

Members of the Straight A Fund Governing Board

Dr. Richard Ross	Kristina Phillips-Schwartz
Rep. Gerald Stebelton	Supt. John Scheu
Alex Fischer	Rep. Andrew Brenner
Sen. Peggy Lehner	

Ohio Department of Education Staff in Attendance

Dr. Susan Zelman	P.R. Casey
Rachel Landerman	Donald Leming
Londa Schwierking	Katherine Harper

The fifth meeting of the Straight A Fund Governing Board was convened on January 31, 2013 at 02:00 pm by the Chairperson of the Governing Board, Alex Fischer.

Alex Fischer requested suggestions for items to discussion from the board. Topics proposed for discussion included the ability for grantees to accomplish their grant goals, and the topic of sustainability.

Sen. Peggy Lehner motioned to accept the minutes from the forth meeting of the Straight A Fund Governing Board. Rep. Gerald Stebelton seconded the motion.

There was no debate and the minutes were accepted.

Legislative Update

Dr. Zelman provided an update regarding HB 342. HB 342 did not contain ODE recommendations of rollover, expansion and Pre-K.

HB 342 Does allow ESC to be a lead of a consortium and includes the following amendments: Emergency Clause, Developmental Disabilities and ESC client partner districts. It is anticipated there will be a vote Wednesday February 05, 2014.

Straight A Fund staff has added an ESC application process and FIT table. The suggested definition of sustainability for ESC would be proving sustainability in partnering/consortium districts.

There was further discussion by the Board regarding carryover for FY14 & 15, the rollover clause and Pre-K programs eligibility for application

Sustainability Discussion

The Board asked for a clarification on spending reduction and it's link to sustainability.

The Board engaged in a discussion debating the concept of cost reduction/neutrality being the measure for sustainability. Sustainability could be a dollar amount spent or saved. Savings may not be in the program but on future expenditures saved. Do the results of the grant supersede the idea of cost savings, innovation costs money and saves more money in the long run. The concept of sustainability is good to promote removing programs that don't work to make room for ones that do. It causes districts to look at the way they are spending money in the long term in how they are allocating funds for the future. Usually after the money is gone, the program is gone. Straight A ensures the program is sustained for a 5 year program. Impact vs. cost savings. What is the long-term sustainability of the Straight A Fund? Need to keep sustainability component until innovation is proven. Innovation vs. sustainability in costs.

FY 14 Evaluation Design

External Evaluation

An external evaluation would include three elements: Quantitative (Summary of data points), Qualitative (case studies) and technical assistance. This evaluation would include building capacity within the grant applications to track progress.

Universities already providing evaluation services to a grant would not be eligible. 3 bids to go out (\$50K each grant)

Fiscal and Program Monitoring

ODE will be utilizing area and fiscal coordinators, along with ODE staff to make site visits and review documents to ensure that each project is on the right track. ODE staff has developed a Fiscal and Programmatic monitoring manual, will train area fiscal coordinators and create a group folder/website for all grantees. ODE is committed to monitoring over a five-year period. Kristina Phillips-Schwartz – Questioned the checkpoints in place to ensure sustainability and the grantees adherence to the sustainability process. ODE staff described the budget review process and impact of the grant on the five-year forecast.

Lean Ohio

Dr. Zelman - Describes the LEAN Ohio Survey and analysis program. Highlights included: Liked scoring in CCIP, transparency and scorer comments. Disliked FIT table, lack of clarity and redundancy in the application questions. Results of the process: More

clarity in application questions, addition of guidance on each question, revised sustainability and programmatic rubric, increased training.

The revision of application questions increased clarity, reduced repetition, separated identifiable information, eliminated partnership and consortium agreements.

Redaction of FY14 Grant Applications

Sen. Peggy Lehner and Rep. Andrew Brenner led a discussion regarding the role redaction played when choosing the grants to award. Some felt the process was too restrictive and didn't provide enough information about the grant. Some grants turned out to be more robust than they appeared. Others appreciated not having identifying information to review.

Letters of Complaint

Two letters of complaint were sent to ODE regarding the scoring of their grants. The letters were from Friends of Breakthrough Schools and Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Dr. William Loadman researched the scorers of each application to identify their scoring severity. Dr. Loadman explained the leniency concept and adjustment through Logit Score. None of the twelve scorers were extremely severe or lenient. The consistency of each of the readers is high. Consistency levels are based on all applications read. This round was did not allow for discrepancies. This would not provide a major bump because the program evens out the score.

Dr. Ross suggested ODE staff call and email the schools and report Dr. Loadman's findings.

Sen. Peggy Lehner asked if the scorers were biased against charter schools. Dr. Loadman reviewed the data and found readers did not show this bias.

Sustainability Application Revisions

Dr. Zelman – FY14 Applicants were not required to fill out FIT tables, FY 15 applicants will be required. A new budget form was created for consortiums and has shorter, clearer sustainability questions. The Board asked how the FIT table had changed. The previous table confused applicants because it allowed for both revenue and expenditures. The statute is only concerned with spending (increased and decreased) after the project is completed. The New FIT reflects only expenditures.

Programmatic and Sustainability Training

ODE will provide five regional trainings, a general information webinar, a sustainability webinar and a programmatic webinar.

Sustainability Scoring Revisions

Fiscal scorers will be provided with new guidance on sustainability. Scorer training will include: a claim of no ongoing costs must be scrutinized, all claims must be verifiable and credible, enhanced income cannot be considered the basis for sustainability, an emphasis on the relationship between the budget narrative and the Financial Impact Table and the need to consider and budget for inflationary costs.

Alex Fischer would like to discuss involvement of the Board in the fiscal and programmatic scoring process.

Discussion of Timeline

Alex Fischer and the Board would like more time, restricted by 75 day statute. Would like legislative change to extend the 75 days to 90 days, add rollover provision.

Recommendation

Motion Dr. Richard Ross Second Sen. Peggy Lehner

Approve proposed application design

Motion to approve as application Rep. Gerald Stebelton Second Kristina Phillips-Schwartz

Kristina Phillips-Schwartz - would like to know more about the lead applicants, who is responsible and their qualifications. ODE suggested soring guidance to weight the qualifications of the applicants. Make this weight the same consistency of the other

Alex Fischer Call new meeting next week to incorporate changes.

Close of Meeting

Alex Fischer motioned for Adjournment. Supt. Scheu seconded.

Meeting is adjourned.