Parks said it looks like designees can't vote. Dr. Parisi said that was done in response to the concern that the council doesn't want to dilute the say of the representatives. Skelton asked if proxies can help the quorum. Dr. Parisi said his understanding is that it's a hybrid solution: the proxies can help with the quorum, but they can't vote because it might dilute the say of the representatives. Chair Boggan said that is correct and added that bylaws represent a living, breathing document that can be changed if need be. Skelton said it would make more sense if people could put on record that their representative have voting rights. Dr. Parisi said you can't be a proxy and member at the same time. Dr. Smith said the new quorum is 10.

Dr. Davis said two things are missing. Dr. Davis said that the previous document states that if the bylaws are being changed, there will be month's notice to members about the meeting that will involve the change(s) to the bylaws. Laurie said she will email people with this principle. Dr. Davis said that's not in the document. Chair Boggan said the month's notice can be part of a motion. Norphlett-Thompson said what about the two-thirds requirement for board action? Parisi and Berry clarified that the two-thirds requirement applies to bylaws, not anything else. Chair Boggan said the old bylaws call for majority vote, so the council is operating under this assumption right now.

Berry suggested an amendment to section 2: the council chair term should be first, and the executive director should be a liaison to the governor and, in absence of the chair, reside at the council. Chair Boggan said the other amendment is the 30-day notice for bylaws changes. Dr. Parisi seconded the motion to approve the bylaws with the two amendments. The council unanimously approved the motion.

Willis said it would help SECAC as a body to move the meetings around the state so that everyone can get to know what the council is doing. She said when we silo ourselves in Jackson, we are not doing justice to spreading the visibility of SECAC. Chair Boggan said he didn't think any council action has been made on this issue. He said his preference would be for the process to be clean and stated. Berry said the out-of-Jackson meeting shouldn't occur within the first three months of the year for reasons related to the legislature. Chair Boggan asked how many out-of-Jackson meetings should there be. Holly Spivey suggested scheduling a meeting and seeing what happens rather than tying the council down to a notion. Boggan said that sounds like a good idea. Indianola is mentioned as a meeting location for the May SECAC meeting.

Williams-Bishop said that while she agrees the council can change the bylaws at any time, she said she wants it to be reflected that the council has been operating under older approved bylaws to give respect to previous boards and chairs.

Berry motioned for adjournment. Mimmo seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion. Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.