

Minutes of the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee
Friday Institute, Raleigh, NC
10/08/2018 -9am-3pm

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am by Vice Chair NaShonda Cooke. Vice Chair stated that Chair LaTanya Pattillo was not able to be present due to health concerns but sends her support and well wishes for a productive meeting.

Vice Chair Cooke read the Conflict of Interest statement. The meeting agenda & previous minutes were then approved by the body.

Vice Chair Cooke opened the floor for celebrations and acknowledgements.

-Mark Jewell discussed teacher Rally on May 16

-Deborah Brown discussed her Go Global Trip to China

-Julio Morales congratulated NaShonda Cooke for her participation/cover in TIME Magazine

-Mark Jewell opened discussion for Lisa Goodwin and others to discuss conditions of homes and schools from Hurricane Florence.

Geoff Coltrane provided an update of the Governor's Priorities and Initiatives. Governor Cooper appointed 3 new members of the State Board of Education. The Leandro Committee meeting will be later this month. Conversations have begun regarding teacher preparation partnerships in various communities across the state. There is also a new initiative that provides stipends for college students who show need for financial support.

Tammy Howard of Accountability Services at DPI gave an overview of assessments and accountability measures. She provided the history and background of assessments in North Carolina. She also reviewed early testing and tests aligned with specific content. The committee asked questions regarding "college ready tracking" based on specific assessment results.

Ilina Ewen, Chief of Staff for First Lady Kristin Cooper spoke to the committee regarding the Task Force on Summative Assessments. She explained the motivation behind participating the group. Mrs. Ewin also talked about the concerns of parents regarding the value and stigma of such assessments.

Vice Chair Cooke thanked both Tammy Brown and Ilina Ewen for their presentations and willingness to provide additional information to the committee regarding assessments.

Committee member and Assessment Workgroup Chair Tasha Martinez gave an update of the Assessment Workgroup's phone conference in September. They provided recommendations that will be refined and voted on at the next meeting.

Committee members held discussions during lunch to prepare for share out/reports to the group as a whole. Reports are as follows:

Assessments: Assessment Workgroup Chair Tasha Martinez shared the recommendations suggested by the group. The group also questioned the necessity of assessing new students.

Communication: Communications Workgroup Chair Kimberley Strickland shared that the team is awaiting approval from the Governor's office regarding permission to begin Twitter account, copyright of hashtags, etc. Until then the committee encouraged all members to use #reasons2teachnc when discussing the positive work of GTAC. She encouraged the group to friend each other on social media to continue consistent contact.

Retention and Recruitment: Recruitment and Retention Workgroup member Deborah Brown shared that the group discussed the laws of public education in regards to duty free lunch and Master's Pay re-installment by the General Assembly. Although NC is #1 in the Southeast, action needs to happen to stay that way.

Professional Development: Professional Development Workgroup Chair Tomika Altman Lewis shared the discussion of the group, which is asking the questions: What is the definition of professional development? Are educators a part of the process from the very beginning including deciding the definition of PD, what PD is needed, even who would present the PD? What are the current offerings in districts that are open to teachers across the state? What are some action steps in order to create professional development opportunities?

Drs. Stallings and Corn of the Friday Institute gave an update on MyFuture NC Commission. The initiative includes access to opportunities, preparation, support, and system alignment. There will be a published listening tour. Over 350 recommendations have been cut down to 19. The next update will include a detailed report.

Mark Townley gave the committee an update on BestNC FIT Initiatives and the importance of connecting with businesses to transform education. The top 5 areas of focus for the FIT group are: resources, leadership, time, negative perceptions, and access to opportunities. Guest Freebird McKinney, NC TOY 2019 mentioned the various and numerous groups who all have the same agenda.

Stephen Pearson from IBM discussed the corporation's initiative called Corporate Citizenship. It is an opportunity for volunteering and doing community work. It includes an early college model, Teacher Advisor with Watson, an online free K-8 math resource using cognitive technology that adapts to students.

Yasmeen Robbins of ReBrand NC discussed how educators can stay informed of current issues and needs. It is a means of colleagues discussing what worked and continues to work for them. Some topics include sustainable school structures and retention of Black and Brown educators.

Vice Chair Cooke thanked the presenters for sharing their expertise with the committee.

The floor was opened for any additional information the committee wanted to share. Vice Chair Cooke stated that Chair Pattillo would be in contact regarding the next meeting's logistics.

With no other questions or concerns, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.