

Harrisburg School District

Act 141 Advisory Committee Meeting

September 8, 2022
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Darnise Anderson, Christine Anderson, Michele Rolko, Melanie Cook, Dr. Sieta Achampong, Dr. Tamara Willis, Tim Wendling, Eric Turman, Doug Thompson Leader, James Thompson, Dr. Marisol Craig, Dr. Travis Waters, Dr. Lori Suski

Dr. Suski welcomed the committee back from summer break and introduced the new Chief Recovery Officer, Dr. Travis Waters. Dr. Waters shared his background and experiences in public education. Dr. Suski shared that Dr. Waters would begin leading the Advisory Committee meeting discussions as part of his new role.

Dr. Suski introduced a document provided by PFM titled “Developing an Exit Framework.” Dr. Suski indicated that this document was developed because of the Advisory Committee’s discussions last spring about wanting to begin crafting an exit strategy for 2025 now that the Commonwealth Court has approved a second round of Receivership (June 17, 2022 – June 17, 2025).

Dr. Suski reviewed pages 2 – 4 of the document which outline the creation of an exit framework, the vision, mission and pillars of the Recovery Plan, and introduced an exercise for the committee to engage in to go through each pillar of the plan and craft a supporting statement, agree on a small number of desired outcomes, discuss key strategies, identify obstacles to be addressed, and identify performance measures to assess progress.

The committee offered the following as possible outcomes:

- Achievement like SciTech/MMSA
- Changed perceptions of schools as “bad schools”
- Culture of high expectations
- Teacher efficacy
- Cultural proficiency

The committee offered the following strategies:

- 4Sight benchmark testing
- Released items – rigor and stamina
- PD on data analysis
- ACT testing
- Crosswalk of skills across different assessments

- Student accountability
- Teacher accountability
- Communications need to be strengthened
- Relationships and trust need to be built

The committee identified the following obstacles to be addressed:

- Social promotion practices
- Passing students who cannot read
- Class sizes
- Standards are not enforced
- Students not doing work because they know they will pass regardless
- Enabling of student behaviors
- Students sleeping in class
- Parents in distress
- Students not responding well to positive feedback

The committee needs to further refine these areas and recommend measurable goals at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13 – 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Administration Building Board Room