

Home Base External Stakeholder Committee Notes

Date and Time: Sept. 12, 2013

Location: Friday Institute, Raleigh NC

In-person Attendees: Nick Goettsch, Adam Levinson, Aaron Fleming, Philip Price, Marlo Gaddis, Todd Wirt, Kayla Siler, Rebecca Reagan, Ben Comer, Cindi Jolly, Eric Moore, Lisa Gurganus, Rosalyn Galloway, Sarah McManus, Linda Suggs, Matthew Etherington, Kathy Newbern, Cynthia Crowdus, Jason Atkinson, Sammie Carter, Phil Emer

Attending via webinar: Emma Swift, Jan Richardson, Elic Senter, Mark Wiles, Shirley Prince, Tom Jones

Philip Price

- ❖ Asked what was successful and about the initial roll out statewide of Home Base. Remarks: Extremely successful; however, some districts were frustrated. The Truenorthlogic software tool for educator evaluation was a major area of concern for a group of superintendents last Friday in Raleigh.
- ❖ Response time is staying within what we had outlined in our contract; much different from the week prior.
- ❖ A lot of LEAs are not using Schoolnet yet.
- ❖ A lot of schools have need for transcripts (PowerSchool). That issue should be soon resolved.
- ❖ Noted a webinar the following day with superintendents. Hoping to hear some positives with what's happening with the evaluation system. Hoping the sluggishness is improving in PowerSchool. This was an issue in Charlotte-Mecklenburg (CMS). Johnston and Cumberland counties being worked on at present. CMS to receive a complete new release of software.

Adam Levinson

- ❖ NCDPI received approval of the amendment to move money into a four-year Cloud project. This helps management move forward.

Aaron Fleming

- ❖ He will be the Career and Technical Education (CTE) person for Lee County
- ❖ Experienced some issues on the PowerSchool side, the same as others had with scheduling and courses not working or displaying correctly
- ❖ Educator Evaluation and Human Resources folks had some issues of non-teachers being populated into the evaluation instrument. HR Director working with NCDPI folks on that
- ❖ They've had smooth sailing so far. Not sure teachers are hitting the same snags as central office staff; thinks they are moving forward.
- ❖ UID issues. This has triggered problems with the Evaluation System populated by payroll codes, so they need employee numbers. They've sent a lot of information to finance officers and others, but it still continues to be a problem.

Ben Comer

- ❖ Important to understand that for the Educator Evaluation System to work properly, it's completely dependent on LEA payroll data and the process to move payroll data up to UID. Data is pushed nightly to move into the Educator Evaluation System.

Emma Swift and Jan Richardson joined via teleconference.

Adam Levinson

- ❖ NCDPI has received a number of LEAs that have updated their DSW to include funds for their \$4 opt-in fees.
- ❖ NCDPI staff has discussed applying for a no-cost extension for 5th year. NCDPI has talked with the governor's office, and they are supportive to continue the kind of professional development NCDPI has. The continuation into a 5th year would solidify people's understanding of how to support the tools. Cloud projects connecting with Home Base are moving forward.

Nick Goettsch

- ❖ OSBM continues to move forward as well.

Matthew Etherington

- ❖ People are very receptive and working hard at Woods Charter School; all data not yet in transcripts. There have been some duplicate grades. Each charter school is an LEA, and they need that level of access. They can import/export or do customization. That's the kind of thing that makes PowerSchool attractive for teachers and especially for charter schools.

Sarah McManus

- ❖ RESAs are to provide more follow-up training.
- ❖ Weekly webinars continue online: Educator Effectiveness/Educator Evaluation every Tuesday; Instructional Improvement System (IIS) webinar every Thursday. There will be additional training on curriculum management at the end of September. Partnership sites are getting their certification training, so the training front is going really well. Really utilizing the system we have with the PD leads, CTE staff, and District and School Transformation staff.
- ❖ Will be doing some follow-up with those who participated in planning meetings back in May.

Cynthia Crowds

- ❖ The IIS (Schoolnet) training site is available. NCDPI has emailed all Schoolnet lead and back-up contacts across the state. They have information on trainer logins, the site information, and a guide on how to access it; the only people who have not yet received the information are those in districts or charter schools who have not identified a lead or backup contact person for their LEA.
- ❖ The training site is a mirror of the production site and based on current release of Schoolnet. The early training site was not NC specific. That demo site will phase out as people move over to the training site; aim is to phase out by end of December. Training and production sites are separate.

Also joining via teleconference: Mark Wiles and Shirley Prince

Q: Sarah, would the amendment allow more professional development moving forward? Those of us who went through the training sessions received a ton of information, but may not be comfortable going back and delivering all on their own.

Sarah McManus: It will be five-day training; two days on the Training Module and two days on Assessments, and one day on Reporting and Curriculum Management.

Jan Richardson

- ❖ (phone) – Things are going fairly well; CMS is still having some issues with inactive employees showing up. They've reached an impasse. Richardson has tried to manually de-activate. Ben Comer and the NCDPI folks are working hard and are great, but CMS is still having that challenge.
- ❖ In NCEES, teachers are marking documents complete, like self-assessment, but there is a need to make changes. They are sending in tickets to the Support Center for those.

Ben Comer

- ❖ You as administrator should have the capability today to back up and move those backwards to reopen them. We are asking LEAs to take on that responsibility to reopen evaluations. NCDPI couldn't handle the volume.

Jan Richardson

- ❖ They need to make sure the account is set up properly in PowerSchool so they can log into NCEES. We still have some folks with roles not set up correctly to log into NCEES
- ❖ We are going in manually and making sure the UID is there and making sure roles are assigned

Rosalyn Galloway

- ❖ Transcripts and graduation requirements: NCDPI is working with Pearson on paper transcripts and testing with CFNC. The paper trail is moving forward. GPA formulas are in place, class rank and UNC minimum requirements. They were able to see history and data there. They are meeting three times a week with Pearson. They'll be calling on some LEAs to help with that testing.
- ❖ Utilizing the CFNC process to send information electronically. Working with student schedules to send those for early administration and scholarship applications. In test mode on CFNC.

Mark Wiles

- ❖ Regarding CFNC, we're trying to be collaborative through the process. We're working closely with some of the issues that come up in Wake County; there seems to be some confusion. We're ready when you're ready for us to collect. We are working on changing some of the language on the CFNC.org website.

Rosalyn Galloway

- ❖ Graduation plans – NCDPI is working with Pearson on a plan B. We'll be getting final steps soon; probably in two weeks it should be in place. Met with instructional coordinators at CTE conference earlier this week. We may have quite a few graduation plans around world language and history. It gives opportunity to individualize plans for the students.
- ❖ Release 7.9 to fix a bug for three customers; CMS is one of those. That's to happen early October 2013.
- ❖ CECAS information is starting to flow from PowerSchool to CECAS. You should start to see that information showing up in your PowerSchool instances.

Philip Price

What are the 3 biggest, outstanding items that need to be discussed in the webinar?

A: Transcripts, graduation plans and standards-based report cards.

Sarah McManus

- ❖ Standards-based report cards is a big one for LEAs.

Lisa Gurganus

- ❖ There are a lot of calls on getting roles and permissions set up properly in PowerSchool. If you don't have it set up correctly, then it leads to a lot of other questions from users. This is really important. For training, I would encourage paying attention to the Weekly Update; get the quick reference cards highlighted there. We've seen several districts create benchmark tests and have students take them.

Ben Comer

- ❖ Check the Home Base website, especially the implementation section. The weekly Home Base Update is really important. It's being sent through multiple listserves, but if folks don't read it, I get calls about things we already have communicated.
- ❖ **Suggestion: Make the Common Access Issues document prominent online**
- ❖ We will do our best about communicating changes that are coming. We have seen in our performance reports a dramatic improvement over response time.

Cindi Jolly

- ❖ We are going to be following up with LEAs that attended Home Base planning sessions, their teams, in the coming month or so; they left with a variety of tools.

Rebecca Reagan

- ❖ We have been very diligent in training Greene County Schools; no one should be able to say they've not seen something. A lot of our issues have been operator errors. Some things have been out of our control: deleted someone, made them inactive and they come back.
- ❖ Some other issues:
 1. Things change unexpectedly; for example, enrollment data is there but the next day it's gone
 2. Permission for access levels (not permissions). View access doesn't allow them to print the reports. They need to see things and print but not change anything. Need a locator list; can't print. These are things we can't do anymore. It could be we don't understand it. If so, I just need a little more help understanding.
 3. Pearson conversion issue — our student contacts are incorrect. Examples: Kids have grandparents as parent contact. All marked red. Kids don't have permission go home with anybody, and don't live with anyone according to their records
 4. I learned a lot about Technical References. When I could go in and find that, I could better explain it.

- ❖ We really appreciate all the webinars you do especially now that school has started.

Rosalyn Galloway

- ❖ Offered to work with Rebecca Reagan; all the issues are solvable.

Rebecca Reagan

- ❖ Sent in request for student contact three weeks ago. Nobody has gotten back to us. We got a message it was sent to Pearson, but no word came back, and we still haven't heard anything. We submitted a ticket back to you that we fixed it ourselves. If easily solvable; I would like to know why someone hasn't told us.

Rosalyn Galloway

- ❖ Reimport is through your project manager.

Rebecca Reagan

- ❖ I have used the Power Source forum

Kayla Siler

- ❖ A lot of LEAs have asked for the information Sarah highlighted on benchmark assessments (What to do with ClassScape items, how to find them and rebuild your new assessments)

Todd Wirt

- ❖ Standards-based report card for us is urgent! We have 60 year-round schools, and we've already delayed report cards. We chose as a district to try to ease in; a settling year a little bit for us. We've done some things to utilize Schoolnet - kept count for our benchmark assessments and we hand entered and teachers can use in Schoolnet.
- ❖ Hiring a staff member or two to fully migrate our curriculum system into Home Base to fully utilize next year. That's exciting work that our schools are looking

forward to. We're "all in" and moving forward but taking a slow and steady approach which I think everybody is thankful for in the district.

Marlo Gaddis

- ❖ Right now our attendance doesn't work, so that's a big piece.
- ❖ Also, there are issues with course codes and getting help with course codes. Really getting no answers about that. At the high school level, some of calculations not working properly for report cards.

Philip Price

Opting in process - \$4 per student. Notify everyone that by March they must decide.

- ❖ \$1.5 million is \$4 per student administration fee. Price is stabilized through the contract for \$4.
- ❖ The current opt-in contract says we pay the bill for the next year in June; amending to make that July because we are hearing a lot of people saying that they can't prepay. These are the ways to pay:
 1. Opt to have your allotments reduced; you select which,
 2. Opt to use federal resources or any other appropriate expenditure like RttT (but not recurring),
 3. Send us a check, and we'll credit your account.
- ❖ We are generating a great amount of interest and excitement. Until we get the process where LEAs are very comfortable with the system, we are not really pushing to get the \$4.
- ❖ Consider the price of Home Base vs. what else you can buy at \$4 per student for the next 3 years

Sarah McManus

- ❖ What you get: Schoolnet; aligned and vetted instructional resources - 8,000 and counting; Pearson digital library 10,000 Science and Social Studies resources will be available by fall 2013. A resource could be a lesson plan, a unit plan, a picture, an assessment component, or a video.
- ❖ K-12 will show you a breakdown per level. We're in the process of pulling more items in from SAS Curriculum Pathways (without logging in a separate time). We

want to communicate with our resource consortium. The next meeting is September 24, 2013. We've asked the consortium to share, and it is imperative we make sure it is secure at district level and that there is another bank for all teachers to use for classroom assessment purposes.

- ❖ NWEA 8,600+ resources
- ❖ We expect districts to put their own items in the bank to supplement.
- ❖ You get the functionality of Schoolnet with these resources in it.
- ❖ Other components you get: OpenClass available in October, an open source LMS that anyone can use. We are integrating it with PowerSchool as a district wide solution for collaboration based on functions it provides. Pearson and Cloud team is supporting OpenClass.
- ❖ We won't do OpenClass training until later in the year, but will be doing some pilots.
- ❖ Educator Effectiveness component: professional development. A district could catalog their PD and offer their PD courses to district, region or state. Moodle instance is part of the solution to create your online course.
- ❖ Registration for PD is in it, take attendance; we estimate a wait list.
- ❖ PD content: We are moving the state-level PD content over to the system. You always have had access to that and that will continue to have access.
- ❖ Suggestion: Could districts pay extra for own PD content to be added?
Sarah McManus: Yes, they would work with Pearson on that pricing.
- ❖ It is helpful to know districts that are all-in so we can provide additional support, but we're not pushing you.

Todd Wirt

- ❖ Wake County Question: \$4 per student next 3 years, then what?

Philip Price

- ❖ We hope to negotiate a lower price; it's a renegotiation. It would be good if the General Assembly paid for it. Content charge to be renegotiated; if the General Assembly doesn't fund, then there will need to be a recurring budget adjustment for us.

- ❖ We tried to negotiate something with Discovery Ed, but it's recurring so that negotiation fell apart. I heard the Governor's Office is interested at looking at that.
- ❖ Question: The price doesn't go up if all LEAs don't opt in?
- ❖ Correct. Our job is to market and adjust it to meet everyone's need.
- ❖ It's a one-year opt-in, but we haven't discussed how to opt-out. I don't have a problem when we do the proposal in March that we have a multiple-year opt-in, but I'm not sure we can go beyond a one-year opt in legally. We would have to check.
- ❖ **Question:** Any other state doing anything like this?
Philip Price: No, we are the first!

Sammie Carter

- ❖ We are in Phase 4 for UID in the second month. Very detailed design.
- ❖ Development of the Environment Development project. This work started on August 1, 2013, and is an exact replica of the production environment. The work on the production environment will come next.
- ❖ If we hit a cap, we don't have to stop; all is up and working. Estimating the ballpark of what threshold will be in one month. Engagement LEAs as early adopters.
- ❖ Home Base not in NC Ed Cloud IAM; NCDPI and Home Base designers built a temporary SSO solution

Philip Price

- ❖ Closing Remarks and Adjourned

