

H.S. Graduation Task Force
9/25/15
LOB Room 1E
3pm-5pm

Attendance: Chairman Joseph Cirusuolo, Commissioner Dianna Wentzell, Karissa Niehoff, Patrice McCarthy, Paul Stringer, Ed Leavy, Tom Marak, Susan Bell

CAPSS Staff Executive Assistant, Dana Finello in charge of taking minutes, research and organizing all meetings.

Call to Order: Dr. Cirusuolo called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. The previous minutes of 9-25-15 were approved.

He introduced the first guest who gave a presentation 3-4pm, Charles Toulmin, Director of Policy, Nellie Mae Foundation. His topics included:

- Theory of change for New England leaders
- JFF students at the center framework
- HS Graduation expectations fit well into the Nellie Mae agenda]
- NESSC Policy Levers (CT, RI, NH, VT and ME)
- Results from NESSC
- New Hampshire Language
- Rhode Island Language
- Vermont Language
- Policy strategies

Dr. Cirusuolo then introduced the second guest who gave a presentation from 4-5pm, Jesse Moyer, Director of State Advocacy & Research, KnowledgeWorks Foundation. His topics included the following questions presented to the Task Force:

- K-12/CSCU Alignment – “Do the graduation requirements align with CSCU’s expectations for incoming students?”
- CSCU Alignment – “Are expectations for incoming students aligned across CSCU institutions?”
- Ensuring Rigor – “How do we know students who meet graduation requirements are actually ready for the rigors of college?”
- Post-secondary Success – “How can we ensure students receive a personalized, mastery-based experience that prepares them for post-secondary success?”

Some additional questions that were discussed among the task force were:

- How do we move to not make graduation requirements a barrier?
- What is the definition of credit?
- Is there sufficient credit assessment? Is there a CT Statute that defines HS credit?
- What is the CT definition of college and career?
- What is the CT percentage in the State college system that requires remedial courses upon entering ?
- Can the Task Force get SDE graduation requirements information for New Hampshire, Oregon, Ohio and Colorado

After much discussion, Dr. Cirusuolo stated that he will research and get answers for the questions presented.

He also suggested that Task Force members come to the next meeting prepared to identify the issues that need to be addressed in the Task Force Report.

Karissa Niehoff suggested a possible visit by some task force members to Pittsfield, NH to visit and see why their program is so successful. Dr. Cirusuolo will contact the Pittsfield, NH Superintendent to see if it's possible.

Adjournment: Dr. Cirusuolo adjourned the meeting at 4:45pm.