

Michigan PreK-12 Literacy Commission Minutes

July 26, 2018

Great Lakes Room, Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of Education

9:00-12:00

Commissioners Present: Amanda Price, Naomi Norman, Denise Smith (phone), Lois Bader (phone), John Kennedy (phone), Kyle Mayer, Susan Medendorp, Punita Thurman

Commissioners Not Present: Steve Goodman, JaNel Jamerson, Cynthia Pape, Jeremy Reuter (comments on agenda items submitted in writing prior to meeting), Nadra Shami

Also Present: Noel Kelty (MDE), Angela O'Brien

- I. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Noel Kelty – Shared work regarding family engagement, including Family Engagement Stakeholders Group, partnership with Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), Statewide Family Engagement Centers Grant application with Michigan State University.
 - b. Welcome Punita Thurman!
- II. Review of June 22 Commission Meeting- Listening Session Discussion Notes
 - a. Purpose of Listening Tour Discussion
 - i. Opportunity for sharing, open forum
 - ii. Opportunity for validation – Are we headed in the right direction. Format: 20 minutes or so overview, then listening session: What do you know? Are we on the right path?
 - iii. Should be a check-in with thinking and also feedback for what fits into a systemic change model.
 - iv. Need to frame: What do we mean by systemic change? Should Commission define systemic change? Should Commission define system? Define components of system, i.e. interdependency.
 - v. Balance: Want people to talk about bold systemic change, but still provide a framework. How to balance the two to allow for shared understanding while allowing flexibility for creative ideas.
 - b. Systems Mapping – Is there a systems map for areas where success has been identified? Perhaps look at other states or industries. When looking at continuous improvement from a business perspective, look at all inputs, examine problem relative to variables. Examine outcomes in process. Consider all effects on system when one variable is changed.

- c. Punita – Working with another state system regarding equity. Utilizing tool to examine all components of equity and have developed systems map. She will reach out to organization and share.
- d. Do we take what we learn from listening session and put on systems map or are listening sessions separate?
 - i. Three priority areas in plan – Need to hear from participants on those three areas. Need to consider systems components most imperative to prioritize, define, and name.
 - ii. Listening sessions – Listen to participants with ear for systems development.
- e. How to take what is learned from listening sessions to operationalize?
- f. Need to name what bold systemic change would be for literacy in this state – Utilize input from listening session. Commission to recommend what is best for literacy in the state based on Commission member experience and feedback.
 - i. Take feedback from listening session- Move to recommendations for systemic change- Receive stakeholder feedback- Advance to strategic implementation
 - ii. Be mindful of recommendations and new administration- Prep recommendations to roll out to new administration.
- g. Set framework in listening sessions (Making the case); make an agreement as Commissioners for literacy by Commissioners to give listening groups something to respond to. Would require collaborative agreement by Commissioners on systemic priorities. Potential priorities:
 - i. Administrative costs higher than most other states. Tackle administrative costs so more funds can go to serving children.
 - ii. Re-examine pre-reading skills and expectations for young children. Emphasize language, reading to children.
 - iii. Gap between early childhood and elementary childhood.
 - iv. Family stressors and poverty- How to address barriers to support early literacy achievement?
 - v. Develop an expectation that every child in every classroom can read- Not that poverty keeps children from reading
 - vi. Professional development is imperative
 - vii. Local control issue- Is there a system that works that could be recommended statewide?
 - viii. Some states- Identifying curriculum approvable by states
 - ix. Considerations on curriculum- Scripted curriculum- Lack of student engagement. Examine student initiative curriculum.
 - x. Examine leadership in state- Support for high-quality curriculum. Example: 84% elementary principals have no early literacy training.

- xi. Assessments- What is success? Look at what is being used, how, measurement criteria.
- h. Written comments submitted in advance by Commissioner Jeremy Reuter
 - i. While I was not able to attend in June I do recall from our May discussion that we were looking at also including the health provider community in some relation? This came back to the discussion on the promotion of literacy at time of birth, well-visits, and linkages with Nell Duke's work?
 - ii. While I make that suggestion, I worry about the range of the audience and how to accomplish the goals of the June 22 notes, and more so with a narrowed scope in the PSC proposal.
 - iii. One big item is how would the discussion look if either a) parents or b) education entities (higher ed, public/non-public, libraries) are mixed in the conversation with policy makers, faith-based community, or health community who may or not be steeped heavily in the research or practice. It will come back to the from breadth and scope of questions and how it fits audiences.
 - iv. I will be curious about parents' and school administrators' perspective what they are/are not already hearing surrounding the legislation.

Systems Map <i>(reference notes above)</i>
Building Literacy Leadership Capacity- MDE, Building and district level leadership * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOM has no model on training building-level leaders - Focus on instruction and instructional support - Pay differential between poor/rich districts
Better teacher training and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better support for new teachers - Could there be a statewide vs district healthcare system change for teachers?
Equity Issues- Addressing various funding and needs
Structure * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fewer districts and ISDs - We have the most Regional Service Agencies in the country - Accountability- Who is accountable for what in our state? - Funding
How much does it cost to educate a child? <i>Build strategies from here</i>
Universal kindergarten/Universal Prekindergarten (need to be implemented correctly) - Early childhood- Drilling, flash cards not appropriate- Focus on developmentally appropriate practice * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a robust early childhood program. - Define what readiness is- K-2 activities tend to be pushed down into PreK.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSRP- Now skill-based vs vocabulary phonemic awareness, oral development - Early childhood system needs to be more comprehensive - Public/private partnership home- and center-based program - Birth-3 supports needed- Family literacy, early childhood development <p>Strong family supports at poverty levels</p>
<p>MTSS School Districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaders at MDE responsible to education literacy- Not optional, Not negotiable
<p>Comprehensive role of literacy at the State level *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Across all sectors, including government, business, etc. (not exclusive to education) - Collaborative system
<p>Teach reading and writing- Focus on all content areas</p>
<p>Teacher Training and Development *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needed system changes in teacher preparation - Focus on low-income populations - Volunteer programs for undergraduate levels - GVSU- Special Education- Residency for teachers- Strengthen the novice teacher, mentoring teachers - New teacher center- UC Santa Cruz - Focus: Teacher preparation in urban environments
<p>Bold = Potentially prioritized for listening session</p>

III. Review PSC Proposal for Listening Session

- a. Listen to LakeChain Group- Much shorter concept sharing than PSC
- b. PSC- Has knowledge of several education initiatives. May influence perspective seeing from bigger picture.
- c. Potentially work with LAUNCH Michigan group for listening tour?
- d. PSC in in deep with many other organizations. Is there a deep systemic approach to work?
- e. Facilitator for August 22 Listening Session- Facilitation by PSC or Commission members?
- f. Written comments submitted in advance by Commissioner Jeremy Reuter
 - i. My concerns noted above could be addressed in some format if we were to use PSC to conduct something around the John Hattie appearance the Supt's conference is more of the educational leaders and those closely connect?
 - ii. If that is the case would the other two (or more) smaller ones be more focused to get parents, other community partners, business leaders, etc.?
 - iii. The parent discussions may very well be the most complicated audience to structure, facilitate, and have their buy-in and in the commission members may be most suited to do that in their

local communities. Facilitating these discussions, including incentivizing parents to attend, is a very different task to accomplish. My thought here is this element requires deeper conversation.

IV. Consideration of Commission webpage needs

- a. Can there be a different URL so site is not an MDE site?
- b. Included
 - i. Bios of Commissioners
 - ii. Executive Order
 - iii. Strategic Plan
 - iv. Parent Dashboard
 - v. Listening Sessions
 - vi. Links
 1. Literacy Essentials
 2. Launch
 - vii. Meeting minutes or summary
- c. Review of Michigan Storyboard for literacy marketing campaign
- d. Consider new name for Third Grade Reading Law- Something catchy and relative to literacy.
- e. Written comments submitted in advance by Commissioner Jeremy Reuter
 - i. Since this was a brainstorming document and it was blank on the drive I assumed it was a place to take notes for the discussion? Here are some of my quick thoughts below:
 1. Commissioner bio's
 2. Strategic plan
 3. Third Grade Reading Law & simplified resource document targeted to parents
 4. Partner organizations
 5. Report from listening sessions (assuming we proceed with PSC)
 6. Links to best literacy resources and current activities that we are aware of in Michigan, and if possible with their social media links or feed.
 7. Feedback mechanism? Do we want to be open to public comment, suggestion, etc.? which ultimately can open a can of worm of complaints, items outside of direct control, etc.?

Next Commission Meeting to be scheduled.