

R H O D E I S L A N D

Urban Education Task Force

Community Leader Meeting

Annenberg Institute for School Reform

Carriage House

November 6, 2008

Goals for Today

- Explain the mission and emerging ideas of the UETF
- Share our synthesis of community input
- Discuss how we can work together to sustain community mobilization to ensure education reform in our urban communities

Charge to the Task Force

- To develop specific recommendations for consideration by the Governor and the General Assembly
 - Identify effective state support and intervention strategies.
 - Strengthen collaboration opportunities among our urban schools and districts as well as between state agencies and organizations; and
 - Create new relationships and partnerships to support our most challenged schools.

Task Force Subcommittees

- Youth, Educator, and Community Engagement
- Human Capital Development
- System Innovation

Initial Priorities:

Human Capital Development

- Describe the effective urban teacher
- Develop incentives and policies to attract and retain effective teachers
- Develop and target supports to address needs of struggling and high-performing teachers
- Strengthen the link between teacher evaluation, best practice, and student performance
- Reinvent and consolidate certain human resource functions across all five districts

Initial Priorities: System Innovation

- Implement an expanded learning time initiative similar to the one in Massachusetts
- Focus on early literacy
- Involve teachers and the community in the development and alignment of the instructional core (curriculum and instruction, assessment, and professional development)
- Develop an innovation zone that would include schools in all five districts

Initial Priorities: Public Engagement

- Inform public
- Gain insight from a wide group of stakeholders
- Get feedback on recommendations as they emerge
- Work with partners to mobilize community support

Synthesis of Community Feedback

■ Past Sources:

- District-Wide Student Government
- READY Study Circles
- Student Success Initiative
- Mental Health & Wellness Initiative
- Focus groups with students in alternative placements
- Young Voices

■ Recent Engagement:

- October 4 Community Forum

Major Themes

- Learning & Development
- Relationships, Respect & Civic Culture
- Communication

Learning & Development

- We need higher expectations and more challenging learning experiences for students.
- Students need individualized attention and customized learning pathways.
- Students need more social and learning supports.
- Students need extended learning opportunities beyond the school day.

Relationships, Respect & Civic Culture

- Students and families need to feel valued and respected by teachers and administrators.
- More trust is needed between all members of a school community.
- We need to build a civic culture in and outside of school.
- We need a regular table for ongoing dialogue among and between all shareholders.
- We need to create pathways for parent engagement.
- Students need to have a meaningful voice.
- We need to talk across urban, suburban, and rural districts.

Communication

- Schools should be gateways of information for community opportunities and supports.
- We need to build district capacity to communicate effectively (regularly, multilingual, across and between students, teachers, families, community stakeholders)

Small-Group Discussions

- Community Mobilization and Collaboration
 - What role might you play?
 - What ideas do you have?

Next Steps

- Spread the word about the work of the UETF and continue to provide feedback and ideas.
- Visit the Web site at www.annenberginstitute.org/uetf
- Send feedback to uetf.feedback@gmail.com
- UETF will submit a final report of recommendations to the Governor in June 2009.