

Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting - October 14, 2016

Members Present: Dr. Alesa Walker, Dr. Barbara Washington, Dr. Jennifer Earls, Dr. Susana Bloomdahl, Dr. Jacqueline Hansen, Dr. Robert Lyons, Dr. David Whaley, Dr. Robert Davies, Tami Dandeneau, Kimberly Hanberry Shelton, Bob Rogers, John Settle, Joe Henderson, Tres Settle, Quin Sutton, Kim Dublin, Brian Harper, Jimmy Adams, Steve Carter, Casey Allen

Dr. Whaley began the meeting by welcoming all guests to the inaugural Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting.

Dr. Davies welcomed all attendees and emphasized the importance of partnerships between the regional school systems and the College of Education and Human Services.

Introductions were made by everyone around the room.

Dr. Whaley began to review the agenda and documents enclosed in the folders given to the attendees. He went on to review the numbers of students admitted by Teacher Education Services, broken down by subject areas.

Dr. Hansen spoke to explain in detail the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education and distributed a handout. She highlighted the importance of courses such as, EDU 222 and EDU 310, which are now available and have become a requirement to students' curriculum.

Dr. Washington spoke to explain in detail the Department of Adolescent, Career, and Special Education and distributed a handout. She highlighted the importance of their new Residency Partnership which combines the student's practicum and student teaching into one large field experience. She also mentioned their available alt-cert programs.

Dr. Whaley briefly highlighted Dr. Bloomdahl and the Educational Studies, Leadership, and Counseling department. He stated ELC and other graduate studies topics will be covered more in the next meeting.

Dr. Lyons then spoke about how the Advisory Council relates to the Education Preparation Provider (EPP) policies in our College. He also spoke about the Student Advisory Council meeting and Partner Advisory Council meetings. Dr. Lyons mentioned the College is about partnerships, and that means going one step further to come together to make things happen, such as how to partner together to make teaching careers more attractive to incoming students. He reviewed the data from the employer satisfaction survey results and also the preliminary accountability report.

Dr. Whaley stated the next portion of the program was to hear from all the superintendents. He began to talk about how it was brought to his attention, some students do not fully understand

the Danielson framework, PGS, or project based learning. That realization has been presented to the faculty and the College is working on a way to improve on that.

Dr. Whaley opened the room to discussion.

- Superintendent Kim Dublin thanked Dr. Whaley for how well the College provides service and support. She went on to pose the question, “What do we want our teachers to be equipped with”? She expressed she wants her teachers to know how to break down standards. She said no matter what accountability system is out there, we need to make them prepared to step in the classroom.
- Superintendent Casey Allen agreed with Kim’s point, and said when the new evaluation system came out they had to approach it. He stated we need to figure out what are the non-negotiables to include and implement.
- Dr. Whaley mentioned the College also needs to advance our faculty with the knowledge about Danielson framework so it can be delivered effectively to the students.
- Superintendent Dublin mentioned it may be beneficial to have College faculty to attend school system professional development and staff work days on occasion.
- Superintendent Allen mentioned he struggles with Alt Cert staff due to the availability classes and asked the College to look at the semesters and times of when the classes closer for those students.
- Superintendent Quin Sutton mentioned there are greater challenge to provide opportunities to attend classes to dual credit certification students as well.
 - Dr. Davies responded he recently attended a meeting that discussed moving the dual credit classes online and that subjects would rotate.

Dr. Whaley asked, “What initiatives would you like us to pursue?”

- Dr. John Settle mentioned several of our districts have adopted project based learning. He also feels John Hattie’s research could be beneficial.
- Superintendent Dublin noted to look at what you are currently doing, and cut out the deadweight things. Investigate if there is lack of knowledge in standards. Look currently to see if the foundations in teacher preparation is being taught in the curriculum.
- Superintendent Bob Rogers reported one of his district’s principals say teachers need to be more versed in technology. There seems to be poor work ethic in current graduating teachers. Students need to be honest and upfront about what comes back on their background checks and warned early and often to hopefully prevent poor behavior.
- Superintendent Tres Settle noted the students observing in his district’s classrooms is better than it has been and students have been dressing more professionally.
- Superintendent Allen mentioned he didn’t know anything about the residency program until today, and thinks this would be really beneficial to the students as well as the school district. He believes it looks like the “next big thing.”
- Executive Director Jimmy Adams reported EPSB is trying to back off from not allowing students to student teach where they attended school. He also highly recommended to all superintendents to participate in one of the residency programs if they get a chance.
- Superintendent Dublin asked “What is the pass rate for the PRAXIS?”.

- Dr. Whaley responded scores vary depending on whether it is the Core, PLT, or Content areas. He stated around 90% pass the Core, however Early Childhood disciplines tend to struggle with the math sections, the PLT has around 90% pass rate, and content areas like foreign language and math are as low as 40%. He also mentioned the College has made an effort to assist students by providing workshops through TQI and the initiative of developing the Student Success center.
- Superintendent Steve Carter asked do Alt Cert. students have to pass the content praxis?
 - Dr. Whaley responded he was not sure but will look into it and get back to him.

Dr. Whaley asked “How do we build a stronger partnership with you?”.

- Superintendent Allen responded they feel like they are an outlier in Ballard County due to the distance in proximity to Campus, and when they recently hired 3 student teachers, they felt like that was a victory. He mentioned they would like to be more involved in things and would like to have more opportunities to show students what their district has to offer.
 - Superintendent Carter seconded Superintendent Allen’s comments and said Union County feels the same.
- Director Adams noted the College needs these partnerships to meet their accreditation standards. He went on to offer suggestions on how to get student teachers out to the other 40% of the state that did not have student teachers. He also mentioned the College may consider the implementation of a pre-service certificate so students may feel like they are tied to the ethics and ward against anything that may negatively reflect them on a background check.

Dr. Whaley asked, “Would a pilot teaching experience be beneficial for students to know whether teaching is for them earlier than their student teaching?”

- Superintendent Settle responded he believed this would definitely be a benefit to the students and the College. Several other superintendents openly agreed with him, as many have seen students lose 3 years of time studying the wrong career path, and others who went into the field reluctantly because they did not want to start over.

In closing, Dr. Whaley stated he will want to meet with faculty and staff to report on what heard today in this meeting. He again thanked everyone for coming out and for the valuable discussion that took place.