

Redding Consortium Planning Meeting
April 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The virtual meeting was convened at 10:35 a.m. Senator Elizabeth Lockman, Co-chair of the Redding Consortium, welcomed all in attendance.

I. Work Group Updates

The Settlement Work Group met on Monday, April 12 to discuss the specifics of the Equity Statement and the Ombudsperson. The group is building recommendations for both settlement requirements for the Consortium to consider at the April 29 meeting.

Sen. Lockman asked Aaron Bass, Co-chair of the Settlement Work Group, if there was a sense when the RFP committee will be formed for the Ombudsperson program. Aaron said that it is moving expeditiously, and that a Redding Consortium member should be part of the committee.

The Social Determinants Work Group is meeting again on May 10 and June 14.

The Funding & Governance Work Group had nothing new to report.

The Educators Work Group had nothing new to report.

II. American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Sen. Lockman said that the Consortium should consider making recommendations for how the incoming ARP federal funding should be used. She said that the Consortium should present an overview of the funding possibilities for members at the April 29 meeting.

Haley Qaissaunee, Institute for Public Administration, asked if any particular work group would be tasked with working on this area. Sen. Lockman said that it does not necessarily have to fall under the purview of a work group.

Tika Hartsock, Consortium Member, said that the Safe Schools initiative is also having meetings related to the ARP funds. She said it would be beneficial to connect with them to gauge what work has already been done and what the public response has been.

Jeff Menzer, Co-chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, said it would be wise to wait until after the April 29 meeting to consider this position, because the Consortium is already asking for funding for other recommendations related to systemic reforms. Asking for too much at once could conflate the two conversations.

Raye Jones Avery, Co-chair of the Social Determinants Work Group, added that it is vital for district superintendents and charter school leaders to voice their thinking about the use of the funds, as well as for the community to give their input. Sen. Lockman said that this presents an opportunity for districts to pursue inclusive budgeting processes. Raye added that the idea of community engagement directly relates to Tika's point about Safe Schools. Tika said that Secretary Bunting should be included in these conversations as well.

III. Full Body Consortium Meeting – April 29 Agenda

The Full Body Consortium Meeting agenda was finalized:

- I. Work Group Updates
 - A. Funding & Governance
 - B. Social Determinants
 - C. Settlement
 1. Motions to recommend frameworks for the equity statement and ombudsperson program.
- II. Legislative & Budget Updates
 - A. House Bill 100, House Bill 86, House Bill 56
 - B. Interim Budget Recommendations
- III. Show testimonial video
- IV. Education Trust Presentation on unfinished learning

Tika asked if the Education Trust is able to send their materials ahead of time for Consortium members to review and develop questions. Haley said that the group's briefs can be included in the April newsletter ahead of the April 29 meeting.

IV. Public Engagement

Work on the testimonial videos is ongoing. Posting the videos on Facebook directly has been successful. Requests will be made at the April 29 meeting for more videos.

Haley shared some of the metrics from the March newsletter. 36 percent of recipients opened the newsletter, and 9 percent clicked on the included links. These metrics are ahead of industry averages.

V. Public Comment

Kathy Seeman, a reading specialist at the University of Delaware, asked for support for upcoming bills about the science of reading and support for the Reading League, in support of many students who are in need of greater reading supports. Sen. Lockman said that one of the work groups could look into this work, and that Kathy could connect with those groups.

Amy Solomon says that in terms of community and parent engagement, presenting complex educational topics in simple and understandable ways, as Kathy advocated for, will be very important. She recommended that the Educators work group dedicate time to the science of reading.

Senator Lockman adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Attendance

Redding Consortium/Work Group Members

Elizabeth Lockman, Co-Chair

Matthew Denn, Co-Chair

Dawn Alexander

Raye Jones Avery

Aaron Bass

Tika Hartsock

Chuck Longfellow

IPA/DSU Staff

Brendan Laux

Haley Qaissaunee

Kelly Sherretz

Members of the Public

Kathy Seeman

Amy Solomon