

Proposed Meeting Minutes

CAREER & EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Friday, September 18, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chair: Tonya Allen

Co-Chair: Alycia Meriweather

Attendees:

Nicole Sherard-Freeman, Dana Williams, Diane Antishin, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Chardae Caine, Monique Ellis, Mark Gaffney, Omar Hasan, Dana Hughes, Nicole Jackson, Randy Liepa, Kumar Raj, Robert Shimkoski, Deb Lyzenga & Ron Stallworth

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Career & Education Advisory Council was called to order at 10:34am by Co-Chair Allen.

Opening Remarks:

Co-Chair Allen thanked the staff for a robust agenda.

Co-Chair Meriweather stated that this is multi-layered pandemic that significantly impact the marginalized.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and supported to adopt the draft as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Update

Co-Chair Meriweather introduced CEAC members to Dana Hughes, the new Executive Director for the Office of College and Career Readiness. Hughes has 13 years of experience as a CTE teacher at Golightly. Prior to this role, Hughes was an education consultant with MDE.

Co-Chair Meriweather reported that 33,000 students were engaging in online learning platforms and 11,200 were receiving face-to-face instruction. Of the 33,000 online learners, 2,500 were reporting to learning centers where they receive breakfast and lunch. One challenge that has been brought up for the district is the increased level of screen time for online learners. Dr. Vitti sent out suggesting to parents for limiting screen time and the district is in the process of forming focus groups for more discussion. Schools are making sure to follow all guidelines, including but not limited to the use of: hand sanitize, masks, social distancing guidelines, screenings, cleaning process, and classroom size.

Dana Hughes reported that there are approximately 45 CTE programs with enrolled students and DPSCD and provided an enrollment update. Some programs are virtual at Randolph and Breithaupt, while others are face-to-face. Golightly has all virtual programming.

Co-Chair Meriweather gave an update on Connected Futures. Partners collaborated to fund 51,000 devices with six months of internet and tech support in the amount of \$23 million. Later this month, Connected Futures plans to shift their device focus to newly enrolled students.

GDYT Update

GDYT closed the digital divide gap for over 2,000 participants this summer. The program remained a six-week, 120-hour, paid experience. While younger youth were directed to participate in an online experience, older youth (18-24-year-olds) were given the option to choose between an online or in-person experience. Some lessons learned included which day of the week and time of day were best for participants as well handling a large order of devices at once. CEAC also discussed outcomes and shared data from this summer's programming.

Regional Education Update

Liepa reported that in Wayne County, two-thirds of districts started online, with the remaining third providing face-to-face instruction. Of those who started online, some are transitioning to face-to-face instruction with varying timelines. This means that for those who need or want face-to-face instruction for their children, it will be available, but parents also can choose to continue using online programming.

Local school board meeting participation increased during the summer with 1,000 to 2,000 parents joining in the virtual discussion. Liepa shared research and highlighted the primary concerns of health departments given the COVID crisis.

Reset: Scope and Focus Areas

Executive Director Sherard-Freeman shared that in addition to the state-required metrics established, CEAC has been working to monitor and evaluate other metrics, including pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning data. CEAC also identified specific populations they wanted to be mindful of, including opportunity youth and summer youth employment program participants. CEAC has an interest in year-round opportunities for youth.

Hughes informed the group of the new requirement for all school districts to have a Career Development Model in place, which requires career readiness curriculum for all students including work-based learning experience opportunities.

Allen raised the importance making career pathways available all Detroit high schools, including charter and private schools. Allen also highlighted the importance of soft skills development.

Stallworth agreed that Allen's points are important and that there needs to be more focus and discussion on K-8 regarding soft skills that are developed before a student reaches high school.

Dana Williams, Detroit At Work's Chief of Staff/Director of Employment Engagement, added that there is a need to look at the entire spectrum of career exposure and experience that starts with kindergarten.

Dr. Ivery wanted to know the extent to which the Detroit Promise is being fully understood by parents and students.

Lyzenga mentioned that critical skills include critical thinking and problem solving. She also mentioned that the employer and educator partnership is necessary. It is important to consider long-term results.

Co-Chair Meriweather stated that DPSCD is putting more focus on intentionality surrounding career exploration and building the relationship with employers.

Raj recognizes that not all opportunities are created equal and there is a need to identify and implement high-quality opportunities. Reading levels across the city and a focus on data infrastructure are also important steps to take.

Executive Director Sherard-Freeman wrapped up with stating next steps would include gathering entail from the CEO regional council and MWDB, as well as researching a question bank.

Public Comment:

Co-Chair Meriweather opened for public comment. No comments were made.

Motion to Adjourn:

Co-Chair Meriweather made a motion to adjourn at 11:59am. Motion carried unanimously.