

Rhode Island Department of Education  
LEP/ELL Advisory Council Meeting  
June 21, 2007  
Pawtucket School Department  
286 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

**Present: Linda Filomeno, Donna Hanley, Nancy Carnevale, Fran Mossberg, Emily Klein, Susan Rotblat-Walker, Davida Irving, Willis Poole, Soledad Catanzaro, Karen Karten, Erin Strnad, Judah Lakin, Nancy Carnevale, JoAnn Hammadou, Elizabeth Alexander, Willis Poole, Tabetha Bernstein, Gerardine Cannon, Kathy Barden, Elizabeth Vasquez, Erica Acevedo**

1. Linda Filomeno proposed statement for endorsement –Omission of the WIDA standards in the RIDE Statewide Curriculum
  - a. The document originates from the Office of Instruction, Statewide Curriculum Project
  - b. Discussion centered around editing aspects of the endorsement
  - c. An email will be sent out with the revised version for folks to review and to email their vote of support or no support
2. Subcommittee reports:
  - a. Assessment and Policy – D. Hanley
    - i. Struggling readers
    - ii. ELLs – statewide, preclude access
    - iii. Variety of challenges
    - iv. Many enter without phonemic awareness, etc; many enter with semilingualism
      1. Phonemic awareness – lack of similarity to English
      2. Fluency – CIERA 1998
      3. Vocabulary – Kamhi and Catts, 89; Trelease, 01
      4. Comprehension – Snow, Burns, & Griffin, 98; Hiebert et al, 98
    - v. Closing Gaps – need a PLP designed specifically for ELLs grounded in WIDA standards, all domains
    - vi. Responses
      1. L.Filomeno – need to state that it is to be used in lieu of mainstream PLP until student is able to actively and effectively participate in mainstream PLP (level of Expanding on WIDA/ACCESS for ELLs in Reading) so that teachers are not asked to do double paperwork
      2. N. Carnevale – how do we assess reading level
        - a. F. Mossberg – Grain size – not at that grain size
      3. N. Carnevale – what is vision for this document?
        - a. S. Catanzaro – Reading progress for ELLs
        - b. N. Carnevale – what about content?
        - c. L. Filomeno – what about adolescent literacy
          - i. F. Mossberg – what does state require; adolescent literacy needs to be reflected

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- ii. E. Alexander – framework; gears to elementary, content important for middle and high school students
      - iii. E. Strnad – would all teachers have one PLP shared?, would each content have own?
    - d. F. Mossberg – management of PLPs – district decision
  - 4. E. Strnad – formally – SAT 10 regular education (in Providence)
    - a. F. Mossberg – look at state policy
      - i. our job is to advise RIDE on policy, other areas are district prerogatives
      - ii. district does to their beneficial, go away from grain size
  - 5. L. Filomeno – let RIDE call work group to address
    - a. F. Mossberg – we want to hold to an influence of policy
    - b. E. Klein – in addition to WIDA, GLEs/GSEs; website for ppt.
    - c. F. Mossberg – we’d have to have contextual slide
    - d. S. Rotblat-Walker – pull up actual policy
    - e. L.Filomeno - we need to have PLP guidelines state ESL teacher as primary author, reading specialist as consultant
    - f. E. Alexander – can we take a vote on idea?
      - i. F. Mossberg – we need to be more explicit; hold for suggestions
      - ii. L. Grupp – need to vote on how its worded today, but not on policy
      - iii. F. Mossberg – no need to vote on something we’ve been working on
  - 6. L.Filomeno/E.Klein – special education self-contained teachers were allowed to author PLPs because people complained enough
- b. Teacher Quality and Certification
  - 1. W.Poole – English Language Proficiency assessment needed for Bilingual educators
  - 2. recommend practicum field experience for BLBC and ESL Content Area Endorsement content teachers
  - 3. W. Poole – need to address feasibility of undergrad ESL endorsement

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- a. D.Irving – practicum for content? – most teachers for ESL Content Area are already teaching ESL while receiving training,
  - b. W.Poole – if emergency endorsement, supervise right in classroom, practicum = supervision in classroom; supervision helps transfer of knowledge to classroom
4. S.Rotblat-Walker – purpose of these is to not have emergency endorsement, what is necessary to ensure that districts are able to hire teachers who are already endorsed
- a. T.Bernstein – concern; if we can't/don't emergency endorse in meantime, classrooms will have a succession of day-to-day substitutes; letting use that opportunity to do practicum works to give guidance from college
5. D.Hanley – can undergrads start?
- a. W.Poole – only in senior year; could have by end of summer for content area (3 courses)
  - b. E. Hammadou - URI offers TESL courses at undergraduate level, but not official because does transcript analysis; unusual for an undergraduate to complete ESL endorsement as undergraduate
6. W.Poole – suggested a vote
- a. S.Rotblat-Walker suggested that RIDE ELL team meet with RIDE Teacher Certification and Quality office to discuss
    - i. NECC already starting work on this;
    - ii. thinking of changing requirements for BLBC, ESL Content Area, doing away with specialist certification, moving toward undergraduate
7. J.Lakin – fourth recommendation
- a. Talking to N.Cloud about what is happening at Hope High School (Providence) with intermediate, advanced, and Limited Formal Schooling in same content classes
    - i. F.Mossberg – could go under 16-54 program design, program options, educational programs and service; district response to 16-54

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8. J. Hammadou – question about interpretation on the secondary endorsement; cant’ be added to Foreign Language only to English - is this a misinterpretation of federal regulations?
  - a. W.Poole – under NCLB a Foreign Language teacher is not Highly Qualified for English
    - i. L.Filomeno – ESL seen as English,
9. E.Alexander – specialist certification may still be needed ; need for low – incidence districts
- ii. F. Mossberg noted request for vote on recommendations to ELL team is on table
  1. call for any further questions discussion
    - a. T.Bernstein – who would supervise the 45 clock hours practicum?
    - b. J. Hammadou - college professors
    - c. W.Poole – increased demand, increased responsibility
    - d. F.Mossberg – this recommendation will help the demand
  2. J. Hammadou – move, F.Mossberg – seconded; passes unanimously to have ELL Team at RIDE take sub-committee on Teacher Quality and Certification recommendations to RIDE Office of Teacher Quality and Certification
3. Acknowledgement of Willis Poole’s retirement from Rhode Island College and his contributions to LEP Advisory and the ELL educational community over a distinguished career
4. Status of Chapter 16-54
  - a. E.Klein – ELL team from RIDE has met twice with legal team at RIDE ; gave suggestions, Forrest Avila – is with format (lawyer), meeting in July, on course for fall forum
  - b. S.Rotblat-Walker – noted a roadblock/anything that is an additional expense, this may affect requirements suggested by the workgroup (e.g. – low incidence, high incidence requirement for full-time director, parent liaison, etc., class size, etc) because state will have to pay
  - c. D.Irving – mandate that larger dist have ESL director
    - i. S.Rotblat-Walker – districts are saying that if state requires, state should pay
    - ii. F.Mossberg – legislature voted to override/budgets/raise taxes

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- d. S.Rotblat-Walker – time of service is still in 16-54, program models, personnel requirement, as long as it doesn't require additional funding; maybe go to a guidance document
  - e. E.Klein – need to highlight anything that will cost/Carolyn Dias will look for a cost analysis
  - f. F.Mossberg – asked when the first public forum will be held
    - i. S.Rotblat-Walker – September
    - ii. F.Mossberg – can we see previously?
      - 1. S.Rotblat-Walker – RIDE does not want the draft documents floating around
        - a. Board of Regents will review in August and produce a Regents approved draft
        - b. Could have for September Advisory meeting
        - c. maybe have research briefs
5. Report on RITAP Leadership Seminar
- a. S.Rotblat-Walker – very successful, many evaluations
    - i. one problem to avoid next time- decide sessions ahead/early assignment not locked in resulting in some imbalance;
    - ii. D. Short's session was all interactive; well received
    - iii. Panel discussion was well received, Daisy Dias
  - b. F.Mossberg asked if we will have more sessions specific to ELL needs next year?
    - i. S.Rotblat-Walker – yes/want to get Higher Education to table, endorsement from this group will help
6. Dates for 2007-2008
- a. October 4, 2007
  - b. January 10, 2008
  - c. April 10, 2008
  - d. June 5, 2008
  - e. Time for next year: 6:15 - 8:15 pm
  - f. Location?
    - i. L.Filomeno offered church if Pawtucket cannot continue to host
7. Acknowledgement of contributions of D.Irving to LEP Advisory and Pawtucket as she leaves her position as Director of ESL in Pawtucket to take a position on Block Island
8. E, Klein distributed the Teacher Assistants' Network announcement needing presenters
- a. RITAP – there are modules on website for Teacher Assistants in Bilingual and ESL classrooms

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9. Adjourn
  - a. N.Carnevale – moved
  - b. Seconded by F.Mossberg
  - c. motion unanimously approved
  - d. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm