

## Notes – Race to the Top (RTTT) Steering Committee Meeting, February 15, 2011

### Questions and Feedback on RTTT Implementation Update

- Committee would like to see a breakdown of the budget to see how funds are being spent.
- Local education agencies (LEAs, which include districts, charter schools, and state schools) should collaborate on participation in professional development opportunities and other initiatives, where appropriate
- Committee would like to see the draft of the Rhode Island Model Educator Evaluation System.
- It would be ideal to link what we're spending on each initiative (or "system of support") to the results we expect to achieve (student achievement goals).
- The data on performance should be such that we can analyze it and then redirect/redeploy resources to make "mid-course corrections," as needed and where allowable under the terms of the grant.
- The business community should find ways to partner with the education field to help reach the goals that have been set.

### Discussion: Collective Impact Article and Maintaining Momentum and Engagement Statewide

- There is a tendency among philanthropic groups and corporations to fund individual groups or initiatives, but the power of a whole movement is greater than the power of an individual initiative.
- The message of the article was inspiring – bringing together multiple stakeholders to reach a long-term strategic objective.
- It is important to set metrics and focus on outcomes.
- The notion of pulling groups together to have an impact other than just giving money is a great idea.
- How informed will the steering committee be, and how informed will the educators be? How do we ensure transparency to everyone?
- How do we help everyone to know how to plug in and get involved and collaborate with people from other sectors?
- We have to figure out ways to celebrate success throughout these four years.
- The goals – long-term and intermediate measures – should be more evident.
- What can the steering committee do in between meetings to help communicate and engage with our networks?
- We have to share positive news to attract economic development to Rhode Island.
- As parents, the data systems will be very useful to us, and we can tell our friends and neighbors about this and the other initiatives. Utilizing informal networks can have an important impact.
- Getting information communicated to parents and teachers, the "bottom level," is extremely important.
- The business community should get involved in providing communications and other support.
- There could possibly be a "sub-committee" on communication and engagement from the steering committee to meet in between the normal quarterly meetings and work solely on communication.
- Steering committee members should help get the word out about the Commissioner's community forums.

- Getting the “how” right, not just the “what,” is extremely important. Commitment to the “who” and “why” is also important.
- Communicating with parents is different than engaging families in the education of their children. Thinking about how we share data with people who aren’t used to receiving it, using it, or accessing it is essential. Sharing data is an important platform for people to come together to collaborate on education reforms.
- Part of the challenge of the steering committee is to understand *why* we’re doing what we’re doing so that we can communicate that and help others see why these initiatives are so important. It’s also important to realize that everything working in concert is important – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
- More strategic engagement with higher education is needed to increase their understanding of, and stake in, this work.
- We have to elevate the teaching profession and make sure the general public can celebrate the work of the great teachers that we have.
- Among the business community, we have to get more focused and be more engaged in education. There isn’t enough focus and coordination among business right now.
- If we can communicate successes happening in schools and by teachers, that will help more people respect the teaching profession and encourage more parents to get engaged.
- Recognizing the teachers who participate in the trainings and RTTT initiatives would be a nice gesture and help to raise up those individuals.
- The business community can also play an important role directly in districts, especially in the persistently lowest-achieving schools. This could be a financial donation or a time and talent donation.
- Use the teacher of the year and other teacher recognition as a vehicle to put the spotlight on great teachers.