



FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

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MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

On January 20, the nearly 30 members of the Advisory Committee for Vision 20/20 came to the offices of the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) in Springfield to participate in their first formal meeting.

The Chairs of the four Pillar Committees reported on the work of their individual groups and then following each report, the group engaged in a highly productive dialogue. The leadership would like to recognize the work of all the members of the Pillar Committees who participated through in-person meetings around the state and via conference calls.

Superintendent Dr. Lou Cavallo presented the report from the Highly Effective Educators group. He said the group discussed the need for Illinois to continue removing barriers to make it easier to transfer into Illinois as an educator. He informed the group the state has a mentoring program for new teachers but that many districts don't do it. It was suggested perhaps the state should mandate mentoring in the future.

Another issue raised by the committee involved professional development. Districts should have more local control and flexibility over professional development in their districts and the Regional Offices of Education should have a more advanced role in assisting with this goal.

One of the members explained to the group that Finland has a model that identifies master teachers by eliminating the "competition model" and doing more cross collaboration. This in turn builds capacity and encourages educators to work together.

The pillar committee recommended the Vision 20/20 leadership continue to focus on reciprocity agreements between states in addition to licensure matters.



(l to r) Linda Lucke, Dr. Julie Schmidt and Dr. Lou Cavallo

"We need to increase the level of access to digital resources so all our students have what is needed to compete in today's world," stated Dr. Schmidt

The next presentation for the 21st Century Learning group was delivered by Superintendent Dr. Julie Schmidt. She explained her committee made recommendations to update some of the language in the Policy Brief, focus on college and career readiness, and look to provide equity and access to technology for all students in the state.

"We need to increase the level of access to digital resources so all our students have what is needed to compete in today's world," stated Dr. Schmidt.

Dr. Schmidt also stated the Vision 20/20 group should set a goal aimed at expanding early childhood education as well as ways to fund improvements in technology. One member agreed the state needs to find revenue to increase internet access across the state but that such a bill would be difficult to get through the legislature at the present time.



(l to r) Matthew John Rodriguez, Dr. Greg Williams and Dr. Mike Jacoby

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING (CONT.)

Presenting the Share Accountability Committee’s report was Superintendent Ralph Grimm. Grimm outlined three objectives of the committee: the look at language changes to the existing policy brief; consider other topics to propose; and look at any additional questions as written.

Discussion surrounded the new IBAM (Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure) and Advisory Committee member Ralph Martire cautioned the group about some accountability systems creating false negatives. “We need to remove the punitive model of accountability and move toward a more informative and corrective system,” explained Martire.



Dr. Brent Clark

Grimm further explained the pillar committee wants to see more balance and accountability. The group also recommended districts pay attention to changing cultures within districts with respect to minority students.

Other topics covered by the pillar committee included teacher effectiveness, building professional capacity and looking at regional issues as they relate to capacity building in districts.



Several members of the Advisory Committee

The final pillar committee report on Equitable and Adequate Funding was presented by Superintendent Gary Tipsord. He said the committee discussed the need for a two-year budget cycle to help districts plan for the upcoming school year.

The committee felt the lack of school funding and political will of legislators may be getting in the way of real progress in addressing the state’s funding crisis.

One suggestion was to change the word “tax” to “investment” when referring to additional funding for schools. The group agreed any new funding model needs to eliminate the notion of “losers” as it relates to funding districts. Another point made was to define what should be considered the “local share” by taxpayers in the district. Tipsord concluded that it is up to voters “to tell legislators” what they need from Springfield. The meeting discussion was facilitated by Dr. John Gatta, President of the ECRA Group.

Brent Clark, Ph.D., IASA
Michael A. Jacoby, Ed.D., IASBO
Jason Leahy, IPA

Patricia Dal Santo, IARSS
Roger L. Eddy, IASB
Creg Williams, Ed.D., SCSDD

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District #427

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ARE YOU A VISION 20/20
SCHOOL?
IF NOT, JOIN US!

Please remind your school districts that have not passed a resolution endorsing Vision 20/20 to do so and be a part of our growing network.

The number of districts and supporters has risen and momentum is growing. However, we still have work to do before we can have every school in Illinois on board. If your school district has not endorsed the Vision 20/20 plan and would like more information, please contact us at questions at: questions@illinoisvision2020.org