

AccelerateED Task Force May 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Coleman (Chairman), Superintendent Molly Spearman, Tonya, Addison, Harrison Goodwin, Alan Walters, Scott Turner, Missy Campbell, Patrick Kelly, Sherry East, Sherry Eppleshiemer, Chanda Jefferson, Chuck Saylor, Latoya Dixon

Kathy Coleman, Chairman

Thank you to everyone for their hard work. We have received lots of input from the AccelerateED website. I would like to ask Superintendent Spearman for an update.

Superintendent Molly Spearman

Thank you everyone. Our number goal in all of this is to protect this children and the faculty. I wanted to give an update on the AccelerateSC task force. The General Assembly mandated that appropriations come from them. I am speaking next Wednesday to the Senate's Re-Open SC Committee. The Resources committee has agreed to recommend to fund the 5 additional days of academic recovery for grades K-8, reimbursement for USDA food and labor cost, \$80 million towards broadband expansion and purchase of 100,000 hotspots, and temporarily \$13 million for the expanded reading camps. They have asked for additional information. Districts have been working hard to get the correct numbers. I am doing my part to get adequate funding. The CARES Act funding is very specific and is only reimbursable.

Ryan Brown (SCDE)

Educator Feedback Report

We conducted 4 focus groups. Two with parents, and 2 with teachers. This is qualitative data. Each were an hour and a half.

- a. Remote learning: reported more challenges, particularly with struggling learners. There is no substitute for face to face learning. The state needs to improve distance learning, and streamline the information.
- b. Prioritize health precautions
- c. Need for students to get caught up. There was skepticism on A/B days especially as it relates to child care.
- d. Striking takeaways of resilience of teachers. They are confident they can get students caught up.
- e. Email feedback: very similar to the focus group feedback. Health precautions were a big part. There was a desire to waive state and federal assessments and use that additional time. There was also feedback about the importance of the arts.

Patrick Kelly

Two takeaways here. This situation is truly showing the haves and the have nots. If teachers are prepared and supported this fall, they are confident they can get it done.

Superintendent Spearman

We don't want to forget the arts, because that is important to children.

Latoya Dixon

Thank you for going back and capturing the audience and voices of teachers, parents, etc...

Discussion of Recommendations

This is based on the most up to date information available.

Building and Student Services Committee (Alan Walters)

We are recommending that every school needs a reopening team, every school needs a nurse (almost like a health resource officer), a mental health crisis response team (trained in trauma awareness), and social and emotional support prior to students return (at initial check in).

Superintendent Spearman

The Department has been conducting a survey, there are about 123 schools that don't have a nurse, and 198 schools that don't have a full time nurse.

Chuck Saylor

So 190 plus schools need nurses. I would rather them have a full time nurse than a part time nurse.

Instruction Subcommittee (Patrick Kelly)

Our committee is focusing on LIFT (Learning, Identification, formulation, transition). Younger kids need face to face learning, they do not do well with virtual. There are certain subgroups that will be more directly affected, and a heavy emphasis on closing the digital divide. We are recommending a waiver of regulations (defined minimum program, attendance, and seat time for high school courses)—in the event we have to go back to virtual learning. It was unanimous in our subcommittee that the SCDE seek a testing waiver for 2021. This would open up additional time for learning. We also request that the SCDE expand VirtualSC to younger grades.

Latoya Dixon

I want to reiterate the importance of the 5 days. Thank you for your leadership.

Operations Subcommittee (Scott Turner)

I am extremely disappointed about the underfunding of the K-3 camps. Transportation will be a big issue based on the capacity of the buses. We are still waiting on DHEC guidance. We also feel like the custodians will need some professional development.

Superintendent Spearman

I agree with the training for custodial staff. I am wondering if the Department could help with some of this.

Scott Turner—Greenville is already doing training.

Alan Walters—we already have a plan

Harrison Goodwin—we do an annual training right now. I think our biggest issue will be getting the extra personnel

Chanda Jefferson

I would like to add counselor to that list

Latoya Dixon

Social and Emotional Learning is important, there is a lot of confidence there.

Patrick Kelly

We can't catch up from the spring of 2019. We need to prioritize the time in the school year and knock down barriers to student learning.

Superintendent Spearman

We need to build confidence in parents that their students will be safe.

Chanda Jefferosn

We should also utilize teacher leaders and district teachers of the year

Meeting adjourned.