



NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Reform Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2019

Call to Order:

- The Reform Committee Meeting was called to order April 30, 2019 at 3:10p.m.
- Attendees included: Dr. Carol D. Birks, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Jennifer Wells-Jackson, Mr. Eugene Forman, Ms. Stacy Melendez, Ms. Delores S. Williams, & Mr. Dave Cicarella, Ms. Keisha Redd Hannans.
- Ms. Keisha Hannans , assistant superintendent does not serve as an official member of the Committee but served as Dr. Carol D. Birks' liaison until she was available to join after making final remarks at the Strategic Planning Committee session.

Approval of Minutes:

- Mrs. Redd-Hannans asked the Committee for additions or deletions to the minutes from March 26, 2019 before approval. Ms. Williams shared with the Committee that she did not have a hard copy of the minutes from the previous meeting. Mrs. Hannans proposed to have the minutes approved at the next meeting to allow all members the opportunity to read the previous meeting minutes that were sent to all Reform Committee Members on April 8, 2019 for review.

Amendment:

- Mrs. Redd-Hannans requested an amendment to the agenda to include norms. The committee agreed to add the following norms;
  1. All voices are heard and share the air
  2. Assume positive intentions
  3. Emergency use of cell phones
- Mr. Cicarella inquired about filming or recording during the meeting and shared his concern about some of the discussion that the team will have. It was shared that the meeting was a public meeting, hence recording and or filming was allowed.
- Ms. Williams inquired about location for meetings and how meetings are scheduled.
- Dr. Birks requested that the Committee approve of the norms before moving ahead with the next item on the agenda. A discussion was had whether to include confidentiality in the norms. The consensus from the members was to take the it out due to the public nature of the meeting.

Purpose:

- The Reform Committee discussed the rationale behind the creation of the Committee and its history. Mr. Cicarella shared that the purpose in 2010 was for stakeholders to be able to connect all information, and to make sure that the work being done in the District was connected.
- Mrs. Wells-Jackson added that the intention was to bring teachers and administration and or Central Office together, and parents were purposely included in the work. For teachers to work side by side with administrators as well as parents and to have direct contact in the decision-making process.
- Dr. Birks asked the Committee to think about its charge and purpose.
- The Committee agreed to embrace the following as its purpose:
  1. To determine the work of the District and how it aligns with District initiatives
  2. To give every stakeholder a voice in the process

3. To review current initiatives
  - a. Ms. Williams inquired about the district's needs in 2010 and whether those needs are the same today. She also needed clarification on the tiering of schools in the past. Mr. Cicarella and Mrs. DeNegre explained why and how schools were tiered in the past. They further explained that schools were tiered based on their academic performance and supports were given based on the needs of each individual school. Dr. Birks shared that though the district no longer tiers the schools, the state tiers based on progress based on the Next Generation Accountability Standards. Ms. Williams also wanted to know about the curriculum audit and the current needs of the district. Mr. Cicarella explained the process and shared that it will be discussed at another time after the completion. Mrs. Wells-Jackson mentioned that the curriculum review findings will reveal what the needs are for the District, which will allow the committee to work on where the District goes next.
  - b. Dr. Birks suggested to the committee to partner with the Teaching and Learning Committee to look at the findings of the comprehensive curriculum audit.

#### Goals:

- Dr. Birks sought the input of the committee on its goals. She probed to the committee to reflect on whether the goals have to be aligned/separate/same/different from the District's. The Committee agreed that there has to be an alignment of the Committee's goals to district goals. Ms. Williams requested more information on the curriculum audit before she can come up with goals. Dr. Birks mentioned that the team will share more resources and or data with Ms. Williams and then revisit the goals at another time.
- Mr. Cicarella requested that the team revisit the agenda and table the next two items for the next meeting. Dr. Birks asked the Committee to debrief the Strategic Planning Process using the Plus/Delta Protocol before adjourning.

#### Pluses:

- Discussions about how we are going to move us forward
- Grouping helped the work go smoothly- every facet of talent was represented the tables
- Clear focus of conversations
- Talking to the Alderman from a parent's perspective
- Restorative practices conversation with an administrator
- Presenters were very organized
- The level of inclusiveness and collaboration of the members present
- Dr. Birks' presence and sharing her beliefs in the groups
- Hearing from multiple stakeholders and listening to multiple perspectives
- Dr. Birks' take on classroom sizes

#### Deltas:

- More time to share in the groups
- Too specific on some of the topics/Spent too much time on some of the topics
- Too business focused and need different methods of looking at the student.
- Expectations were not clear for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session and it took longer to get clarity

**Calendar:**

- Dr. Birks asked the team to consider a day and time for the next meeting to allow for consistency.
- The committee agreed on May 16, at 3pm as the next meeting date.
- Dr. Birks suggested to the team discuss the June meeting at the next meeting due to the large number of end of year activities.

**Adjournment:**

- Meeting was adjourned at 4:20p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Sam  
Instructional Coach

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Date of approval