

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2017
State Office Building, 450 Columbus Boulevard
North Meeting Rooms C & D - Plaza Level
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Sarah Barzee, Miguel Cardona, David Cicarella, Joe Cirsuolo, Sheila Cohen, Ellen Cohn, Paula Colen, Eileen Howley, V. Everett Lyons, Shannon Marimón, Gary Maynard, Patrice McCarthy, Karissa Niehoff, Catherine O’Callaghan, Bob Rader, Mark Waxenberg, Dianna R. Wentzell

ABSENT: Randy Collins, Jan Hochadel

I. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Barzee welcomed PEAC members and explained that as Mary Broderick was not able to facilitate today’s meeting, Sarah would facilitate. Two PEAC members, Randy Collins and Jan Hochadel, had previously indicated that they would not be in attendance today.

II. Acceptance of December 15, 2016, Meeting Minutes

Bob Rader noted a few strike-outs on pages 3 and 5 of the minutes, but otherwise moved to accept the minutes. Sarah Barzee proposed that the strike-outs could be amended and asked PEAC members to accept the minutes from December 15, 2016. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Review and Discussion of the Role of the State Mastery Test in the Educator Evaluation and Support System

Commissioner Wentzell thanked Sarah Barzee for facilitating today’s meeting, and she thanked PEAC members for participating. She opened the discussion by stating that a lot of positive things have happened in the past few years with the implementation of evaluation and support systems. While there remain several topics for possible discussion and possible revision, PEAC would take on only one of these issues today – the role of state testing in educator evaluation. The Commissioner also said that we learned from a recent workshop with the State Board of Education (SBE) that we take a lot for granted and need some kind of communication to bring along the public’s understanding of the complexity of some of these issues.

Mark Waxenberg agreed that what has been happening in the field has been good and that there has been great professional dialogue. He thanked the Commissioner for bringing this to the group’s attention. He brought up a concern that he and Joe Cirsuolo have been discussing about what the matrix will look like going forward.

Karissa Niehoff agreed with Mark, and she appreciated the proposal being discussed at today's meeting. She expressed a hope that the proposal will lead to goal setting and IAGD setting in relationship to standards versus a test.

Sarah Barzee suggested that the group take some time to read and review the proposal. Members took approximately five minutes to review independently, and then Sarah opened it up to discussion.

Miguel Cardona agreed with comments made and said that the evaluation and support plan should be used to promote growth. He expressed comfort with the proposal because he has great confidence in the new statewide accountability system. He noted the importance of acknowledging that these two systems work together and supported the proposal knowing that the accountability system includes multiple measures.

Paula Colen agreed and stated that the proposal moves us forward with positive results for educators. She applauded those who put the proposal together. Paula reiterated two issues regarding implementation of the proposal: the matrix and the impact this change will have on principal evaluation, which seems to lag behind but is an important part of the evaluation system. She asked that PEAC be able to discuss administrator evaluation specifically.

The Commissioner clarified that 'educator' includes both teacher and administrator roles and that the proposal would apply to both.

Discussion continued regarding the use of state test data to drive instruction, to show student growth, and to inform professional development needs. Joe Cirusuolo shared that he hopes PEAC will come to consensus, and that the State Board of Education (SBE) will adopt the proposed document, so this issue will not have to go to the legislature. The proposal puts the state mastery test into context, which is needed before moving on to other parts of the system that may need reform.

Commissioner Wentzell confirmed that we can feel confident about the results of the state test. Eileen Howley discussed how districts use local assessments with feedback to students and parents on a regular basis. The accountability system is about growth and confirms and verifies results from local assessments.

Sarah Barzee asked PEAC members if they approved the proposal regarding the role of state testing in evaluation. PEAC members reached consensus.

IV. **Discussion of Next Steps**

Commissioner Wentzell said she would suggest to the SBE chairperson that adoption of this proposal be on the agenda for the next SBE meeting, scheduled for April 5, 2017. She asked that PEAC members make themselves available to attend the SBE meeting, if possible.

There was discussion about how to present the proposal to SBE members. PEAC members agreed on the importance of sharing examples of the current use of standardized measures. They would also be prepared to address concerns that may come up (for example, what accountability is in place for our most vulnerable students, why it's not practical to give a teacher a rating at the end of the school year based on state test data when the results don't come out until after the school year ends).

Sarah Barzee and Shannon Marimón committed to developing a presentation with input from PEAC members. The membership recommended Paula Colen, Miguel Cardona, and Eileen Howley to present to the SBE on behalf of PEAC.

Joe Cirusuolo asked about districts that have received waivers from the *CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation* for the next PEAC meeting. Shannon Marimón shared that there may be more flexibility in the Guidelines than districts realize.

Paula Colen brought up a proposal in the legislature to study, or have a task force, on the PEAC Guidelines. The Commissioner said she is hopeful that the authority to make recommendation to the SBE can remain with PEAC.

V. **Adjournment/Closing**

Sarah Barzee moved for adjournment. Mark Waxenberg seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.