

Rhode Island Department of Education  
LEP/ELL Advisory Council Meeting  
January 19, 2007  
Pawtucket School Department  
286 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Present: Robert Gerardi (North Providence/subcommittee member), Linda Ianetta, Elizabeth Alexander (Barrington), Cathy Chatowsky (Pawtucket), Gerardine Cannon (Pawtucket), Davida Irving (Pawtucket), Kathy Barden, Susan Rotblatt-Walker (RIDE), Rona Fennessy, Donna Hanley (Providence), Soledad Catanzaro (Providence), Jose Gonzalez (Providence), Willis Poole (Rhode Island College), Emily Klein (RIDE), Laurie Grupp (Providence College), Julie Nora (International Charter School), Sara Melin (Providence), Erica Acevedo (Progreso Latino), Patricia Morris (Central Falls), Nancy Carnevale (Central Falls), Maria Lindia (RIDE), Fran Mossberg (University of Pittsburgh/Institute for Learning), Fran Collignon (Education Alliance at Brown University), JoAnn Hammadou (University of Rhode Island), Tabettha Bernstein-Davis (Providence), Erin Strnad (Providence), Judah Lakin (Providence), Linda Filomeno (Woonsocket)

Absent: Jaime Aguayo (Community)

Regrets: Ramon Martinez (Community) – sent alternate

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Nancy Cloud.
2. Review by Nancy Cloud of purpose of the LEP/ELL Council
3. Introductions
4. Linda Filomeno
  - a. Membership graphic distributed
  - b. Membership list with contact information distributed
  - c. Subcommittee lists distributed
  - d. Request for revision of contact information
5. Approval of Minutes from 10/19/06
  - a. One correction
  - b. Move to approve – Julie Nora
  - c. Second – Fran Mossberg
  - d. Vote – unanimous
  - e. Nay – none
6. Letters of appointments
  - a. We have not had the letters sent from the Commissioner
  - b. If recently placed, but have not received a letter – let Linda Filomeno know
    - i. Want all to have a letter noting primary or alternate
    - ii. Still have some missing forms, until all forms in we cannot have letters sent
7. Subcommittees
  - a. Introduction of subcommittee chairs
    - i. Assessment and Policy – Donna Hanley
    - ii. Teacher Quality and Certification – Willis Poole
    - iii. Secondary Reform and Regulations – Patricia Morris
    - iv. Community Concerns and Family Engagement – Jaime Aguayo

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1. In Mr. Aguayo's absence, Nancy Cloud will facilitate
- b. Linda Filomeno distributed lists of concerns raised at 10/19/06 meeting, and identified those which will be focus for the work of the 2006-2007 academic year
- c. Charge to subcommittees
  - i. Study bylaws for how subcommittees function
  - ii. Plan a schedule of meetings
  - iii. Working committees
    1. Subcommittees need to feel responsibility to work on issues
    2. Council at large can send issues to a subcommittee
    3. At council meetings, subcommittees will bring forward action items
      - a. Time discussion
      - b. Bring salient points so that the council at large can take action on behalf of ELLs
  - c. Does anyone object to the process?
    - i. Question – Patricia Morris/Is RIDE looking for us to provide recommendations?
      1. Response from Chair: Yes, the council is only allowed to bring forth recommendations to the commissioner or those he has designated/subcommittee will have an informed discussion and bring forth best recommendation for Council's recommendation/council takes vote on whether want to take forward as recommendation to commissioner
      2. Subcommittee meetings to be held in between Council meeting/need to be active subcommittee/need to be active members
    - ii. Question – Fran Collignon/Is there a vehicle between the Council meetings for communication?
      1. Response from Chair: Yes, Council will send things forward/we sent letter to Ken Swanson and are waiting for a response
      2. If needs immediate action, we as the Executive Committee of Council can take action on behalf of the subcommittee/in consultation with subcommittee
      3. Subcommittees can meet together or two chairs can meet and bring back to two or three committees/Need for well functioning
    - iii. Comment - Susan Rotblat-Walker/ "hot off the press" guidance for students with special needs and ELLs
      1. Spell out to as great a degree as can (local control/state control)
        - a. Credits for ELLs

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- b. Make copies now – Davida Irving
- c. Will post to website – Emily Klein
- d. Chapter 16-54 on website
- e. Fran Mossberg – listserv?
- iv. Question – Julie Nora – should we read minutes ahead so we come prepared to discuss at meeting?
  - 1. Response from Chair: could be things we want whole council to discuss
- v. Question – Julie Nora – sizes of subcommittee?
  - 1. Response from Chair: We don't feel need to be equal in number as long as the work can be done/if don't feel on right committee or if not on a committee yet – see Linda Filomeno
  - 2. Not opposed to chairs of subcommittees trying to set up meetings
- iv. Nancy Cloud – send notes and schedule of meetings from each subcommittee to Linda Filomeno
- 8. Position statements from TESOL
  - a. Nancy Cloud – practice in many states that when a national agency takes a position, other entities at state level vote and let national association know that there is an affinity
  - b. Last year – the Advisory Council recommended that PLPs not be written for children with lit in L1
    - i. Advice not heeded
    - ii. In case opportunity of policy at state level,
      - 1. review of position statements
      - 2. Introduction of Position Statement 1
      - 3. Introduction of Position Statement 2
      - 4. Introduction of Position Statement 3
      - 5. Introduction of Position Statement 4
      - 6. Resolution statement distributed
        - a. TESOL – well researched
        - b. National and international experts
        - c. Did not become position statements of TESOL without significant discussion
  - c. Comment and Questions:
    - i. Julie Nora - useful for us (subcommittee), useful process to inform work we do in subcommittees
    - ii. Willis Poole – not only to endorse position statement, but reflect on what is happening in Rhode Island
      - 1. Response from Chair: that would come later; endorse as written as something we would like state to consider as givens, known to be true, taken into account for state policy

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- iii. Willis Poole – shouldn't we suggest to policy
  - 1. Yes, but as recommendations from Council
- iv. Fran Mossberg – Is there a bibliography?
  - 1. Response from Chair: Not all; TESOL website has many position statements
  - 2. Set stage for later recommendations, set parameters – we support this view, we can table and bring to vote next meeting
- v. José González – who is intended audience/could be powerful but will go to RIDE, rank and file teachers
  - 1. Response from Chair: all we do is recommend to Commissioner; we would state that we recommend that these position statements be honored as they formulate educational policy as relates to ELLS
- vi. Tabetha Bernstein – this is a way of stating that we value multilingualism, etc.; provide protection, platform on which to stand
- vii. Nancy Cloud – there are work groups working on reauthorization of RI General Law Chapter 16-54 (Education of Limited English Proficient Students) and we would want to have a voice as a Council on that
- viii. Julie Nora – What about a statement on assessment?; We would want to make a recommendation that we can assess in dominant language
  - 1. Response from Chair: there are position statements on assessment; if approve this action, we could bring other position statements to the Council
- d. Laurie Grupp – motion to vote
  - i. Julie Nora – second
  - ii. Nancy Cloud – Are we voting on all as a joint motion or will we vote on each statement individually?
    - a. No opposition to joint motion
    - b. Clarification: Understand what voting
- e. Vote – 16 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions/Motion carries
  - i. Nancy Cloud: If others want to bring forth other position statements, this is a strategy that we can use.
- 9. Next meeting - April 5
- 10. Nancy Cloud - Working and coordinate through RIDE for appointment letters
- 11. Patricia Morris – Be sure that we get an update from RIDE on courses for ELLs or other information
- 12. Nancy Cloud – thanked all for commitment
- 13. José González - Motion to adjourn
  - a. Seconded by Julie Nora
  - b. All in favor – unanimous