

Minutes of the High School Graduation Issues Task Force
Meeting date: June 25, 2012

Call to order:

A meeting of the High School Graduation Issues Task Force, was held in the LOB, Room 1-A, Hartford, CT on Monday, June 25, 2012. The meeting convened at 1 P.M.

Members in attendance:

Joe Cirusuolo
Jay Voss
Kristen Ann Record
Michael Freeman
Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff
Michael Yamin
Ann Sweeney
Stephen McKeever

Summary of Meeting:

The High School Graduations Issues Task Force engaged in discussion of P.A. 11-135 (Public Act). One issue raised was, whether the task force should rigidly set course requirements for those indicated in the Public Act. Generally, task force members agreed that making rigid course requirements would stifle individual school districts to teach students in a dynamic way. Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, suggested that a balance must be struck so that curriculum is rigorous and at the same time allow students to make individual choices. Notwithstanding, Michael Freeman suggested that there must be a common standard across the state.

Joe Cirusuolo and other task force members suggested organizing curriculum before determining credit requirements and using Student Success Plans (SSP) as a guide to student progress and to facilitate competency with an annual review of the SSP to assess student performance.

The task force discussed allowing for exemptions from requirements; for example, allowing trade schools to apply for an exemption to the foreign language requirement. Furthermore, there should be provisions allowing districts to experiment with requirements.

Finally, the task force discussed whether requirements could be changed to requiring certain subjects be taught, rather than requiring specific classes. For example, require subjects like: algebra, geometry, and statistics rather than specific courses like Algebra I, Geometry I, Algebra II, etc.

Announcements:

The next meeting of the High School Graduation Issues Task Force will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2012 from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.