

AccelerateED Task Force
Building and Student Services
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Kathy Coleman, AccelerateED
Chair

Task Force

Alan Walters, Chair
Chanda Jefferson
Harrison Goodwin
Chuck Saylor
Kathy Coleman

Advisory Group

Margaret Merriweather
Anna Duvall
Sharon Worley
Scott Powell
Angie Slatton
Sabra Denny
Abby Duggins

SCDE Staff

Sabrina Moore
Sherrie Beaver
Sarah Longshore
John Payne
Beckie Davis
Vickky Ladd
Dan Ralyea
Jasmeen Shaw
Brian Pratt
Marlene Sellars

Questions assigned to the group: Based on the discussion today, we would like for you to come up with recommendations for the following main issues and how they fit with the charge of your subcommittee:

1. Expand summer academic opportunities in ELA and math to include special populations of students who are in need of support
2. Provide social/emotional learning support as students and staff return to the school environment
3. Upfront costs for districts
4. Particular focus on K-3 and giving districts flexibility on these programs
5. Making sure safety protocols are in place in schools
6. Meeting the needs for students with disabilities.

Alan Walters opened the meeting with greetings. Also, welcoming Jerome Singleton of the South Carolina High School League to the meeting. We thought it would be good to get him involved since there are a lot of activities going on this summer. During the AccelerateSC meeting, they mentioned allowing break leagues to start practicing on May 31st; sounded like an aggressive schedule; would like to see the guidelines on this process. We will allow Mr. Singleton to talk about what they are looking at from the high school league.

What he would like to do is give an overview and give the committee members a chance to speak and then refine where we are. We are basically working on two timelines that we are working on; one being very short and the other allowing a little more time to complete. The second timeline may not change a lot from the recommendations that we need to make this week, a lot of those will be carried over to the final report when we reopen school. This morning what needs to be done is review the list that was sent

Building and Student Services
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

out. We need to discuss, refine and get them submitted by the end of business today. Then on tomorrow (Thursday) during the full task force meeting we can come up with a document for summer programs. Then give the public time to review and comment next week. At Thursday's meeting we will look at the next step of opening schools. A lot of people want all or nothing; even open like in the good old days or don't do it at all. Talked about that there will have to be a Plan B in place, probably a C and D as well. Wanted to begin with the initial recommendation sheet that started with 7 and now there are 9; adding special education assessment and make a reference to the high school league's three-phased approach to begin in conjunction with the restarting of group academic activities in districts and/or schools. Main goal to look at the recommendation sheet.

KColeman: The other two subcommittees met on Tuesday and there is a short time frame for the recommendations for summer school to Superintendent Spearman. The recommendations are due at the close of business today so that the recommendations can be submitted on tomorrow to the full task force and get some input by Tuesday. The subcommittees should submit these to Laurie so that she can put them together for tomorrow's meeting. Going alo to the opening and the recommendations will carry onto the open of school.

AWalters: We had a meeting of the subcommittee chairs and Molly and tried to avoid any duplications in coming up with this list. Scheduling, transportation and some others were being handled by other subcommittees. They will all be brought together in one comprehensive document.

CSaylors: Need to be able to develop a level of comfort for the families and their children feel safe. There will be a webex this evening (listening session) with the board of directors for the SC PTA basically saying that this is our timelines, what would you like to offer as suggestions? You are welcome to sit in on the call. Just want to let them know that we value their opinion.

A question: Any idea when or if the Governor plans on changing any of the restrictions to social distancing and the ability to use spaces, buildings, etc.? The plans we are building today is based on the current requirements from the Governor. Will any of this change before the opening of school?

AWalters: When they met with Molly on Monday we had addressed this concern. Molly was going to reach out to the governor's staff. The governor has been tight lipped as to what will happen this weekend. Not sure if she has gotten an answer.

KColeman: Perhaps Laurie or Ryan have information regarding this.

LTraywick: Molly has been working with them about how schools are used during the summer; however, they have not made a decision about it.

CSaylors: Not looking at the summer usage because the attendance levels for the summer programs are dramatically different than those for the fall. More concerned about is that if the numbers don't change with the usage of the buildings, then our recommendations are going to base on the number of students, the number of feet, etc. If he has an indication that he will be adjusting that, it will affect how many

students can be placed in a building. Want to be able to answer the people he is dealing with; any information will be greatly appreciated.

LTraywick: Working with DHEC revising some of the guidelines; may relax their guidelines for transportation. CSaylors: Will DHEC relax their guideless for education or just the transportation component? Revising the school portion of the document.

AWalters: Was this the May 18th document that was given to consider? Laurie will check on this.

VLadd: DHEC made some quick changes; then to DHEC outreach for publication. The only change that was made was regarding vulnerable populations; made it more explicit since it would include every school. Children who are medically fragile as it relates to test taking. VLadd to send to the group.

AWalters: Went through the document and there were several changes from the previous document such as signage, and screening testing is not recommended. Restrictions may change over time. Will look at draft later.

HGoodwin: Impressed with how precise our list was...: Regarding the summer and it will look somewhat different but as we open up, we will get more pressure from people wanting to use our buildings. We have to be clear about the use of our buildings. A positive reevaluation in July based on if we were going to have some face to face regarding the reopening for usage; however the news related to outside youth leagues this coming month is going to make it a little more complicated. This is a real concern.

Csaylors: Thought was based on the ELA and Math work that the state department is pushing. The outside groups are a district by district issue.

HGoodwin: We try to be partners with all those groups, just afraid we may be sending mixed messages. Pleased with our current document and do what we can to accelerate this process in order to open schools.

AWalters: Recognizing Chandra Jefferson who will have her commission ceremony from Columbia University for her Master's in Education, Administration and Leadership tonight at 8:00 p.m.

CJefferson: Document looks great. Concerns are more regarding the wording. Under the consideration portion of the document, adding wording such as a district establishing guidelines for staff and students to wear or not to wear PPE. In Rock Hill School District, in order for a teacher to be in the building, they have to wear PPE. Perhaps added to the language of the document.

AWalters: Numbers 1 & 5 of the recommendation documents talks about the purchasing the PPE, do you think it would fit in better there?

CJefferson: It could fit in either. Happy to help with the document. Number 7–SEL: the language focuses a lot on the check in process when students enter in this summer to process the trauma of COVID-19 after school closures. Perhaps changing the language to ensure that supports students for the

long haul. Research shows that there will be ongoing issues that students may experience being out during COVID-19. Ongoing SEL and mental health support going into the language of Number 7. Questions: There are free resources for a number of sources which can be vetted and posted by the SCDE, currently as a teacher, we've vetted resources for instructional supports, are we working to get resources for social emotional supports for teachers and students? Maybe considering in cooperating resilience strategies for teachers as well.

JPayne: Presently developing a survey to ask districts what do you have, what do you need in terms of resources, materials? Special education folks are working on or already have some social emotional supports for students with disabilities. Dr. Moore may want to weigh in on some additional supports because her office deals with a lot of the social emotional work. In the coming weeks and month, we would like to have those supports available. Need to work with different partners; how are we coordinating and working with mental health and what training is available for our teachers. Social emotional learning is the direct instruction about self-awareness and behavior which I see as a little different as social emotional supports.

SMoore: Information from DMH regarding their resources as it relates to social emotional supports; Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III. Getting information from varying resources.

CJefferson: Clarified her questions and also making sure we have supports for teachers. SRED task force hard to come up with solutions centered on teacher and social emotional supports. Having a repository and resources available.

ADuggins: Regarding MTSS structure in place for our students for students but want this for all stakeholders at our school. Framework for student's not just academic support for general support for our students.

CJefferson: Victoria sent a program to share with those pulling the repository together and resilience strategies.

MMerriwether: DMH will be happy to be on hand for the first week or two for crisis situations instead of having regularly scheduled sessions; whatever the school districts need.

CJefferson: More toward opening schools, considering establishing a crisis response team that would focus on students in bad mental health. It could consist of school counselors, special education staff, outside agency therapists, nurses, and administrators who are trained in trauma awareness. The team could develop a referral system for students and provide resources for staff. They would provide ongoing support after COVID-19 and perhaps have a district liaison appointed that would communicate directly with SCDE to gather information and disseminate through school districts.

SDuggins: Move forward with pulling the teams together would provide a great resource for guidance and core values are supposed to look like. AWalters: Worked on this with SMoore and extensively along with Dr. Melissa Reaves (?). One of the SCASA trainings online.

CJefferson: Band director and art teachers are going to work with social distancing.

AWalters: CTE classes are also a question and how will that work. How can we make recommendations regarding these items?

CSaylors: Another component, long time timing, band uniforms; they are on someone's list but not at the top. As we move forward, some are important at this time in the conversation. Working on next year's budget for a 190 day plan. To sanitize each building at the end of the day and the more heavily trafficked areas during the day and cleaning classrooms where students are all day, we are budgeting \$1.5 million. That is why any changes in the DHEC requirements, any changes in the governor's orders need to be addressed at some time.

AWalters: Some of the feedback has been that he has been getting is that I know we need to do all of this cleaning, now where do we get the equipment and the supplies to do it with?

CSaylors: Equipment, and supplies are hard to find.

AWalters: Pre-participation forms may have been sent out to AD.

JSingleton: The league has created some guidelines that can be used for athletics-safety and sanitation to be considered across all lines. (School League guidelines sent). The guidelines addresses movement and there is a higher risk to contracting the virus. Encourage schools that the 6ft should be the minimum; 10 people in a group should be the maximum. At the top: The following guidelines do not guarantee that transmission will not occur to those participating in workout. There is still a risk of contracting the virus or the illness. Any student, coaches or staff member that feels that they do not want the risk of contracting the virus, should reframe from participating in this voluntary workout. Date for getting things started, we propose that it does not start until other activities begin. Standard date? July? Heard of the new DHEC Document: checking temperatures is not recommended now. Still in our guidance; if not done by a health care professional at least by a full time district employee. Testing guidance and the follow up. (Please see guidelines document sent for all information). Last thing, may want to create some type of risk form for coaches and athletes. Phase II-if the governor makes a decision regarding social distancing or reduce separation footage and also increase the number of students you can have together. Also addressing the mental health aspect of the students.

AWalters: Outdoor spaces may need different guidance for cleaning; will check with DHEC.

Participation form; is this going to be required? Required for competition but not for practice.

JSingleton: Some parents are not willing to pay the fees for a physical, if they are not sure that their child will be chosen to be on the team.

AWalters: Would like to use draft guidelines document from JSingleton as an appendices. The taskforce members will float the document around today and send to Laurie at the end of the day.

JSingleton: Report that will come out to parents on this week?

KColeman: Draft will be ready by 5/22 and ready to go on Tuesday. LTraywick: Watermark will be on the draft. CSaylor: Recommendations that we are submitting are only related to summer programs?

LTraywick: Yes, Tuesday of next week for input.

HGoodwin: Objection to placing June 1 on the guidelines draft. Remove June 1 and instead add when other student activities start. JSingleton: Will update the guidelines and will resend.

SLongshore: Number 8 – add mention of English learners; Number 5-thanks for including; Number 1-Masks-each district should create their own policies and procedures on what to wear and when to wear them; All information should be provided in a manner that all parents can understand.

AWalters: Next Steps: Circulating recommendation document and make noted changes and send to Laurie by the end of the day.