Engagement Work Group Meeting Notes
6/1/2020

Present: Mel Myler, Susan Huard, Corinne Cascadden, David Ryan, Dave Luneau, Rick Ladd, Jon Morgan. Also present: Jordan Hensley, Michele Holt-Shannon, Bruce Mallory. 8 public attendees

Mel opened the meeting, reviewed group agreements, and noted the ongoing context related to the protests and events of the weekend. A few of the commission members shared their thoughts on the topic.

Corinne moved to accept the previous two workgroup meeting’s minutes, which was seconded by Susan Huard. Susan, Corinne, Jon, David, and Mel voted aye. Minutes were approved. Mel noted that there will be a second engagement work group meeting this week on Friday, June 5.

Mel’s internet cut out briefly.

Michele shared an update around the June focus groups (30-40 signed up so far), and asked work group members to share invitations to those when appropriate. Michele asked members about questions they would like asked of educators and in focus groups. Corinne checked in about making sure that invites were sent to appropriate people in Berlin. Michele noted that the list has been cascaded out from key organizations. Michele noted that the invitation will be sent out so that it can be forwarded, and also reminded members that this particular set of focus groups will be for those dealing with school budgets. There will be more opportunities in the fall for engagement from the broader public. Rick noted that many school administrators are very busy right now and could use another nudge.

Mel and Michele reviewed the June 2020 Focus Group Key Questions developed for feedback from the work group members. Dave asked about terminology in terms of “adequate” education vs “the opportunity for an adequate education”. Michele asked for any conclusions from adequacy to be sent, and the language in engagement will reflect the correct definitions. If there is language that works better for adequacy, the engagement team will stand ready to make any edits as necessary.¹

Timing for educator survey was discussed – Corinne noted that it should probably be sooner than later. For educators, should focus more on coming up with the outcome variables. Michele asked about August – Corinne thought it would be a crapshoot. A big survey just went out to educators, who potentially a bit burnt out. David worried that educators would be busy in August and that things might get lost in the shuffle – thinks sooner than later. David and Corinne thought that late June would be appropriate. Rick agrees and noted that getting it out ASAP is the best course of

¹ Comment referenced from Rep. Walter Stapleton, Claremont NH:
“‘Opportunity for an adequate education’: Is that quantifiable? Has that ever been formulated heretofore in the overall discussion over the years?”
action. Mel asked that we review those efforts at the engagement group’s Friday meeting. Susan noted that August would be a good time to hear from the higher education community.