

MINUTES

Committee of Practitioners (COP) Meeting

September 11, 2019

5:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

Meeting called by the Committee of Practitioners

In Attendance

Ernesto D. Lontoc- Chair
Dr. Felita Grant- Vice Chair
Mollie Chandler- Secretary (via telephone)
Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante (via telephone)
Dr. Karen Barber
Shonda Goldsmith- FDOE
James Herzog
Jacqueline Hill- FDOE
Lizanne Ippolito (via telephone)
Megan Johnson
Michael Kilts (Guest)
Nicolle Leider- FDOE (via telephone)
Dr. Maria Longa
Sonya G. Morris- FDOE
Rabbi Moshe Matz (via telephone)
Isabel Navas
Patricia Pasca
Dr. Anjani Prashad
Leticia Roman (Guest)
Cheryl Sattler (Guest)
Julie S. Stewart
Dr. Dogan Tozoglu
Elizabeth Tyler
Dee Dee Wright

Welcome/Call to Order

Ernesto D. Lontoc, Chair

Ernesto Lontoc called the meeting to order at approximately 5:10 due to technical difficulties. He welcomed the current committee members, the five (5) newly appointed members, FDOE officials, and guests. He thanked the new members in advance for their willingness to apply their knowledge and experience to the important work of the Committee of Practitioners (COP). He reviewed the membership list, handouts and requested that the attendees introduce themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ernesto D. Lontoc, Chair

On behalf of Mollie Chandler, COP Secretary, Ernesto Lontoc shared the minutes of the May 16, 2019 Committee of Practitioners (COP) meeting. Dr. Longa wanted to discuss more about the draft consolidated external calendar and updates on 18-19 monitoring. The COP approved the minutes of the May 16, 2019 meeting.

Bureau Updates/Comments

Sonya G. Morris, Chief, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP)

Sonya Morris welcomed the new members and discussed their roles as partners and a support system to assist with the department in producing the best possible quality of work. There has been some staff departures from BFEP to other FDOE departments. BFEP is current with its recruiting, interviewing and hiring of additional staff. Matt Caldwell will be the first to join the team. His role will be to assist with comparability and other fiscal related duties. Three (3) more staff will be onboard starting September through October. There is also a transition in the reporting tier, which will move Sonya Morris from a direct report to Chancellor Jacob Oliva to Vice Chancellor Melissa Ramsey.

Application reviews are on par to be completed by the target deadline. Rank and serve is a focal point during the review as it is a very important fiscal component.

The BFEP is working closely with Melissa Ramsey and the team across other federal programs on monitoring guidelines implementation. The goal is to align monitoring with the vision of the department and that of other titles like Title II and Title IV as examples. Monitoring has been reset to get things out the door sooner. Workpapers are in the final stage of revisions. Modifications are made to make compliance simpler. Monitoring this year may include targeted monitoring.

Jacqueline Hill is working to get the system ready for the upcoming monitoring season. This involves her working behind the scenes to ensure the system is up and running. Workpapers are anticipated to be released in the next meeting or two.

Jacqueline Hill is also working across a few years- closing and new year. Most districts were monitored between December and March. All districts have received the preliminary reports. Final feedback will allow finalization of reports which will then allow for routing to leadership and approval.

James Herzog inquired about a federal proposal to end broad-based, categorical eligibility under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamps). Florida is one of a number of states that uses this eligibility approach. He was wondering if this federal rule proposal could impact Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility which in turn could impact Title I and other programs next fiscal year. Sonya Morris shared that the department is closely monitoring this recent development from Washington DC.

With regard to whether private school services questions should only be sent to Nicolle Lieder (our Ombudsman) or should they be directed to BFEP, Sonya Morris explained that questions should initially start with the program specialist within BFEP and then if more clarification or a deeper dive is needed, then Nicolle Lieder will jump in to assist.

Ernesto Lontoc inquired about the implementation status of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) Checklist that the COP helped craft. Sonya Morris shared that it was introduced as "guidance" to department leadership and LEAs. However, the PFEP Checklist is not an exhaustive or meant to be an all inclusive way of

capturing districts' parent and family engagement activities. The most important plan is the one that was shared with parents, families and the community. It is encouraged to use the tools and activities found to be working in each district. The PFEP Checklist is being routed for approval and will be posted in the BFEP website.

Dr. Karen Barber would like to have a copy of the PFEP Checklist. She also shared how impactful Dr. Karen Mapp was as parent engagement speaker in her district. Dr. Mapp spoke on creating a great platform to increase and strengthen parent and family engagement partnerships. Ernesto Lontoc will send a copy of the PFEP Checklist to the new COP members.

Equitable Services Updates/Comments

Nicolle Leider, FDOE/BFEP Ombudsman

Nicolle Leider reported that the USDOE released the Frequently Asked Questions on Nonpublic Schools. This document will be a useful guidance on recipients and students who receive funding. In the Spring, part of the equitable services clause has been updated to allow Title I programs to partner with religious programs. However, the content must be secular and neutral and cannot be owned by the private schools. Nicolle will send the link with those resources to Sonya Morris and Shonda Goldsmith. Nicolle will attend a conference for ombudsmen.

Year-at-a-Glance Calendar

Sonya G. Morris, Chief, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (BFEP)

Feedback that the COP members provided has been included in the comprehensive calendar, which will then be transferred into another calendar that includes other bureaus. Final calendar will be shared to the districts and COP when finalized.

Questions/Comments

Ernesto Lontoc confirmed with the new members their respective work phone numbers. He also reported the resignation of Leslie Frazee of Volusia County. Ms. Frazee's resignation creates a vacancy from the group representing principal and other school leaders. To fill the vacancy, Ernesto Lontoc motioned that BFEP use the other eligible applicants from the previous pool submitted earlier. The motion was seconded by Dr. Magaly Abrahante and was later approved by the COP general membership. Sonya Morris explained that BFEP will submit application with complete supporting documentation to the Commissioner pending approval and appointment.

Kudos was given to Jacqueline Hill for her tremendous support during the Monitoring season.

Decision will be made regarding the motion to cancel the November COP Conference Call. This will give time for COP Leadership to finalize the Annual Report for the Governor and Florida Legislature in fulfillment of Title I, Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), Public Law 114-95, Section 1603(b) and Section 1008.332, Florida Statutes.

Team COP will review its mandate under ESSA and the membership expectations. Sonya Morris is in support of whatever the COP decides within the confines of ESSA and Statutes. Meeting and conference call schedules will be proposed next meeting.

Dr. Felita Grant suggested that the COP look at the big area of focus and take on the federal grant topics that are most concerning about the group the members represent (parent/family, LEA, administrators, charter, principals, teachers etc) and to provide support around those areas. She thanked the members for their continued support and participation.

Adjournment

Ernesto Lontoc adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and thanked the COP members, FDOE officials and guests for their active participation. He wished everyone safe travel back home.

**Minutes approved on November 11, 2019 during the Committee of Practitioners' online review and roll call*

