

School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. General Information

Meeting Name:	School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options Advisory Committee Meeting	Date/Time:	Thursday, August 21, 2014 6:00PM – 8:30PM
Facilitator:	Angela Smith	Notes Recorded By:	Melvynne Reed

Attendees:	<p>Maureen Wheeler, <i>Principal Hope-Hill ES</i>; Stephanie Johnson, <i>Principal Jackson HS</i>; Tony Burks, <i>Principal Douglass HS</i>; Betsy Bockman, <i>Principal Inman MS</i>; Jermaine Dawson, <i>Principal Harper Archer MS</i>; Cheryl Twyman, <i>Principal Fickett ES</i>; Janet Kinard, <i>Neighborhood Group</i>; David Payne, <i>Neighborhood Group</i>; Rita Simmons, <i>TOTY Cleveland ES</i>; Peggy Ross, <i>District 5</i>; Peter Settlemyer, <i>Westside Charter</i>; Danielle Gilley Costarides, <i>TOTY North Atlanta HS</i>; Josh Noblitt, <i>District 1</i>; Maria E. Armstrong, <i>District 2</i>; Clare Richie, <i>District 3</i>; Rocky Rief, <i>District 4</i>; Erica Morris Long, <i>District 6</i>; Cat DaCosta McAfee, <i>At-Large</i>; Elwood Duckworth, <i>Operations</i>; Pam Hall, <i>Chief Human Resources Officer</i>; Linda Anderson, <i>Asst. Superintendent Curriculum</i>; Tammy Workman, <i>Asst. Superintendent Student Services</i>; Greg Middleton, <i>Associate Superintendent Middle Schools</i>; Rebecca Kaye, <i>Senior Research Associate Policy</i>; Allen Mueller, <i>Exec. Director Innovation – Charter Schools</i>; Raynise Smith, <i>Exec. Director Teaching and Learning</i>; Rubye Sullivan, <i>Director Research and Evaluation</i>; Angela Smith, <i>Superintendent’s Office</i>; Two Students; <i>Mays HS</i></p>
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2. Meeting Objectives and Scope

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Agenda, Minutes and Meeting Protocol Review Team Expectations and Norms Develop Understanding of Waivers and Innovation Case Study: Fulton County Schools Receive Community Input
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3. Agenda

Time	Topic	Discussion Leads
6:00-6:05 PM	Welcome and Agenda Review	Angela Smith
6:05-6:10 PM	Meeting Overview and Objectives	Angela Smith
6:10-6:15 PM	Role of the Advisory Committee	Angela Smith
6:15-6:20 PM	Community Input and Feedback Station	Angela Smith
6:20-6:55 PM	Waivers and Innovation	Laura Lashley
6:55-7:55 PM	Case Study: Fulton County Schools	Ken Zeff
7:55-8:10 PM	Reflection Questions/Discussion	Advisory Committee
8:10-8:25 PM	Transition to Community Input	Angela Smith
8:30 PM	Closing/Next Steps	Angela Smith

School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options Advisory Committee Meeting

4. Discussion

Topic
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options August 21, 2014 meeting
<p>Meeting Overview and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Agenda, Minutes and Meeting Protocol Review Team Expectations and Norms Developing understanding of Waivers and Innovation Case Study Fulton County Schools Receive Community Input
<p>Community Input and Feedback Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community input will take place after the meeting During the meeting, anyone can provide input at the computer located in the back of the room or go to the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Operating_Models_and_School_System_Flexibility_Options We ask that the public honor meeting decorum. Applause, commentary, outbursts, jeering, or speech that defames individuals or stymies or blocks meeting progress is not permitted. A series of meetings will take place in your communities. These meetings are for school employees, community, and stakeholders. They will begin the week of begin 8/25.
<p>Advisory Committee External Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Active, Visible and Tangible Support Serve as Program Champion Encourage Engagement and Participation Share Information Neutrally
<p>Review Group Norms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will assume good intentions. We will have a positive attitude. We will listen actively. We will come prepared for each meeting. We will participate fully in each meeting. We will invite the contributions of every member and listen to each other. We will operate in a collegial and friendly atmosphere. We will make decisions that are in the best interest of students and learning. We will be guided by the Atlanta Public Schools mission statement which is to educate all students through academic excellence, preparing them for success in life, service and leadership.

School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options Advisory Committee Meeting

Waivers and Innovation – Innovation through Flexibility “ What’s Really Possible” (Laura Ashley) (slides 9-11)

- Flexibility - Basically, “flexibility” refers to the measured amount of freedom earned by districts to operate outside of the educational framework established by the state. Specifically, it involves a school district’s ability to waive, i.e., not observe some of the state board of education, state DOE, and local board of education rules, regulations, policies, procedures, etc.
 - GA’s Educational Code (Slide 12-13) – Program Mandates, Treating Children Legally, Earn/Spend Money, etc.
- State Board of Education Rules (Slides 14-15) What Can Be Waived/ What Can’t Be Waived
- Can Waive (Ex:) Work-Based learning, Textbook Selections, Class Size, etc.
 - Can’t Waive (Ex:) Federal Law, Health/Safety, Civil Rights, State mandated testing, etc.
- Audience Participation (Slide 16) : What Can/Cannot Be Waived?
 - Examples of What’s Really Possible, (Slides 17-20).
 - Flexibility in A Charter System vs. IE2 Model (Slide 21)

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Case Study: Fulton County Schools (Ken Zeff)

- Theory of Action , District Profiles, Student Expectations, etc. (Slides 2-5)
- Implementation (Slides 6-14)
 - Lead with Leaders
 - School Governance Councils (Role, Members, Elections)
 - Training, Tools/ Support, Rewards
- Cohort 1 Ideas
 - Principal Shannon Flounnory of Stonewall Tell Elementary shared his experience being a member of the initial 20 schools (Cohort 1) to implement the charter system

Questions/Discussion (For Fulton Charter System Model)

- Q. What type of change did the Central Office go through?
A. Ken Zeff stated that the Central Office had to go through a mindset change, which required discussing “how to get to yes”.
- Q. What mechanisms were put in place to monitor schools?
A. Waivers go through a rigorous process. Associate Superintendent has to approve, then Superintendent. Board does not approve waivers.
- Q. Was there any modeling across clusters?
A. Systemically there are no clear feeder patterns. However, there are opportunities for collaboration.

Community Input

- Citi Cook: Indicated that she had been following this issue and she felt obligated to write out her concerns.
- Ed Johnson: Commented that he was trying to wrap his head around the idea of the amount of freedom. He said that the superintendent can provide freedom without waivers.

Closing/ Next Steps

- Angela Smith addressed the advisory committee and asked them to think about the advantages and challenges around the charter system option. She encouraged the committee to ask community members to come out to the visioning sessions and advisory meetings. She also mentioned that next week is the deep dive around IE2, with Status Quo addressed the following week.

School System Operating Models and Flexibility Options Advisory Committee Meeting

5. Tasks/Action Items Assigned

Task/Action Items	Who will do it?	By When?

6. NEW [Issues \(I\)](#) or [Risks \(R\)](#) (*link*) Identified

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