AccelerateED Task Force
Building and Student Services
Wednesday, May 27, 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 called the meeting to order with greetings. Get together and refocus now that we have the first part of the mission completed by submitting the report for the summer programs. Now we need to turn our attention to opening in the fall. Received feedback by various groups and there is the survey from the School Board Association that we may want to discuss. Start thinking about how we can elaborate on what has been done already in a little more detail. Regarding the building part of it, we did a pretty good job. Just wanted to get together and get your thoughts on where we need to go in improving our report for this final edition. Then we can create some next steps of when we get back together and how we are going to do our report.

CSaylors: The survey was conducted between May 5th-14th and received over 50% of the almost 700 trustees in the state participated. There was a representation in responses from every county in the state but not necessarily every district. A brief note was sent to Kathy to allow a member the staff to come and brief the taskforce on the findings. A lot of it is useful information in the fact for example the trustees are sharing that they as well as the community have a concern in regards to the same things that we talked about related to safety and security of the buildings, cleanliness, and scheduling. There are a lot of unanswered questions about what are we going to do, when we're going to do it; when are is somebody going to make a decision. One thing shared with a reporter: First of all, there won't be any guidance/support but what we give to districts will be flexible; whatever works in Greenville may not work in Saluda and vice versa. So we have to give them options, a menu. A lot of that will be reflected in the survey. Survey information that was forwarded to Allan from around the country showed that teachers and families are very reluctant to send their students back to school. We have to build an iron clad program provides comfort and security. The survey also includes scheduling options; Continued relief of testing especially this coming year. Once the confirmation that the survey can be presented to the taskforce, everyone will receive a copy. It is also posted on the School Board Association's website.

HGoodwin: It is going to be real important that where we can give guidance, that we give hard guidance. And depending on which district it is and the local climate. For example, transportation, what is it going to look like; we are going to have a hard plan. And how we schedule students are going to be by district especially based on the capabilities. Districts are going to have to offer nontraditional options. There are going to be a group of parents that are not comfortable sending their child back or that there is a reason why they don't want to send them back i.e. Medically fragile. Perhaps from Superintendent Spearman, we will need some hard guidance as to what the state is going to take the lead on.

CSaylors; Transportation-there needs to be a definitive decision and one on behalf of DHEC. Concern: DHEC has to give us some information; have to have our back. Upfront in saying that they are in support of the school districts and school systems and here are our recommendations. We should utilize those guidelines and come up with a formulation of getting students in a building in a safe manner. Will forward information that came out of the Greenville plans.

AWalters: Difficult to get a definitive answers on legal issues, so that it why we look to DHEC.

CSaylors: In this unique situation, we have to build confidence in our communities that we are doing to right things for our kids; that the rooms will be safe, and that we will be following guidelines. If DHEC gives us a series of guidelines with the wording "to the best extent…", then that moves it to the school districts. 1) It shades or shadows the ability to be transparent and build confidence and 2) There are going to be some districts who by design or mistake will fall outside of those guidelines.

AWalters: That is a conversation that we can have with DHEC. Also referenced CDC guidelines. Request someone from DHEC to get in touch with us. Will ask JShaw to contact DHEC.

CSaylors: Agree that it would be a good idea to have someone from DHEC to come and have a conversation with the taskforce to give us a background on the areas that they are looking at or discussing and also get our concerns that we may have. Help us refining the stuff that we have already developed.

CJefferson: What would it take to feel safe going back into the building? Staff and students would need to see the clear communication of what we are doing. Need more clarity and wording regarding student services. Concern: making sure that when SEL is talked about, it is not going in and showing the kids a PowerPoint on the first day of school. Make sure that there are examples of how top embed it into the systems. Use MTSS system already required. Make it available for students going forward.

SBeaver: From the feedback, there is a lack of clarity from the language differences. Some districts know about MTSS some don't; some don't know what it means. In the fall document that we develop, we add the language about MTSS protocols, in the piece about social emotional wellness, attach or anchor the MTSS framework how it's been utilized in schools across the state to the procedures that you are going to do with adults and students as they come back into the school. Separate out and make the language clearer so that everyone knows what the MTSS framework is utilizing the tiers of support and that will help us embed SEL for all students and all adults.

CJefferson: SEL for SC document submitted with great ideas. Perhaps the person that SBeaver knows can give this group a little more clarity about SEL and sustainable efforts could come and join our meeting as well.

AWalters: The public and that includes the districts, don't really understand our role. They believe that we are going to provide direct guidance to them and what they are going to be doing. Our mission as I understand it is to make recommendations to the superintendent for her to take to the department and to AccelerateSC in order to get funding. They are advising her on things that they would like to have done through state funds through the SCDE. We need to clarity in the document what our role is…

CSaylors: When the taskforce was originally established, the process was that AccelerateSC would make the appropriation recommendations to the governor's office and they would be addressed accordingly. Then the legislature would go over the appropriation responsibilities. Would that have had an effect on how we made our recommendations?

AWalters: A lot of things we are recommending, the districts have funds from the $216m that they can use. It does not have to come out of a pot of money. The committee chairs and Kathy will need to have a conversation with Molly to make sure we are on point as far as our recommendations and who is our audience for the recommendations.

CSaylors: It would be helpful. Discuss at the appropriate time, as part of my conversation with the school board chairs about nurses in schools and the mental health issues. The idea is that retired teachers were encouraged to return to the classroom through a unique package. Could we get the legislature to extend the same type of program to retired nurses and mental health counselors?

AWalters: Good idea. Reluctance to opening that unique package door again.

JSingleton: We have the vetted DHEC; suggested formatting to mirror other guidance. Hoping to mail to the membership on Thursday afternoon. More detail added, add FAQ section. The document will be sent to taskforce and will be posted on the website.

SPowell: In regards to adding more detail, represent firm but also architects in SC. How can we help? Have a webinar to talk about some of the ideas that have discussed and provide examples of how classrooms can be laid out so that school districts can get a better idea of how this can be done.

AWalters: Wonderful idea. Some districts will need the help.

SPowell: We can arrange it and get people that are interested in joining a webinar.

AWalters: Something that we need to pursue. Your expertise in this area would go a long way in helping districts make the right decision.

ASlatton: In regards to MTSS and SEL Supports, recommend the best place for school districts to go to look for resources; it would make it easier for districts if it was in one place. Whether it's a

recommendation of this group or the SCDE. How do we make it simpler for districts as they are working to make these decisions?

AWalters: Need to discuss a little more. How do we walk the line if it is a paid service or product? Center for school health and safety in conjunction with one of the universities. Please write up suggestions and forward to me so that I can compile and place it in some type of document.

ASlatton: Transition Alliance of SC-reaches out to exemplar districts for what their best practices are and taking those resources and making them available for those who need them. How do we find the great things that are happening in SC and getting

CJefferson: Dr. Moore mentioned creating a repository in one of the previous meetings.

JPayne: Surveying school districts to get a sense of their current capacity in social emotional learning and the MTSS framework. Working on the resources and also working with the instruction side and how we can align all those parts and pieces together.

ADuvall: Would like our committee to support the hiring of more elementary school counselors. Report the need to increase the number and decrease the case load of elementary and middle school counselors.

ASlatton: Increase School Psychologists as well.

JPayne: RBHS discussions, mental health, school psychologists; how do we get all the parts and pieces together to get the most impact?

HGoodwin: Depends on the makeup of your district. If you are a more poverty stricken district, you can actually make your mental health counselor program go because you have so many students eligible for Medicaid. There have been mental health counselors in all of our schools because we can generate funds off Medicaid.

ASlatton: Limitation for new districts in regards to RBHS?

Jpayne: Almost certain that is the case.

AWalters: Needs assessment and coordination of services take place?

JPayne: Idea is to get information from survey as to where districts are currently.

AWalters: Next Steps. Subcommittee chairs will meet with Kathy and Superintendent Spearman and where we are. We probably won't have another meeting this week; possibly first of next week. Write up the things that we talked about today and send them to me for compiling.