MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS
MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Washington, DC
July 14 & 15, 2023

Present:

Officers:

Guadalupe Guerrero, Chair, Portland Superintendent
Marcia Andrews, Chair-Elect, Palm Beach County School Board
Sonja Santelises, Secretary/Treasurer, Baltimore CEO

Members:

Jill Baker, Long Beach Superintendent
Sabrina Bazzo, San Diego School Board
Sharon Contreras, North Carolina A & T State University
Brandon Craig, Cincinnati School Board
Elyse Dashew, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board
Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Lewis Ferebee, DCPS Chancellor
Joe Gothard, St. Paul Superintendent
Rodney Jordan, Norfolk School Board
Christina Martinez, San Antonio School Board
Deborah Shanley, Brooklyn College, CUNY
Joyce Wilkerson, Philadelphia School Board
Stacey Woolley, Tulsa School Board

Absent:

Stephanie Elizalde, Dallas Superintendent
Kelly Gonez, Immediate Past Chair, Los Angeles School Board
Shavonna Holman, Omaha School Board
Jesus Jara, Clark County Superintendent
Diane Porter, Jefferson County School Board
Mary Skipper, Boston Superintendent
Guadalupe Guerrero, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was established. Members then introduced themselves and gave a short update on events in their districts.

Appointments and Nominations

The Chair of the Board forwarded the following nominations to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee of the Council of the Great City Schools—

**Vacancies**

1) Susan Enfield (Washoe County Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Addison Davis (Hillsborough County Superintendent) whose term expires on June 30, 2024.

2) Jerry Almendarez (Santa Ana Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Pedro Martinez (Chicago CEO) whose term expires on June 30, 2024.

3) Roger Leon (Newark Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Marcelo Cavazos (Arlington Superintendent) whose term expires on June 30, 2026.

4) Alex Marrero (Denver Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Diana Greene (Duval County Superintendent) whose term expires on June 30, 2025.

Discussion about the challenge of turnover, on the committee and as a reflection of churn in districts in general. Perhaps something to address in by laws?

A motion to confirm the appointments of Susan Enfield, Jerry Almendarez, Roger Leon, and Alex Marrero passed without dissent by voice vote.

The Chair then discussed a proposal to change the structure of the Committee re: subcommittees/task forces… introduced the task force appointments… members applauded the added focus and involvement in the core work of the organization. Joe Gothard requested that name of Council staff working on the Task Force be added to the list with the Task Force Chair(s).

A motion to approve the change to the structure and participation in the Council’s 5 task forces passed without dissent by voice vote.

**Minutes**

Ray Hart presented the minutes of the March 2023 meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in Washington, DC.

A motion to approve the minutes passed without dissent by voice vote.
Membership

There are no active membership applications at this time.

The group discussed the issue of whether the Council should work to identify eligible districts and conduct outreach to build membership. The Membership Subcommittee will meet separately to discuss.

By-Laws

No report. The By-laws Subcommittee will meet to discuss whether the organization should take active steps to create a bench of future Executive Committee members, identifying designated alternates based on tenure and experience.

Audit

Ray Hart gave the report of the Audit Subcommittee. He started by providing the Committee with details on a security breach in January. There were no financial consequences, as the check was caught by a bank teller. In response the organization has overhauled its payment practices, moving almost fully to ACH payments. We have also moved to a new cloud-based financial management system.

The Audit section of the Committee materials includes:

- Combined report on General Operations and Categorical Programs
  - Preliminary fourth quarter report for 2022-23. Ray Hart pointed out that our revenue over expenses comes to about -$27K. He explained that we are spending down two major grants, which are recorded as total revenue in the year they awarded, then recorded as expenditures in subsequent years.
- General Operations Budget Report, Preliminary Totals for FY 2022-23
  - Dues information for 2022-23. All districts expected to pay last year paid.
  - General operating budget for FY 2022-23
  - General operating budget for 2021-22 (audited expenses)
  - Approved Budget for FY 2022-23
  - Preliminary expenses for FY 2022-23
  - List of operational expense types
- Categorical Programs Budget Report (Preliminary Totals for FY 2022-23). A few things to note: 1) special accounts 22. This is where we record governance and leadership work. This appears negative, but that is because we bill for our work toward the end of the year. So we’re starting that now. 2) members will see a grant from the Hewlett Foundation that will be spent over the next two years. 3) meeting and conference revenue. This was our first year returning to fully in-person meetings. 4) The cost for the Blue Ribbon Corporate Advisory Group has increased from $25K to $40K.
Categorical projects. You will see deficits for the accounts associated with grants from the Gates Foundation and Wallace Foundation. Again, this is us spending down the second year of these grants.

- Asset Allocations, including an investment schedule and investment portfolio by Asset Class. As the Council’s investments mature, we pull them out and reinvest. All of our investment allocations are within their strategic targets.
  - General Operating Budget for FY 2023-24.
    - Membership Dues Structure by Tiers (showing a 7.1% increase this year from 2022-23 dues)
    - Status of membership dues as of July 2023.
    - General Operating Budget by function
    - General Operating Budget by expense line
  - A copy of the Council’s Investments Policy and Guidelines

A motion to approve the Audit report passed without dissent by voice vote.

**Annual Report**

Ray Hart presented the FY22-23 Annual Report and acknowledged the Communications team for preparing the report. He also acknowledged Kelly Gonez for her leadership as Chair. This was the first year where all meetings were held in person. The Committee expressed appreciation of the detailed report.

A motion to approve the Annual Report passed without dissent by voice vote.

**Communications**

The communications section of the materials begins with statements, including a recent statement on the supreme court decision on race conscious admissions policies. The Council will be convening our general counsels to discuss how to address this issue.

Members will also find a sample of press releases, articles (divided into subsections including articles on council reports and activities, articles on general education issues where Council staff were quoted or the Council was mentioned, and articles on district leadership), a social media update, the latest copy of the *Urban Educator*, an award that the Council received for the *Urban Educator*, materials from an ad campaign around district SRP spending, and applications for the Bernard Harris scholarship program.

**Saturday, July 15**

**Legislation**

Manish Naik, Director of Legislation along with Moses Palacios, Manager of Legislation gave the Legislative report in person. Ray Hart announced the addition of Mary Lawson as
the Council’s Legal Counsel starting August 1, 2023. Mary was formerly with the Miami-Dade County School District.

Research

The research materials begin with a department overview. Ray Hart called the group’s attention to a literature review on the impact of different grade configurations on student achievement, drafted in response to a request from the School District of Philadelphia. This review highlights the importance of creating continuity and coherence to help support kids in the transition between grades five and six (middle schools). The materials also include a NAEP item analysis, used at this conference to delve into what unfinished learning looks like; a copy of a Rand survey showing differences in CGCS district responses versus districts and schools nationwide; and an analysis comparing demographics and achievement for charter schools and traditional public schools, which the group then discussed.

Conferences and Meetings

Ray Hart reviewed the lineup of upcoming meetings in 2023 and 2024. The winter 2024 meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Long Beach January 19 & 20, and the summer 2024 Executive Committee meeting will be held in St. Paul July 19 & 20.

The 2023 annual fall conference will be in San Diego. The materials include a copy of the call for presentations for this conference, and Ray Hart reviewed updated language. The November 2023 Chief Finance Officers meeting in Phoenix will include a mini-meeting of the Chief Operations Officers before their April 2024 meeting.

The 2024 annual conference will be held in Dallas, 2025 will be in Philadelphia, and 2026 will be in Boston. We are now looking for applications for hosting 2027, which should be held in a city out west, given the back-to-back east coast conferences coming up.

Awards

The materials include applications for the Green Garner award, the Queen Smith award, the Shirley Schwartz award, and the Michael Casserly Legacy award. The first three awards are usually given out at the Fall Conference while the Michael Casserly Legacy Award is given out at the Spring Legislative/Policy Conference. The 2023 Green-Garner award will be for a Board Member.

Task Force Breakout Sessions

Committee members then met in smaller breakout sessions by Task Force.
Task Force on Achievement and Professional Development

The Achievement Task Force began its report by noting that Council staff is already doing a large volume of incredible work in this area, so they are looking to shift/adjust these efforts, not just add on. They did note that something that is missing from the work in this area is materials targeted to a more general audience, such as school board members. Currently the resources being released are incredibly technical, as they are intended for practitioners doing the work, not for a board audience. The Task Force therefore suggested releasing resources and guidance that could assist board members. For example, to accompany the recent re-release of the Curriculum Framework, could we provide a document that sums up the key takeaways and identifies the questions board members should be asking and what their role is in ensuring the implementation of a high-quality curriculum.

The Task Force discussion also touched on the need to improve training and preparation for urban teachers and school leaders, as well as how to inform practice in the area of reading without getting into the science of reading war.

The Task Force agreed to meet to work on updated language around the intersection between diversity and teacher/leader recruitment, and to present their recommendations to the Board of Directors in October.

In general, we want to ensure alignment between Council work/resources and what members are tackling in their districts, and that in our materials and Task Force presentations we are clear about what members can be taking back with them, and what the next steps are.

Ray Hart then reviewed the materials in the Achievement Section of the Committee materials.

Task Force on English Language Learners and Bilingual Education

First and foremost, looking at the name of the Task Force, we want to move away from the term “bilingual” in favor of the term “multilingual.”

Support in this area needs to focus on addressing communication barriers to providing family and community supports, addressing the underutilization of resources, and ensuring that the needs of EL students are reflected in curriculum and in the allocation of resources and staff.

The group then discussed the challenges of serving and supporting immigrant and undocumented children, including the pitfalls of navigating the state and federal landscape. Members suggested that one potentially useful resource might be a survey on how schools are finding multilingual teachers.
Ray Hart then presented the materials provided in the English Language Learners and Bilingual Education Task Force section of the Executive Committee materials.

Task Force on Leadership, Governance, Management, and Finance

Task Force members echoed the sentiment shared earlier about the need to make resources and presentations more focused on applicable lessons and information for school board members, in particular.

School board members need to understand how the research applies to everyday governance. How do superintendents implement system change, and what is the role of a board in supporting transitions? What are best practices for various roles, i.e., superintendents versus boards versus schools.

In the area of Board support, we could also use more assistance and training in area of communications. And we need to be looking at the availability and use of data, how to ensure that professional development reaches beyond the upper levels to everyone in an organization, and how we can encourage districts to work in cohorts based on relative size.

Ray Hart then presented the materials provided in the Leadership, Governance, Management, and Finance Task Force section of the Executive Committee materials.

Included in this section is information on the Harvard ABC Institute. Ray Hart proposed moving this convening to every other year, given the financial burden and the risk associated with guaranteeing participation each summer. We have had a number of districts back out with little notice, which doesn’t leave us enough time to fill their spots and ends up costing us money, as we pay a minimum guarantee to Harvard.

Instead, members suggested doing more outreach and advertising, and offered to help by reaching out, and expanding the sessions to new board roles and support staff, who could also benefit from the professional development. Members also suggested a policy change, wherein no refunds are offered for districts backing out.

Task Force on Black and Latino Young Men and Boys and Task Force on Black and Latina Young Women and Girls

Looking at the goal statements of the respective Task Forces, it is clear they need to be updated. The goals should be distinct but aligned between these two task forces. The Task Forces will meet separately and will present feedback and recommendations to the full board at the fall conference.

It is worth noting that these task forces do not have dedicated Council staff, as the other three do. As a result, the task force members indicated that they would like to take on more leadership in this area. This could start with a survey of member districts on promising practices. They also discussed the need to establish regular continuity via monthly virtual
meetings. These meetings should be open to others beyond task force members. Members also discussed the possibility of hiring full time staff to drive the work in this area.

Ray Hart then presented the task force sections of the committee materials, including performance data updates for both task forces.

***Between now and October, all task forces should convene and decide whether you want to meet in person in advance of task force meetings in October. In addition, you should decide what you will be sharing out at that point in terms of work on the goals/title changes you have identified today.

Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan was developed in 2018 and lays out a roadmap for the organization through 2024. There are quarterly updates on the work done to reach each of these goals. The Group agreed to discuss renewing the Strategic Plan at its January 2024 meeting.

This section also includes an overview of Council services that is shared with new superintendents and school board representatives to the Council.

Finally, there is a section on strategic partnerships. Currently, we are considering the following two partnership projects:

1. A partnership with The College Board aimed at expanding two aspects of their AP coursework. We would be more prominently working with districts to share what is available. These are unique AP courses that don’t necessarily lead to college credits (although they can)—instead, they are gateway courses to better prepare students for AP coursework. Specifically, the courses include an AP computer science course and an AP seminar course for 10th graders that opens them up to project-based learning. (This would be a replacement for English 10.)

2. A partnership with Kaplan aimed at creating a platform for students in Council member districts. Although these services would be offered to member districts at no charge in perpetuity, they would be offered to other students at a charge. We have suggested piloting this in one Council district to see if it is valuable. With the Committee’s approval, we’ll proceed with the pilot in one district for now and come back with feedback/recommendations on whether to expand more widely throughout Council districts.

Personnel

The Executive Committee then went into closed session.

Respectfully submitted:

Ray Hart
Executive Director
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kelly Gonez, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 8:45 am ET. A quorum of the Executive Committee was established, and in the event that a quorum of the Board is not reached Chair Gonez asked them to remain present to ratify all votes. Present members introduced themselves.

Minutes

Kelly Gonez presented the minutes of the October, 2022, meeting of the Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, FL and the January, 2023, meeting of the Executive Committee in Charlotte, NC.

A motion to approve the minutes passed without dissent by voice vote.

Appointments and Nominations

Michael O’Neill, Chair of the Nominations Committee, then presented the following nominations and appointments—

Officer Vacancy FY 2022-23

1) Marcia Andrews (Palm Beach County School Board) to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board beginning March 19, 2023 and ending June 30, 2023.

A motion to accept the nomination of Marcia Andrews as Secretary/Treasurer passed without dissent by voice vote.

Officers FY 2023-24

1) Guadalupe Guerrero (Portland Superintendent) to serve as Chair of the Board beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

2) Marcia Andrews to serve as Chair-Elect of the Board beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

3) Sonja Santelises (Baltimore CEO) to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

4) Kelly Gonez (Los Angeles School Board) to serve as Immediate Past Chair of the Board beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

A motion to accept all officer nominations passed without dissent by voice vote.
Renewal of Terms

1) Jill Baker (Long Beach Superintendent) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

2) Marcelo Cavazos (Arlington Superintendent) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

3) Elyse Dashew (Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

4) Stephanie Elizalde (Dallas Superintendent) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

5) Joe Gothard (St. Paul Superintendent) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

6) Shavonna Holman (Omaha School Board) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

7) Jesus Jara (Clark County Superintendent) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

8) Rodney Jordan (Norfolk School Board) to serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

9) Diane Porter (Jefferson County School Board) to serve a second three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

A motion to accept all renewal of terms passed without dissent by voice vote.

Vacancies

1) Mary Skipper (Boston Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Eric Gordon (Cleveland CEO), whose term was set to expire June 30, 2025.

2) Brandon Craig (Cincinnati School Board) to fill the vacancy created by Marcia Andrews (Palm Beach County). He will serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

3) Sabrina Bazzo (San Diego School Board) to fill the vacancy created by Sonja Santelises (Baltimore CEO). She will serve a first three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.

A motion to accept all nominations passed without dissent by voice vote.
Confirmation of Appointments

1) Addison Davis (Hillsborough County Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Megan Kerr (Long Beach School Board) whose term expires on June 30, 2024.

2) Jill Baker (Long Beach Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Michael Hinojosa (Dallas Superintendent) whose term expires on June 30, 2023.

3) Stacey Woolley (Tulsa School Board) to serve the unexpired term of Siad Ali (Minneapolis School Board) whose term expires on June 30, 2025.

4) Diana Greene (Duval County Superintendent) to serve the unexpired term of Talisa Dixon (Columbus Superintendent) whose term expires on June 30, 2025.

A motion to accept all appointments passed without dissent by voice vote.

Audit

Marcia Andrews gave the report of the Audit Subcommittee. This section of the Committee materials includes:

- A final audit report for FY 2021-22, including—
  - A final copy of the Independent Auditors report for FY 2021-22. Marcia Andrews called the group’s attention to a letter to the audit committee from Marcum noting an accounting error that resulted in the reporting of a deficiency. In the letter, they noted the three categories used when identifying weaknesses, including immaterial, significant deficiencies, and material weaknesses. They found no material weaknesses but since incorrect posting of revenue for a grant was not an immaterial weakness, it was written up as a significant deficiency. The grant fund in question was recorded as income for the past fiscal year, when it carried over into this fiscal year ($125K for each fiscal year). So it overstated the amount received from previous year. The auditors included the adjustment in the report. This deficiency has since been addressed.
  - A general operating budget for FY 2022-23 (for the six months ending December 31, 2022), including—
    - A list of the membership dues tiers comparing the previous year’s dues structure with the 2022-23 updated costs (reflecting a 6.8% increase as approved by the Executive Committee).
    - An update on the status of member dues payments as of March 2023. Ray Hart noted that we have now received dues payments from all districts.
    - A general operating budget for 2022-23 broken down by function and by expense line.
Expenditures for the first six months of FY 2022-23, ending December 31, 2022. These are the same numbers that were presented in January.

- A categorical projects budget report for FY 2022-23 (for the six months ending December 31, 2022).
- A copy of the Council’s Investment policy and guidelines.
- Asset allocations for FY 2022-23 (as of December 2022), including—
  - An investment schedule;
  - Breakdowns by asset class;
  - Asset allocation actuals vs tactical range; and
  - An asset allocation report from Wells Fargo as of December 31, 2022.
- A proposed budget for FY 2023-24, including—
  - A list of the membership dues structure for the coming 2023-24 year, showing a 7.1% increase;
  - A breakdown of the resulting membership dues increases for each member district;
  - A general operating budget by function and by expense line; and
  - Information from the Department of Labor showing the CPI increase, including a press release.

Ray Hart then updated the group on a recent fraud incident in which a Council check was intercepted and NOT cashed (caught by the bank teller). In order to address this gap in security, we are transitioning to an automated payment process for as many payables as possible.

A motion to approve the Audit Subcommittee report passed without dissent by voice vote.

By-Laws

No report.

Membership

Joe Gothard gave the report of the Membership Subcommittee. There is one membership request, from Montgomery County Public Schools. According to the Council’s by-laws, they do not meet the city population criteria. The Membership Subcommittee recommends that their application be denied.

A motion to accept the recommendation of the membership subcommittee to deny the application of Montgomery County passed without dissent by voice vote.

Strategic Planning

Student achievement is the Council’s north star. Among the strategies we use to attain this goal is supporting governance and leadership in our urban districts. Ray Hart then described, in particular, the work of both the governance cohorts (now in their second year)
and the first aspiring superintendent cohort—programming that is designed to help the Council meet some of its core strategic objectives.

Conferences and Meetings

Ray Hart reviewed the lineup of upcoming meetings in 2023, and encouraged members to ensure that their staff are attending the various job-alike convenings. Information on upcoming meetings is included in various sections across the Board materials, and a complete lineup of dates and locations can be found in the Conferences section.

The joint CFO/Human Resource Directors meeting was held last month in Los Angeles. At this meeting we also convened the various governance cohorts and our new aspiring superintendent cohort. We are tying these in-person cohort meetings to each of our conferences so that participants can attend conferences as well as meeting within their cohorts.

Moving on, Ray Hart noted that we typically hold the COO meeting in April, but we just held one in November. We are considering holding a smaller version of this meeting in the fall, perhaps in conjunction with the annual conference or CFO meeting in November, but then returning to the April time frame for the COO meeting in 2024.

The 2023 annual fall conference will be in San Diego. There is information provided on various venues that have been secured for that conference, along with a call for presentations.

The 2024 annual conference will be held in Dallas, 2025 will be in Philadelphia, and 2026 will be in Boston. The Harvard ABC Institute will also be held this year, from July 16-19.

Communications

The communications section of the materials includes a collection of the Council’s latest statements, press releases, and articles. Ray Hart noted the press release on NAEP TUDA scores. The latest data from TUDA highlights that Council districts are doing better than the country in pandemic recovery efforts.

The communications section also includes a press release on the first cohort of aspiring superintendents, coverage of our strategic support team reviews, and updates on the organization’s social media presence over the past few months. The Council has contracted with the Hatcher Group, a strategic communications and marketing firm, to lift up communications around the value of public schools and the way that ARP funds have been invested to improve student outcomes. Ray Hart urged members to share any videos or materials that have been developed by individual districts.

He also called the group’s attention to information on the Bernard Harris scholarships, copies of recent issues of the Urban Educator, and a save the date for the next Public Relations Executives Meeting.
Members discussed the need to pair work around national coverage of district ESSER spending with outreach to local media in the cities where Council member districts are located as a way to highlight local efforts.

Legislation

Manish Naik gave the Board a brief overview of the legislative sessions and discussions scheduled over the next two days.

Research

Ray Hart introduced and thanked the Council research team. This section of the Board materials starts with an overview of the Council’s research activities, including updated data dashboards featuring NAEP and KPI data. These dashboards provide valuable benchmarking data and have even prompted NCES to create their own set of dashboards.

The materials also provide a draft of a survey on ESSER, which will be discussed later on during the conference. We are pivoting from looking at where and how districts are spending ESSER dollars to what impact these investments have had, looking at a variety of student outcome measures including state assessments. Ray Hart then called the group’s attention to data reports from the various assessment consortia, including Curriculum Associates’ iReady, NWEA’s MAP, and Renaissance’s Star reading and math assessments. These ‘assessment consortia’ are groupings of districts that have been assembled according to the assessments they employ to enable districts who use the same assessments to query their peers around implementation and best practices.

There is also an information technology update. We have made investments in technology in many areas, including in how we communicate with you, and how we support peer-to-peer networking. These investments include Salesforce and Higher Logic. This will help with queries, the sharing of documents, discussions, etc., and will be done across job-alike communities. A pilot is now underway.

Finally, the materials include information on a RAND school district panel, convened to provide information on where we are annually, and NAEP item analysis. Yesterday at the Achievement Task Force meeting we had the research team share some of this data, and then we had the academic team describe what the data means for curriculum planning and student support.

Task Force on Achievement and Professional Development

Elyse Dashew started the report of the Task Force on Achievement and Professional Development. She started by introducing her task force co-chairs and reviewing the mission of the group. She then called the group’s attention to a flyer on the upcoming
Curriculum and Research Directors’ Meeting, as well as an application for an award given out at this meeting.

The task force meeting featured reports on summative assessment data, as well as disaggregated data and data on longitudinal progress, including a deep dive into performance trends on NAEP. In general, we’re seeing greater recovery in reading than math. We looked at item response analysis (already discussed) and heard an update on the Supporting Excellence curriculum framework (second edition), which is nearing final draft form and will be released over the summer.

Deb Shanley then highlighted the resources, tools, and support provided by the Council to assist districts in curriculum and instruction. The achievement and professional development section of the materials provides an update and overview of academic department projects and activities, as well as reports from recent academic reviews. Deb Shanley then reviewed the key elements featured in the upcoming second edition of the curriculum framework.

The group then discussed the need to account for district context, including factors such as individual and community poverty or trauma, when tracking student academic outcomes.

**Task Force on English Language Learners and Bilingual Education**

Ray Hart started by thanking the Council ELL staff. This section of the materials starts with an overview of the activities of the ELL department, and the task force meeting touched on all of this work. Members were encouraged to attend the upcoming BIRE meeting. Information on this meeting is included in the materials.

This section of the Board materials also includes a survey on newcomer students and their families, information on resources and policies regarding unaccompanied minors, a report on advancing foundational literacy skills, and a recent ELL strategic support team review conducted for East Baton Rouge. There is also a report on district considerations for universal dyslexia screening. This came about after requests from member district staff for guidance in this area, given the challenge of over-identification and the need to ensure the appropriate assessment and instruction of English learners.

**Task Force on Black and Latino Young Men and Boys**

Joe Gothard gave the report of the Task Force on Black and Latino Young Men and Boys. The task force meeting yesterday featured a powerful presentation from the New York City Department of Education, and Gothard covered the highlights from this presentation and the following discussion.

**Task Force on Black and Latina Young Women and Girls**

Shavonna Holman gave the report of the Task Force on Black and Latina Young Women and Girls. Holman provided an overview of the NAEP data provided in the materials and
discussed at the task force meeting yesterday. The task force meeting also featured a presentation from Des Moines, which included the participation of an 11th grade student.

**Task Force on Leadership, Governance, Management, and Finance**

Jesus Jara and Joyce Wilkerson gave the report on the Task Force on Leadership, Governance, Management, and Finance. The task force co-chairs applauded the Council for their ongoing support and hands-on work with leaders and school boards through various professional development opportunities, learning cohorts, individual coaching, and networking opportunities.

The materials present the first cohort of aspiring superintendents participating in the Michael Casserly Institute. Participants were in attendance at the meeting, and Ray Hart introduced them to the Board.

The task force section includes an announcement for the upcoming Harvard ABC Institute, information on a second set of student-outcome focused governance cohorts, an overview of management services, and an announcement of the newly-named Bob Carlson Award. The first Carlson award went to Bob Carlson himself, and Ray let the group know that Carlson is now working on a set of white papers summarizing shared themes and lessons learned from decades of SST reviews across districts.

The materials also include a list of surveys sent out in response to member requests and copies of two recent strategic support team reviews conducted for Boston (on transportation) and Rochester (on operations). Finally, members will find a meeting agenda from the recent COO meeting in New Orleans, and information from the CFO/CHR meeting in February.

**Wrap-up**

Ray Hart presented a plaque to Kelly Gonez for her leadership and service as Chair of the Board of Directors. Chair Gonez then asked the Executive Committee to ratify all votes of the Board of Directors. A motion to ratify all votes passed without dissent by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ray Hart  
Executive Director