AccelerateED Task Force
Building and Student Services
Tuesday, June 2, 2020
3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kathy Coleman, AccelerateED Chair

Task Force	Advisory Group	SCDE Staff
Alan Walters, Chair	Margaret Merriweather	Sabrina Moore
Chanda Jefferson	Anna Duvall	Sherrie Beaver
Harrison Goodwin	Sharon Worley	Zach Taylor for S. Longshore
Chuck Saylors	Scott Powell	John Payne
Kathy Coleman	Angie Slatton	Beckie Davis
	Sabra Denny	Vickky Ladd
	Abby Duggins	Dan Ralyea
		Jasmeen Shaw
		Brian Pratt
		Marlene Sellars

AWalters welcomed everyone to the meeting. Try to keep under an hour because of multiple meetings. This is just a status update; where we are and where we need to go. Subcommittee chairs had a meeting with KColeman and Molly. One of the things with the athletics that it has been addressed in the summer report and not sure that we need to address it again in the report for the fall. At that point it should be up to the high school league because the academics will be up and running. At that point, it will be about competition and that is solely left up to the league. It should not be a part of the reopening of schools. Another thing is scheduling meetings since everyone is kind of stretched thin right now. What we are looking at doing is getting a draft of the draft of our report by the end of the week. The subcommittee chairs will swatch the reports around and look for any inconsistencies or overlaps and then Monday, the leadership meeting will be held and then have the full task force meeting on Thursday and at that point have the draft that will go out for public review and comments. The following week to try and wrap this up. It's kind of a moving target; so many things are always changing. A couple of state reports were forwarded today for you to review. The National School Facilities website resource page, they have a link for everything. The link will be sent to everyone later.

AWalters: Want to try and work within these dates. Referred to Georgia and Arizona reports. Things that were discussed: Change wording on reopening paragraph, revise our documents, make some additions, elaborate on some areas and add some of the input that some of you have sent to me. New items that need to be added; discussions about school nurses, school counselors, special education educators; anyone that will take to implement our recommendations should have the retirement cap waived, whether it will be a budget proviso or an appropriation bill. Will need work on with SCDE or through Katie Nilges as to whether the legislature have any thoughts on this. It's going to be hard to find teachers, some staff may look at the risks and decide that they may not return. We will be remiss if we don't have a plan in place to tap into every reliable resource.

HGoodwin: Another thing to consider when we make that recommendation that most of our pool are international teachers. New internationals will not be available due to the restrictions on travel. Therefore, the pool that we are accustomed to pulling from is going to be very limited even more so than in the past.

AWalters: That was part of the same discussion. That is why the mechanism of how this is going to take place whether a budget proviso or a more permanent type thing. It has to be addressed and more than one year. LTraywick: There are districts who have up to 25 or 30% of their teaching workforce that are internationals; so that's going to be significant.

AWalters; what we trying to do is hit it twice; one in our report for those specialized positions and then have PKelly address it in his report; reinforcing how important this is for schools. LTraywick: Being told by the US State Department to have districts lower their numbers for international teachers because they were looking at it as people coming in not so much for official exchange program as for whatever else. There was a meeting last year regarding it; it was already an issue.

KColeman: Make sure that either when we come back in June if we go through September that the salary cap is extended. LTraywick Molly will meet with Senate Finance members and I will make a note for her to talk about it.

AWalters: There is a lot to change on the info structure grant, we can put more examples in there or a couple of references and the same thing with the building cleaning. That may be a good place to make reference to the National Association of School Facilities. They have a workbook that we may want to include; either as an appendix or some type of reference to get schools up and running.

AWalters: Need feedback on what we need to do about the SEL, Mental Health and Special Education pieces of it. We may need to break them out in more smaller or specific recommendations or just elaborate on the ones we have and make them a little longer.

KColeman: Pkelly also has a couple of things on their list to talk about. AWalters: We will pass our list around to each other and see how it goes.

KColeman: Recommendations on the CATE classes which are different than regular classes. AWalters: See if JShaw can work with DHEC and see if there are any specific contacts regarding facilities/buildings. JShaw: Will check with DHEC.

AWalters: Gets us up to speed on the schedule. Next, sitting down and putting these pieces together will be the task.

CSaylors: Re the teacher conversation, we need to keep it on the forefront, especially regarding the foreign nationals. Is there any additional consideration given by the legislature by request of the governor's office or Molly's office, to expand financial incentive for retired teachers. Is there anything being accomplished/addressed in that area? AWalters: Nothing that he is aware of; just thought we could get the retirement cap taken care of first. CSaylors: Not only teachers, but back to nurses and mental

health professionals. If there is anything in the report that we are working on now that can highlight for the legislature to help come up with some financial incentives to get retired professionals to return for 1-2 years to get us through this crisis is something we should strongly consider.

CJefferson: SEL conversation-Looking at how we can discuss the social emotional learning and embed that into schools already implementing the MTSS system. Will be happy to look at some of the other state's recommendations when it comes to the social emotional learning and how they have been embedding it and how it's mentioned in those documents and then figure out ways that we can use that knowledge.

AWalters: Great. CJefferson: Draft the language and also CSaylors do the same for your recommendations; want to make sure we address your thoughts correctly.

SWorley: Making sure we have the staff on hand for particularly the mental health piece; Recommend 1 school counselor per 250 students. In elementary schools in our state, it is much higher. Good time to advocate for that at this time. Many of our schools have 800 students with 1 counselor. CJefferson: Regarding the elementary schools and counselor conversations, read a report that stated that the younger children experience the worst trauma and need help working through this and having the adults in the building to help them process when they come back to school. SWorley: The school counselor's role is very critical because those staff members are embed in the school every day. The mental health counselors are unable to support the students every day or they are only able to serve small numbers of students. Counselors are there for all students. CJefferson: Consider having someone else to handle the clerical work; not sure what that would look like in the school; but have the counselors be able to focus on the students social emotional needs. ADuvall: Because there isn't any clear ideas of how we are going to reopen schools. Currently placing students in a schedule that will probably change. Foresee that when students come back, counselors will be called to deal with schedules and will not be available for the social emotional part. Due to budget cuts, loosing teachers which means class size is increasing. Very concerned about what August will bring. Guidelines from the state will be a help.

AWalters: Scheduling will be a district level decision. Too many variables. ADuvall: Has any decisions been made as to how many students can ride a bus? AWalters: Work in progress. Latest guidance from DHEC, the maximum number of students on a bus should be 50% of the standard capacity, appropriate for the student's age. AWalters: CJefferson, please take on this piece and create a draft. Everything is not going to be adopted on acted upon. Maybe more of a long term goal than to reopen schools. The legislature will have a great amount of control because they hold the money. As many recommendations that we can make and as much guidance that we can give to help with the decision making process and then the state department is going to have to enforce it. Not trying to diminish expectations but being realistic.

ASlatton: Recommendations from the team this week: Pulled information from the national level. Recommend that the elementary ratio match that of the secondary which is 300:1; not currently a state case load requirement for school psychologists, the NASP recommend 500-700 students per school psychologist. Talked about needs assessment as it relates to school counselors, mental health staff, and school psychologists and see where each district stands as far as their need. Also suggested a common

place to drop resources in one location. Two documents to be sent regarding the link to resources; also the link to the CASEL website with a re-entry plan that she will forward.

CSaylors: What does the work force look like; are there enough bodies to fill the positions? ASlatton: School Psychologist are hard to find. SBeaver: Working with the universities, to fill positions and they have to have a specific certifications for elementary students. ADuvall: K-12 certified. CSaylors: If we go to the legislature and ask for funding for X positions, and they ask what I've asked; and we don't have answers, then they are going to poke holes in it. We have to be able to identify locations for potential personnel. ASlatton: May have contacts for universities to see how many in these category is graduating.

AWalters: This could be a task force of its own and we have to be careful not to overreaching.

CSaylors: We need to document that we have this conversation.

AWalters: We need to advocate or direct that the needs assessment takes place. We need documentation/verification that here is truly a problem. There was already a needs assessment for nurses already in progress. Strong push for needs assessment. CSaylors: How long does it take to implement a needs assessment? AWalters: Perhaps a survey that goes out from the state department. ADuvall: All school counselors contact end on Friday. ABeaver: have a district contact list for counselors. CSaylors: Needs to come from the state department; ask that we implement this as soon as possible. SBeaver: Simple short survey and send it out through the district contacts. SMoore: What questions are you asking? AWalters: Number of counselors, size of case load, open slots. SMoore: Can possibly get that information from the Professional Certified Staffing report. SBeaver: How many serve at the elementary level and how many they serve in the school. SMoore: Want to be clear when we send out a survey that everyone knows the questions so that we get the needed information. SBeaver: The number of counselors, the size of their caseload, the number of openings and the difficulty in getting positions filled in that field. ASlatton: School psychologists, school counselors, social workers and school based mental health. MMargaret: Can also send out a survey through DMH.

AWalters: Our report is not going to be the end of this. Don't want to leave anything out but not want to get away from what we need to get done. Need to find the right balance.

KColeman: Anything else pertaining to recommendations.

SDenny: What does it look like when students return to the classroom?

AWalters: Work in progress. People will get frustrated if we don't give them exacts.

CJEfferson: 5 days–Is that something that we are still considering?

KColeman: AccelerateSC recommended the funding for it and what it will look like.

HGoodwin: Hard fast numbers, there is a need for superintendents want to latch onto something to shoot for in regards to all areas. I believe people are willing to comply with the things that we put out there to make their school work. There is going to be people who will break their contracts late in the summer because they are concerned about their health or family members' health at home.

AWalters: Send recommendations and thoughts in an email. CJefferson will help write some of the items and put it together. Need to see if a WebEx meeting is needed before the full taskforce meeting or just send the information through emails.

KColeman: Closing remarks – How we can work towards whatever type of normalcy.

AWalters: Thanks for input. Will send link to every state and ask that you share highlights with the group. SMoore: Have put in request for information. AWalters: We have a date to have this completed.