

High School Reform Task Force
Conference Call
November 1, 2005
12:30 pm -2:30 pm



SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Commissioner John Winn, Senator Evelyn Lynn, Bill Vogel, Lou Miller, Peg Smith, Nancy Bostock, Stephanie Arma Kraft, James Lawson, Dr. Daniel Tosado, Joan Minnis, Cherry Fitch, Rosann P. Sidener, Ed.D, Judith Marty, Kathy Corder, Daniel E. Snyder, David Mosrie, Wayne Blanton, Jim Warford, Bob Morris, Sherri Hampton, Melissa Hardin, Brenda Speed, Edwin Massey, James Robert Richburg

- The Commissioner thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on the task force and shared the proposed goals that they will be responsible for recommending strategies to meet. The six proposed goals are:

- Goal 1: Increase the academic achievement levels of high school students
- Goal 2: Increase the percent of high school graduates
- Goal 3: Increase the percent of graduates entering a postsecondary career path or further training with qualifications earned through Florida high school programs
- Goal 4: Increase the percent of graduates prepared to enter postsecondary institutions without remediation
- Goal 5: Increase the level of rigor of high school math and science instruction
- Goal 6: Increase the percent of teachers prepared to teach advanced courses at grades 6-12

- Commissioner Winn provided an overview of the meeting structure, with goals 1 and 2 being the primary focus of the first meeting; goals 3 and 4 of the second; and goals 5 and 6 of the third.

- Commissioner Winn asked members to share the one major thing about high school education that they would want to see changed. Common responses included references to increasing the rigor and relevance of high school, and a focus on career academies and small learning communities.

- Members stated:

- Dan Tasado: Would like to increase the level of engagement during HS for all students.
- Bill Vogel: Would like to see reading become the centerpiece of all work in HS.
- Lou Miller: Wants to approach the relevancy of HS to the student's future and their perspective jobs.
- Peg Smith: Is interested in offering more programs and courses combined with teacher training and rigor.
- Nancy Bostock: Would like to increase the rigor of courses for both college-preparatory and vocational/technical students.

- Stephanie Kraft: Wants to approach the relevance of course work for all students and examine ways to make it more practical and integrated with life skills.
- James Lawson: Would like to increase the rigor of the curriculum not limit progress to a six-period day.
- Joan Minnis: Is interested in focusing on what happens between grades ninth and twelfth and discovering what we are not doing to help ninth graders make it through HS.
- Cherry Fitch: Would like to implement more time and financial resources for teachers to learn and prepare for reading in content areas, career/technical important.
- Roseann Sidener: Is interested in finding a way to give students credit for their competency instead of seating hours.
- Kathy Corder: Interested in the quality of teachers and believes that this ties in to reforming the curriculum and delivery models.
- Dan Snyder: Wants to work on the relevance of education to the job sector, the transition of students into the workplace, and getting students more prepared for college.
- Dave Mosrie: Would like to increase the rigor of the senior year and invest in innovative internships, community service, and research projects for these students.
- Wayne Blanton: Interested in the expansion of career/vocational projects.
- Jim Warford: Regarding rigor and relevance framework, every educator should receive training in this framework to help teachers move from quadrant A to quadrant D in their instruction.
- Bob Morris: Interested in providing a more technology-rich environment that focuses on remediation, as early as possible, and allows individual attention to increase the graduation rates no matter how long it takes.
- Sherri Hampton: Wants to establish career academies/clusters and prepare students for post-HS life.
- Melissa Hardin: Wants to encourage career planning and would like to see all students strive to attend college, but prepare those who won't as well.
- Brenda Speed: We need to focus on remedial courses. Once the student has taken the course needed they should get academic credit and not elective credit so that they can meet graduation requirements.
- Ed Massey: Would like to focus on in-depth leadership training at the administrative and teacher levels so that they are more prepared to accept new ways of doing business and have more cultural training. He would also like to define and implement comprehensive career pathway programs centered around career sectors in state.
- Janice Pratt: Would like to see five days of teacher training for every HS and would also like to focus on renewed math/science curriculum in middle school. Ninth grade is too late to get excited.
- Bob Richburg: Would like to work on the expectations of education.] Communities expect more of schools, schools of students, and students of schools.

- Lynn: Would like to see a greater flexibility in education.] It's not all rigor/relevance/math/science. We need more interdisciplinary actions, more flexibility in the delivery system, and we don't have to be in school 6 hours/day, 5 days/week.

- Chancellor Cheri Yecke provided an overview of current research and the materials that had been sent to the task force members.
- Chancellor Yecke was followed by Monica Hayes who provided information on the progress that has been achieved with the College Board and CROP.
- Superintendent Peg Smith from Volusia County provided the Florida Association of District School Superintendents Update on High School Reform and their position paper.
- Janice Pratt, the Deputy Superintendent for Instruction and Curriculum Services of Orange County Public Schools provided a district's perspective on high school reform and the efforts they have undergone to change their high schools.
- Mary Jane Tappen provided an overview of Breaking Ranks II and provided the task force with an overview of some components of high school reform and asked the task force members to brainstorm on other components and bring them to the first meeting.
- Adjourned.