

## ***Program Services Meeting Agenda***

***9/22/15***

***Present:*** Cartner, Sanders, Davenport, Whitehurst, Sawyer, Hawkins, Lane, Cowell, Pauley, R. Harris, Strecker, Ewers, J. Harris

<b><i>Time</i></b>	<b><i>Item</i></b>	<b><i>Leader</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
10:30	State Budget Overview	Larry	<p>Dr. Cartner provided an update on the 2015-16 State Budget. The Budget was approved and signed by the Governor last week. The Department of Public Instruction has 10 days to get allotment information to school systems. Dr. Cartner indicated he anticipates information by the end of this week.</p> <p>Dr. Cartner shared with the PST that the teacher assistant funding is being reported in the press to be at the same level as last year, but that is not quite the case. The allotment formula has changed from a dollar allotment to a position ratio allotment and information has not been received regarding what that will mean for ECPPS.</p> <p>Dr. Cartner discussed a bill in the Senate regarding funds that districts will have to share with charter schools.</p>
10:40	Statewide LEA Testing Directors' meeting information	Renee	<p>R. Harris shared a handout (School Accountability 2014-15 – Is Student Achievement Increasing?) that she received in a regional testing meeting last week. She reviewed the handout with the Team and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low Performing School will be identified by the State (5 of our 12 could be identified as low performing).</li><li>• An official list will be shared following the October State Board of Education Meeting and districts will have 30 days to submit plans for improvement.</li><li>• She also shared that parents will have to be notified if a schools is identified.</li><li>• ACT/Aspire Periodics will replace EXPLORE testing for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – the</li></ul>

		<p>Periodics consist of four interims (English, math, science and reading) and will serve as a stepping stone to prepare for the ACT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some districts use this in lieu of benchmarks. A webinar is scheduled for October 6 and she invited the Team to participate with her.</li> </ul> <p>Test administration issues were discussed.</p> <p>Dr. Cartner asked R. Harris what decisions need to be made and she indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECPPS needs to determine if it will use Aspire/ACT in lieu of Benchmarks for 8<sup>th</sup> grade</li> <li>• Will food and water be allowed during testing (had previously been prohibited by the State, but that rule changed)</li> <li>• Testing Days – determine ramifications of attendance and non-attendance for high school students during testing</li> </ul> <p>The group discussed scheduling issues regarding high school testing.</p> <p>Dr. Cartner asked R. Harris to talk about Aspire/ACT &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> grade Benchmarks and to elaborate on how pacing and alignment will be done.</p> <p>R. Harris indicated she has not received complete information on this and will learn more during the October 6 webinar.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding benchmarks, pacing guides, scoring reports (available within an hour of testing) and assessment specifications.</p>
10:50	Team Concerns	<p>Strecker discussed a possible donation of Kindle Fires and issues regarding Technology Department support (devices will not allow the system to put a certificate on them, support/managing, charging, web access; training, apps, etc.)</p> <p>Dr. Cartner indicated that a community member is willing to donate the devices and the system will have to figure out a way to utilize them. He indicated he would share</p>

		<p>information with the community member on alternative devices if there are suggestions that are in a comparable price range (\$41 each if purchased in lots of 10).</p> <p>Dr. Cartner indicated that the school system has to adopt a posture of saying “yes” and that “no” cannot be our default answer.</p> <p>Lane discussed new legislation regarding placement of student teachers in classrooms. A teacher has to have met accomplished and have met the growth standard on their evaluation prior to having a student teacher placed. J. Harris reported that there are currently 2 student teachers in the system.</p> <p>A question was asked about what information parents can request about teachers and Davenport responded that through Title I they can request licensure and information as to whether or not the teacher is highly qualified. At the present time they cannot request evaluation information.</p> <p>J. Harris discussed an issue she observed with a newly hired teacher and classroom furniture needs. Dr. Cartner asked that she share additional information with Sanders and indicated that we will get it fixed.</p> <p>J. Harris reported on seeing good teaching in classrooms; and working with Weeksville Elementary for MClass assessments.</p> <p>There was discussion about the need to track preschool experience information for kindergarten students and suggestions on how to track the information. R. Harris shared that self-reporting by parents was done during kindergarten registration for 2015-16 and the responses were quite varied.</p> <p>There was discussion by the Team on traditional teaching versus conceptual teaching. It appears there is a big disconnect, especially in math. Dr. Cartner indicated that DPI has a live database that you can enter school</p>
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		<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.</p>