



Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee

October 14, 2019

**Department of Transportation-Board Room
1 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC**

MINUTES

In attendance:

LaTanya Pattillo

Bobbie Cavnar

Dee Grissett

Leanna Delph

Elyse McRae

Nicole Sikes

Kimberly Perry-Sanderlin

Mireya Ruiz

Brad Rhew

Tomika Altman-Lewis

Mark Townley

Julio Morales

Freebird Mckinney

Denise McCoy

Tasha Martinez

Mark Jewell

Lisa Godwin

Keana Triplett

Deborah Brown

Nashonda Cooke

The meeting began at 9:05am.

Chair Pattillo welcomed the committee and guests and read the conflict of interest statement. Chair Pattillo asked for a motion to review and approve the agenda and minutes for the meeting. A motion was made and seconded by members of the committee. The motion passed and the agenda and minutes were approved.

Chair Pattillo provided an opportunity for committee members to share any information about work they've been engaged in as well as any issues or challenges that their counties/schools have been dealing with.

Member Bobbie Cavnar discussed issues within Gaston County. The county is booming but is still experiencing trouble recruiting teachers.

Member Dee Grissett mentioned the fiscal challenges and struggles in Robeson County where five schools closed. Schools were still recovering from the hurricanes and the communities were working hard to adjust.

Member Keana Triplett spoke about growth in Watauga County and the need to be creative to reach the homeschool population.

Vice Chair NaShonda Cooke presented at the Governor's Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, working to raise awareness about minority students in special education programs.

Geoff Coltrane provided an update on the Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education. He spoke about the fact that the General Assembly is still in session and that there is currently no official state budget with only one mini budget having been approved at the time that impacted education (school safety).

Julie Pittman, No Kid Hungry Education Outreach Manager, shared information about the No Kid Hungry campaign which works to make sure that all students are being fed at school. She talked about Breakfast After the Bell and the direct impact that providing meals for students at school has on their focus and willingness to learn. She discussed many options that would allow schools to provide meals for their students, which included meal delivery to classrooms, second chance breakfast through kiosks, and snack options. The committee had a dialogue about the importance of meals for children and asked questions. Chair Pattillo thanked Mrs. Pittman for her presentation.

Kiya Edwards, NCBCE Program Manager at NCBCE updated members about the \$1000 Educator Discovery professional development grant award for teachers. She announced that there were currently nine awardees and that the program was in the last grant cycle. She also informed members about the Ready, Set, App! app development competition.

MariaRosa Rangel, from the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs) spoke about the importance of engaging Latino children in school. Latino children are behind their white, black, and Asian peers. She expressed the need for us in the state to be more intentional in supporting our Hispanic and Latino families. She said that there is an assumption that Hispanic and Latino students all speak Spanish as their first language, when in reality, many learn indigenous languages first. Alternative methods are needed to assess Hispanic and Latino children because of the language barrier which often leads to Hispanic and Latino children being misdiagnosed with a disability. She suggested encouraging students to enroll in Spanish/English Dual Immersion Programs. She expressed the need for more faculty and staff that identify as Hispanic and Latino as it will help students relate to them, encouraging them to stay in school envisioning a future career for themselves.

After questions posed by the committee, Chair Pattillo thanked Mrs. Rangel for her presentation.

Chair Pattillo asked the committee about their thoughts on the recommendations previously presented. She thanked the Communications committee and those who were using the hashtag

#GTAC4NC. She encouraged them to continue to use social media to promote each other and to share what's is happening with the GTAC..

Member Lisa Godwin suggested committee members use #reasonstoteachNC as much as possible to promote NC education.

Chair Pattillo asked the committee about other programmatic areas they might want to highlight (ex. Programs, mental health, etc.)

Vice Chair NaShonda Cooke said the committee needed to release a statement that talks about how the education system needs a budget approved as soon as possibl because schools are suffering.

Member Denise McCoy spoke about how people need to see the committee out with the Governor more often. There needs to be more of a spotlight on how the GTAC was taken away and brought back by Roy Cooper to highlight how he truly cares about public education.

Mark Jewell made a motion that was seconded by Julio Morales (none opposed) that the GTAC release a statement about the need to pass a budget. The motion passed.

Chair Pattillo asked the committee to consider solidifying and tweaking recommendations from last year. She spoke about the upcoming Drive Summit and told the committee about the opportunity to have satellite sites. She asked the committee to think about if and how they would like to be involved and what role they would like to play in Summit activities.

Member Freebird Mckinney spoke about attending a conference in Washington, DC that broke the attendees into groups by race and how he felt that it was a necessary to address issues involving race.

Member Tomika Altman-Lewis shared names to be included on the invitation list. Chair Pattillo asked that everyone suggest the names of invitees to the Drive Summit and should send them to her.

Chair Pattillo also addressed the teacher recruitment and retention recommendations which include additional pay for teachers with masters degrees and other ways to make sure that teachers feel solid and secure in their profession. She began by asking the committee if they wanted to continue recommendations for housing support for teachers.

Member Kimberly Perry-Sanderlin mentioned that in places like Eastern North Carolina housing is one thing that keeps teacher's from agreeing to move to teach there, aside from low pay. Other members agreed that the housing issue is an important one. The Committee decided to keep this recommendation.

The Committee agreed that the teacher recruitment and retention recommendations will remain and Chair Pattillo will re-work the language and present to the committee.

Member Leanna Delph says racism among educators in Western NC is a problem and she would like to see something that will address this even though Drive might not be the right place to address the issue. She would like to see an anti-racism conversation happen.

The committee believes that it would be effective if all education students (in traditional schools of education and people who become educators through lateral entry and other alternative pathways, etc. were required to also see and train on what it would be like to teach in a Title 1 school. Title 1 students often need stability and having teachers continually quit on them is harmful.

Committee members discussed the fact that in many cases it doesn't matter how a teacher entered the profession (lateral entry or traditional degree) it's all about passion and commitment.

Members discussed challenges teachers face when they must sometimes teach subjects they normally do not teach or are unfamiliar with teaching. Members emphasized that in those cases relationship building with students is integral and can help nurture passion and willingness to learn in their students.

Because of the time, Chair Pattillo recommended postponing the discussion of the assessment recommendations until the next meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.