Wilmington Education Improvement Commission
Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee
Meeting Minutes- June 9, 2016

Tizzy Lockman, Vice-chair of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission filling in for the Committee co-chairs, opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions:

The committee members each introduced themselves.

Tizzy Lockman explained that after eight meetings of the committee, it is time to conclude the first phase of work. This first phase involved developing a framework to guide their work going forward. This meeting would be dedicated to developing research questions to guide research over the summer so that when the committee reconvenes in August, they will be able to work towards recommendations.

Elizabeth Burland, Institute for Public Administration, explained that minutes have not been posted to the website for several months because they have been unable to meet quorum at the meetings; therefore, the committee would approve minutes by email so the notes can be posted on the website.

Committee Business:

- The committee discussed the "mission" and "vision" statements for the committee.
  - These will be finalized over the summer based on comments from committee members.
  - Several members of the committee agreed to work through the language together and circulate the suggested language.
- The committee developed a list of research questions, definitions needs, and other resources they would like to explore. That list is included at the end of the minutes.

Action Items:

- Small subgroup will work on Mission/Vision Statements around the charge of the committee, and three primary goals: Communication, Welcoming Environment, and Empowerment.
- The Institute for Public Administration staff will circulate the research questions for feedback, and will work on this research over the summer.
- The Committee will approve minutes via email, and provide feedback on the research questions.

Next Meeting:

- August 11, 2016 at 6 p.m. at Cab Calloway
- Starting in September, the Committee will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Bill Doolittle shared that ESSA has support for parent engagement, but that funding has not been provided at the federal level. He will keep following this information.
- Daphne Evans, Committee member, shared that the Office of Vital Statistics has opened an office in Wilmington on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. One of the primary purposes is to provide birth certificates so that individuals can register for school. This is only temporary, unless they generate enough foot traffic to keep it open.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee
Meeting Attendance
June 9, 2016

Committee Members

Donavon Alderman

Henry Harper

Ted Boyer

Devon Hynson

Marsha Carter

Frederika Jenner

Renee Duval

Pati Nash

Daphne Evans

Members of the Public

Bill Doolittle

Tizzy Lockman

Institute for Public Administration Staff

Elizabeth Burland

Chester Holland

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission
Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement
Research Questions, Draft June 9, 2016

Definitions:
- What does engagement mean?
    - Look through different definitions, define our own.
- What are the different levels of engagement?

Scope of Research:
- Engagement of urban families
- Engagement of non-traditional families

Research Questions:
- What is currently being done to engage families and the community for City of Wilmington children?
- How can we make sure that ALL city of Wilmington students (and their families) are receiving consistent engagement, especially for schools outside the city that serve students from the city of Wilmington (primary focus, high school and middle school)?
- What are the effective communication strategies? Who do they reach?
    - What technology is being used? Is there a way to create consistency and ensure access?
- What to do about the unreachable parent?
    - How do we get students/families the resources/support they need if the parent is unable or unwilling to be engaged?

Other Resources to be Explored
- Community school model
- Welcoming schools literature
    - What is the parent's role? Are school's open to a dialogue about child's education?
    - Communication of curriculum
- Open schools
- Chronic absenteeism
    - Whose responsibility is it to monitor this?
- Research on different levels of engagement for different families
    - Can we hold focus groups for parents?
- Tools for measuring engagement