AccelerateED Task Force
Building and Student Services
Friday, May 8, 2020
10:00-11:30a.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	Sarah 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

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.

AWalters: Opened meeting with greetings. There were a few developments and would like to carry on from our last meeting and hopefully try and refine things down a little. There are developments that are expected to take place next week that will have a significant impact on our work. There are some things that can be done but we don't want to get to far out front and find that conditions have changed. From the committee chair meeting, there was emphasis on disabilities. It was noted that there will possibly be some focus groups that will get input of parents, teachers and the education community. In regards to the high school league; Molly has had some conversations with Jerome (?) and they may possibly have their own task force. Perhaps having Jerome or someone from that task force coordinate with our committee. Ryan has set up a google doc to place all of the documents. If you do not have it, it will be sent to you after this meeting. There seems to be some consensus on the big picture; Cleaning being the top priority, how to get summer programs up and running, a list to define the roles as to what the state will do and what the districts will do. It will be important to allow the districts flexibility. Another item that is

important is school level communications plans. Also, having a needs determination. Perhaps having nurses in each school may need to be recommended. Information from the Missouri Plan talked about a back to school boot camp. How do we transition from the way the school year ended to the way it will begin in the new school year; limited days, limited purposes?

KColeman: Missouri plan is a good template with an information sheet for us to review. In every conversation, it has been said that some parents and kids will not want to come to the school, there will be those that are at risk. Talked about buses this morning and what will that look like and what a classroom will look like, how that is organized in is the DHEC recommendation. As many ideas that can be put out there, the better; time to get work done today and maybe one day next week. The full task force will meet the end of next week. Molly is working daily on the funding side of it. We have a good plan for the summer program and transition. All protocols put in place will carry through to the fall.

AWalters: We need to keep our mission in mind and that our goals is to make recommendations and not develop the written plan or get into the implementation steps. It is more of what the priorities should be and what we would like to have funded; more of establishing goals and objectives. Between the department staff and various business organizations be the one that will be doing the implementation.

KColeman: That is correct. It will be different in every school; different configurations

AWalters: Big picture that I would like to see is to have a state center for school health and safety; that will be collecting these resources and offer training. We could partner with some of our universities and establish something like that; lot of experts and resources but have not been collected. Take the collection of work that we are doing now and have baseline. This morning allow those who did not get to talk previously. Where do we need to be going? End result is to come up with a list.

HGoodwin: SREB committee–-(southeast states) things we are talking about looks the same. Chandra has great notes and will be happy to share them with the group. Everyone is stepping back and waiting a little more guidance and with the idea that come June and July, you really have to have a hard plan in place if you are going to reopen in August. An additional resource to pull from – SREB.

SBeaver – Had to chance to meeting with a couple of folks that are on the subcommittee, ADuval, MMerriweather, and SWorley. We had a great discussion and vetted some ideas. Talked about some of the items on the template that you sent out in regards to Social Emotional support piece with student services. We came up with three priorities - 1) Emotional support for school staff and then trickle down to support to students. MMerriwether: The DMH has adult services at clinic and mental health centers; sometimes they don't want to talk to some they already know.

JPayne: This afternoon, KHawkins, VChambers, DMathis and I along with some key directors are circling up to do some internal mapping regarding social emotional health. That way we can look to see what the current assets are and how do we support them. ASPEN institute for Education Society Programs issued state actions to support social emotional academic development. They have a top ten list and will be reviewed internally. Pulling all of the different divisions together to do some asset mapping to determine what we already have in place and what can we blend to have a bigger approach

SBeaver: 2). Provide a list of vetted social emotional resources to make available to parent and students and 3) Prioritize the access to trained staff. Assistance to trained staff so that they can meet the additional needs.

SWorley: School counselors need the additional help so pull together resources. MWeather: MH will want to support school opening. AWalters Will mental health be able to have extra people the first few days to provide some additional help? MWeather: Some centers are already set up but others that are not but I will do all I can to have more available; more of a challenge in some counties.

CSaylors: Manpower – some already have staff and instructional problems. How can they fill these vacancies? What is the game plan for having the manpower to do this work? ADuvall: there are people in the school that can man this. The schools and districts will have to be encouraged to reprioritize the current staff, especially at the elementary level, where there will be a great need. Current MH person can only work with students on her case level.

CSaylors: Don't have a plan or a dollar amount associated with the plan. We need to fill the vacancies. Give an idea of what it will take and a budget associated with it. What we don't want to see is requirements come down from this task force that is going to require the local school board to fill positions when the budget is already stretched.

ADuval: We all already wear so many hats. We really need more staff. We don't have local mental health center.

CSaylors: His district struggle as other districts. What he does not want to see is a plan that require additional staffing and the district does not have the funding additional funding. Can it be affordably implemented?

CJefferson: Mental health clinician as a resource–Studying the post Katrina response to social emotional learning and it took weeks to help students process the trauma and what they went through while they were out. She suggested training teachers to identity students that experienced trauma and embed it in their curriculum.

Sbeaver: There are a lot of teachers that have been through the trauma informed training. There are school counselors and others that can offer that training. Don't have time to so it right now. There are districts that have SEL coordinators. Add a SEL Coordinator from the state level to help facilitate it down to the districts.

JPayne: MTSS Legislation does not only have the academic component but also the social emotional thinking through that in a tiered approach. What are the critical plans for July and August?

AWalters: A number of initiatives, plans, programs that were date specific that were supposed to happen through this school year. Is anyone looking at those? Do they need to be changed, postponed due to this new reality?

SMoore: Katie Nilges-Requested that those dates be given an extra year (2021 to 2022)

KColeman: As you are making the recommendations that they be board; resources and finding people are next to impossible; please keep that in mind. The money is one time and it does not reoccurring funds.

BUILDINGS

SPowell: Discussion of lunchrooms-are we going to recommend that the lunch be served in the classrooms and if we are how are the meals going to get there? Also what about the staff needed, traffic in the hall, trash, etc. Has there been any more discussion about the lunches? In high schools, this takes away from teacher prep time.

AWaltons: Operations taskforce overlap

CJefferson: Students in the classroom 1:12 ratio; Current classroom size, only 6 of her students would be able to fit. How will it actually work? Report from SREB-Operations to come out Tuesday that she will share that covers calendars, scheduling options, human capital, and operations funding and technology.

AWalters: The standards may become more flexible. Concerns are with restrooms where students are moving and not having social time.

SLongshore: How realistic is will be that teachers and administrators are going to be able to enforce whatever procedures that are put in place. Example: problems with students not wearing ID badges: safety issue. What will it do as far as the climate and discipline? SMoore: Not able to address every issue. Some type of guidance will need to be sent out.

AWalters: Foodservice-Some school have 1 lunch some have 4 or more. One way traffic may not be practical. Restrooms stops? SPowell: Athletics-Limiting people who can attend, no visitors or a system available to view games. AWalters: PE Classes and showers (out of the questions). Also at the state levels, the gyms, fitness centers are in questions. What they come up for the state will probably apply to schools as well.

CJefferson: Country of Denmark opened their schools starting with the kindergarten through 5th grade. Parents were not allowed to go into any of the buildings. Visitors monitored as to who could go into the building. One of the proposed scheduled from the SREB is the staggered method and also lunch would be on a staggered method or eat in their classrooms. Sports have been a large issue.

AWalters: The visitor polices will have to be tightened. KColeman: Talked a lot in Operations; not allowing visitors. AWalters: Some parents not mature enough to follow the rules.

SLongshore: Staggered schedules-so many logistical problems-grade students don't always enroll in the same courses; will work if they are not reliant on bus transportation. Having enough buses to run for the different start and stop times will be a problem.

AWalters: Elementary children go early; high school students starting at 9:00; would mean routes running for elementary, then middle school and another for high school and having a certain amount of students on the bus. Routes normally run about 1.5 hours. SLongshore: Some districts have all grade levels use the same bus, but not the case in all districts. AWalters: Coming out of the meeting today, each of us with our areas of expertise, submit a one sentence recommendation; they can be collected, combined and disseminate them back to the group.

V: Mock return for staff.

AWalters: Google doc link will be sent out at the conclusion of the meeting today.

CJefferson: Clarification regarding staggered scheduling. There are 5 different scenarios; not just the staggered offered in recommendations. Also parents were talking about childcare. Centralized place for the group that have all of the documents. Happy to set up a place for all documents and recommendations and everyone would have access. AWalters: Great help for Chandra to do this.

JPayne: Update for students with disabilities. Working closely with the Instruction group regarding our students with disabilities and English Learners; looking at what the summer looks as well as the return to school and the federal requirements. There are children with significant disabilities that don't normally come to summer camps or learning camps. What are their needs? How do we supply them with supplemental services? Convened a group consisting of special education directors, college facility, and some of our advocacy organizations to look into 1) continuation or extension of the summer learning for the students that would attend and 2) guidelines for meeting the needs of other students with disabilities; meeting functional and behavioral needs.

Bdavis: Working not only with input from the group, but our office is organized around 4 areas 1) Preschool outcomes 2) Academic outcomes 3) Social Emotional outcomes and 4) postsecondary outcomes. Shifted to make sure we are including/developing any universal resources that anyone can access that would be related to COVID-19 as well as more targeted and intensive intervention that will be specific for students with disabilities. As schools are reopened, it will have to be made on an individual child by child basis, the student's unique need whether medical, physical, emotional or academic. Also, how do we support our staff as we transition back to a physical location of a school.

SLongshore: our conversation at this point is to support students in a distant learning environment. The top priority is the screening aspect; to having the protocols in place for students to be screened who may need additional support by

JPayne: South Carolina is the only state that have a large number of students whose parents are migrant workers (Beaufort, Horry, Charleston, Greenwood, Florence Saluda, etc.) who work in different areas

and sometimes instruction have to be delivered to the migrant camps. How do we go out into these areas and making sure that we are social distancing?

CJefferson: Are you working with groups that you have not been able to reach? SLongshore: Our office specifically work with homeless students and families, English Learners, immigrants and migrants. We know are more likely to disengage for various reasons such as work schedules, language barriers, and cultural differences. We are developing our plans for engaging the students and their families.

CJefferson: Also there are some of our economic and disadvantaged students who are having to work instead of working on their school work so they have become disengaged.

JPayne: We have been discussing what are broad efforts that we can do at the state level? For example, public service announcements to engage students back into schools. Be innovative to engage these students who may be assisting in paying bills and putting meals on the table.

CJefferson: All students are on social media. Perhaps some type of social media campaign or partnering with ETV to send messages out. Would love to share some ideas to reach those students.

SMoore: Business partners who may have students; having a statewide community involvement; also faith based partners, mental health partners. Some districts are going door to door; not sure if we have the capacity to that. JPayne: Reach out to the faith organizations. MMerriweather: There are mental health that doesn't cost anything extra; just a matter of getting IT departments to work together.

AWalters: Look as various sources and coming together on some type of consensus. Give 4-5 recommendations in your area of expertise. Thank you to Chandra will create a repository for exchanging information. Monitor the news from the governor and the legislation when they return for more information. JShaw has noted that she has some cleaning cost surveys. This will probably be recommendations number 1.

Kcoleman: Emails/Comments that are coming to the AccelerateED email. May 22, 2020 maybe a time to know about the funds. Look at the Missouri plan and keep in mind the template to keep it flexible as possible.

Next meeting set for Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.