

OSBA Urban Network Report Card phone conference meeting notes December 19, 2019

On December 19, 2019, members of the Urban Network met to discuss the work that has been done by the Urban Network Report Card Workgroup and map out strategies for moving forward.

Members present on the phone call were: Ross May, Canton City, Michelle Novak, Middletown City, Stephanie Eichenberg, Chris Varwig and Chad Henderly, Toledo Public, Connie Solono, Cincinnati Public, Robert Heard, Cleveland Municipal, Kim Miller-Smith and Steve Horton, OSBA

Steve Horton, OSBA Liaison to the Urban Network, opened the meeting with a brief chronology of what has led to this point in the work on an alternative report card format. The initial spark for the work was from a meeting of the Urban Network on July 10, 2019. More than 30 district representatives met with Paolo DeMaria in a discussion about ODE, public education policy and the needs and challenges of urban districts. That is where an afternoon discussion about creating an alternative report card motivated the significant work done over the last four months.

The July discussion resulted in a phone conference on August 28, 2019. That focused on the mandate for a Legislative Report Card Workgroup that was to convene and would include the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Committees, appointed bipartisan representatives from the House and Senate, three superintendents representing rural, urban and suburban districts and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The decision on that call was to organize an Urban Report Card Workgroup for a two-day work session at the OSBA offices in Columbus to use the existing BASA Report Card Committee recommendations as a benchmark and establish urban district specific recommendations for the Legislative Workgroup to Consider.

On September 19 and 20, eleven board members, superintendents and curriculum data specialists convened to form the Urban Network Report Card Work Group. The BASA report card recommendations were examined and specific urban district recommendations were established but more importantly the second day's discussion was focused the idea of a new more equitable standard that would be based on the strategies of the state strategic plan and designed to highlight the education and wellness of the whole child and not just academic measures.

Since the September work sessions, there has been a flurry of work and interest in a newly developed report card model. Ross May and Chad Henderly took the idea of connecting an equitable report card with the state strategic plan and built it into a detailed concept. The following is an account of the events that have happened in connection with Ross and Chad's work.

- November 8 – Met with Representative Jones and Senator Schuring to introduce the concept. The proposal was very well received but needs formal endorsement by one or more educational groups around the state.
- November 21 – The proposal was presented to the Ohio 8 Coalition. It was well received there but not endorsed without an adequate data test set. Cleveland Municipal may be a possible data test but that is not confirmed. The plan was also presented to OEA, however it was not as enthusiastically received.
- December 3 – The Urban Network Report Card Workgroup met again to review the plan in more detail. That meeting resulted in refinements to the presentation and the Workgroup was able to secure testimony before the Legislative Report Card Workgroup.
- December 4 – Ross and Chad testified before the Legislative Report Card Workgroup. The concept was well received but ultimately the plan needs a large representative data set from around the state to verify the report card's outcomes.

Additional requests for a presentation have come from the Governor's office and Ohio Excels. The most important consideration now is developing a plan for gathering data and testing the concept. Some ideas discussed include:

- Potential work with ODE to coordinate with multiple districts
- Perhaps work with ESC's to gather a broad data set
- Urban Network districts would be a start, but it needs to be a broader cross section of urban, suburban and rural districts
- Work with Connie Solono with Cincinnati Public and potentially others to build out EMIS rules and guidelines for the test

It was agreed that a logical next step is to prepare a presentation for the Urban Network at our February 19 meeting. It will be important to share this in much more detail with the larger group. In preparation for that, the Report Card Workgroup is planning to meet again on January 31 at the OSBA offices in Columbus. It was also agreed that this is not intended to be a short-term fix or "band aid" for the current report card. It is an opportunity to reimagine what the Ohio School District Report Card could look like for use by all of our district and perhaps the statewide district report card for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Horton, OSBA Liaison to the Urban Network