



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Committee of Practitioners (CoP) Conference Call

March 10, 2021

11:30 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Eastern Time

GoToWebinar link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8332440376859046415>

Meeting Attendees:

Mr. Ernesto Lontoc, Chair

Dr. Felita Lewis, Vice Chair

Mrs. Julie Stewart, Secretary

Ms. Michelle Gaines, Chief BFEP (FDOE)

Ms. Shonda Edmunds-Goldsmith, Program Specialist and CoP Liaison (FDOE)

Ms. Nicolle Leider, Equitable Services Ombudsman (FDOE)

Ms. Jacqueline Hill, Program Specialist (FDOE)

Ms. Courtney Walker

Dr. Anjani Prashad

Ms. Patricia Pasca

Dr. Barbara Mundy

Mr. Derek Hemenway

Mr. Edgardo Reyes

Ms. Cheryl Sattler

Mr. Mark Drennan

Dr. Magaly Abrahante

Rabbi Moshe Matz

Ms. Vashalice Kaaba

Ms. Valerie Henry

Ms. Tara Konrady

Ms. Stefanie Johnson

Dr. Jill Rudd
Ms. Stephanie Sheridan
Ms. Elizabeth Tyler
Ms. Val Williams
Ms. Rose Raynak
Ms. Megan Johnson
Ms. Tiffany Mayhugh- Rego
Ms. Terika Riley
Ms. Ashley Monier

Meeting called by the Committee of Practitioners

11:30 a.m. – 11:38 a.m.

Welcome/Call to Order/ October 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ernesto Lontoc, Chair

The meeting began 11:31 a.m. Mr. Lontoc stated that he is thankful to serve as the Committee of Practitioners' Chair for another three years. He appreciates the trust and confidence of Commissioner Corcoran and Chief Gaines in his leadership. In celebration of Women's History Month, Mr. Lontoc shared the quote "If you get, give. If you learn, teach" from Maya Angelou. He highlighted the great contributions of women to events of history, contemporary society, and in education.

Mr. Lontoc stated that the meeting minutes are shared at every meeting and that they are an integral part of every committee report. Mr. Lontoc shared that the last meeting was held October 14, 2020. The minutes were approved through an online meeting. Mr. Lontoc reported that the CoP's Annual Report was completed, submitted to the Governor's Office, the House and Senate Offices, and was approved on time with no problems; even in the midst of COVID 19 restrictions.

11:38 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.

New Member Introduction/Secretary

Mrs. Julie Stewart, Secretary

Mr. Lontoc introduced Mrs. Stewart as the new secretary for the CoP.

Mrs. Stewart introduced herself to the committee and stated that she was excited about the opportunity and would do her best to serve the committee in her role as secretary. She shared the quote from Maya Angelou- "When people show you who they are, believe them the first time."

11:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

FDOE Bureau Updates/Comments

Ms. Michelle L. Gaines, Chief, Bureau of Federal Educational Programs (FDOE)

Chief Gaines stated that she wants to thank the general memberships for their commitment to the CoP and diligence to make improvements to the Title I Programs. Chief Gaines stated that she is committed to being a part of the process. She stated that she was grateful for the continued leadership of Shonda, Ernesto and CoP Executive Board. Chief Gaines stated that she wants to ensure more transparency and inclusivity.

Chief Gaines stated that Vice Chancellor Melissa Ramsey encourages collaboration and streamlining. She stated that it is evident in every meeting that they are no longer working in silos. There are 7 federal programs in BFEP and it is exciting to see the collaboration.

Chief Gaines stated that there are 17 LEAs working in a pilot season.

Chief Gaines mentioned that everyone is a leader and has a voice and has the ability to contribute to the success.

Chief Gaines will be unveiling the federal programs handbook which will have information from every federal program that will be a tool to assist everyone in every LEA. Chief Gaines would like to get feedback from the CoP Committee before sharing it with the LEAs.

Chief Gaines stated that they are also working on updates to the website ensuring that the information is updated, relevant and useful. The desire is not to work at the state office in isolation from what the districts/LEAs are doing.

Chief Gaines stated that the Bureau will be hosting quarterly conference calls that will include all of the federal programs under the Bureau. The purpose of these calls will be to ensure that all participants can see how the programs work together and “braid and blend” funds in an effective way. These quarterly conference calls will begin in the new fiscal year.

Chief Gaines stated that the Bureau will be onboarding a new LEA Charter School and that she is excited for this.

Chief Gaines stated that on behalf of all of the directors she is excited about the next steps moving forward. Chief Gaines noted that they are discussing implementing regional trainings again. Regional trainings were started under former chief Sonya Morris and they were well received according to Chief Gaines. Gaines stated that size alike regional meetings are being considered as efforts are continued to support and uplift the state.

Chief Gaines stated that they are bringing back the “travel with us” series. Ms. Gaines stated that they will start to bring back some of their travel visits. Chief Gaines stated that there may be an opportunity for an in-person CoP meeting and participation in other events once the pandemic eases.

Chief Gaines shared the quote “Surround yourself only with people that are going to take you higher” – Oprah Winfrey

Chief Gaines stated that she was excited to share that the new Title I Part A, Director is Lori Saunders. She had been a member of the team as a specialist. Chief Gaines introduced Lori Saunders.

Lori Saunders thanked Chief Gaines for her leadership to the Bureau and TIPA. She stated that they are reaching new levels with TIPA under Chief Gaines. Lori shared her professional experience. She stated that she was pleased to be joining the CoP committee.

Chief Gaines stated that she is very thankful for Lori and her work during the transition.

Chief Gaines went on to then introduce Shonda Edmunds-Goldsmith as the new Assistant Title I Part A Director. Chief Gaines stated that Shonda was wide-eyed and optimistic about the potential for CoP. Shonda Edmunds-Goldsmith stated that she is so optimistic about the opportunity. Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith shared her experience and stated that she is enjoying the relationship building.

Chief Gaines stated that she is excited about our new way of work.

Chief Gaines stated that the bureau will be implementing “watch me work” sessions which will provide opportunities to connect on a one-one basis. New LEAs lead (2 years or less) will have an onboarding process.

BFEP has a quarterly update that goes out and Chief Gaines wants CoP information shared on the BFEP quarterly update.

11:50 – 11:55 a.m.

CoP Updates

Ms. Shonda Edmunds-Goldsmith, Program Specialist, Title I Part A

Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith stated that she is very excited about the CoP and the wealth of knowledge that is shared across the group. Mrs. Edmund-Goldsmith stated that she would like to launch a CoP circular (newsletter) as a way to announce happenings, highlight members, etc. Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith stated that there will be more information forthcoming. Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith asked the committee to consider their ideas as she welcomes all recommendations and suggestions.

The newsletter is anticipated to be distributed July and December.

Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith stated that the committee received 21 applications and 15 applicants met the criteria. A five-member DOE panel reviewed the applications and appointed 7 applicants. The application will be re-opened to fill the slots of principal and charter representative. The application period is slated to open April 30th through May 21st.

Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmith introduced the new members and new members were asked to share a quick introduction of themselves:

Dr. Rudd- Franklin County School District- stated that she wants to collaborate with peers and have an opportunity to learn about federal programs.

Stepfanie Johnson- Panama City Fla- Title I Resource Teacher- stated that she wants to be able to use Title I experience to help improve education for children and enhance her own knowledge and leadership skills because she is working on her Masters for Educational Leadership.

Stephanie Sheridan- Pasco County- stated that she wants to gain an understanding and a big picture view for federal programs. She is excited to provide the perspective from her district as well.

Terika Riley- Sarasota County- stated that she is excited to be a part of a collective effort to connect people and programs around the state.

Ashley Monier- Charlotte County- stated that she wants to gain perspectives and give perspective.

11:55 - 12:00 p.m.

2021 CoP Focal Topics

Ms. Jaqueline Hill, Program Specialist, Title I Part A

Ms. Hill stated that she has been on the committee for three years now and that she appreciates the communication and collaboration.

Ms. Hill provided a general overview of feedback that was received from the committee which included having a committee newsletter; focusing on how districts can survive remote learning, proposed funding for Title I Recognition programs based on student performance; best practices to address the existing achievement gap augmented by COVID, the ability to get ELL information to other districts; articulating available supports for districts as it relates to the application process, program implementation and compliance.

12:00 p.m. -12:05 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Felita Lewis, Vice Chair

Dr. Lewis thanked everyone for joining the committee meeting. She expressed happiness in the continued collaboration between CoP and FDOE to further help LEAs as they implement their federal funded programs. Dr. Lewis extended a warm welcome and congratulations to the new CoP members. Dr. Lewis left words of encouragement for the Spring Season. Dr. Lewis shared the quote- “Every moment wasted looking back keeps us from moving forward.” from Hillary Clinton.

12:05 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Ernesto Lontoc, Chair

Mr. Lontoc thanked the committee members and guests. Mr. Lontoc stated that the next meeting could be a face-to-face meeting during FASFEPA’s Fall Conference, September 15, 2021. This meeting would be followed by a conference call meeting tentatively set for October 13, 2021 from 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Any agenda items and recommendations for the meeting should be directed to Mr. Lontoc, Mrs. Edmunds-Goldsmit, Dr. Lewis or Mrs. Stewart via email.

Mr. Lontoc adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

*Minutes approved on September 15, 2021 during the Committee of Practitioners' 2nd Virtual Meeting