

### **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. Lehner	

### **Ohio Department of Education Staff in Attendance**

Dr. Susan Zelman	P.R. Casey
Brittney Cousins	Immy Singh
Donald Leming	Katherine Harper

The third meeting of the Straight A Fund Governing Board was convened on November 15, 2013 at 10:09 am by the Chairperson of the Governing Board, Alex Fischer.

Chairperson Fischer recognized and welcomed Representative Andrew Brenner as a replacement appointment for Vice Chairperson Colleen Grady.

Sen. Lehner motioned to accept the minutes from the second meeting of the Straight A Fund Governing Board. Dr. Ross seconded the motion. There was no debate and the minutes were accepted.

Chairperson Fischer appointed Supt. Scheu as the new Vice Chairperson for the Straight A Fund Governing Board as a replacement for Vice Chairperson Grady, who was no longer a member of the Governing Board.

### **Sustainability Scoring Presentation**

Chairperson Fischer recognized Dr. Zelman who presented on the process and results of the sustainability round of scoring. She outlined the goals of the Straight A Fund, basic information about the applications, how scorers were selected, and how scorers were trained.

Mr. Leming outlined the conflict of interest policy and results of the sustainability round of scoring. He explained applicants could receive one of four scores (0, 1, 2, and 3) and that applications received one point for every scorer that identified the grant application as being sustainable. He further explained that all applications receiving a score of 1 received additional review for sustainability by the grant advisors.

Mr. Leming then outlined the results of the sustainability round of scoring under this analysis. 164 applications received a score of 3, 184 applications received a score of 2, 134 applications received a score of 1, and 88 applications received a score of 0. He explained further that the Grant Advisors determined 12 of the 134 applications receiving a score of 1 were sustainable.

Dr. Zelman presented Straight A Fund Staff's recommendation to the Governing Board that only applications recommended by the Grant Advisors or that received a score of 2 or 3 should receive programmatic review in the next round of scoring.

### **Sustainability Scoring Debate and Vote**

Dr. Zelman explained the scoring rubric used by the sustainability scorers and grant advisors is publicly available and applicants had an opportunity to review the scoring rubric before submitting their application. She also noted Straight A Fund Staff

is capable of sending out notice to applicants today regarding the results of the sustainability round of scoring. Dr. Zelman noted the positive response from Grant Advisors to the quality of work from the sustainability scorers.

Sen. Lehner asked how do we capture truly creative programs that are not fiscally sustainable. Chairperson Fischer explained the Governing Board process. Rep. Brenner asked whether the Governing Board should be reviewing all grant applications. Rep. Brenner also asked for clarification and reliability of the Conflict of Interest policy. Particularly, Rep. Brenner asked how staff certifies scorers are adhering to the contract with respect to conflict of interest. Dr. Zelman and P.R. Casey explained the process used helps mitigate this problem because there are three scorers, scorers must self-report conflicts of interest before they see applications, applications are randomly assigned, and scorers self-report again after they see assigned applications.

Ms. Phillips-Schwartz asked about the Financial Impact Table and whether applicants used alternative means to present sustainability in the application. Mr. Leming explained Straight A Fund Staff does not have those precise numbers available, but based on results several applications made it through the sustainability round of scoring through an alternative means of presenting sustainability.

Chairperson Fischer made a motion to adopt the recommendation of Straight A Fund Staff. XX seconds the motion. The motion passes.

### **Applicant Requests for Scoring**

P.R. Casey presented information regarding several grant applications that were only partially submitted in CCIP on time, but still requested to be scored. P.R. explained

that ODE conducted a review of any technical issues with CCIP in and around the time the grant applications were being submitted. A total of 8 applications were identified as having potential issues. One of these applicants decided not to submit the application. Four other applicants admitted an error on their part in submitting the application. Three applicants asserted an error in CCIP caused the application to only partially submit. P.R. Casey discussed the paperwork submitted to Governing Board members by all of the applicants explaining why the application was not submitted properly. He then discussed ODE's review of these assertions and response.

Sen. Lehner asked whether these applications were kept from applying in the next round. P.R. Casey said no, they could still apply for a FY 15 grant application. Sen. Lehner also asked whether technical support was available. Dr. Zelman responded that Straight A Fund Staff responded to every question, although some questions did not receive a response until late in the evening of the deadline because of volume. Supt. Scheu explained the Superintendent and Treasurer approval process in CCIP. Rep. Brenner asked whether applicants were here to tell their side of story. P.R. Casey explained that applicants wrote the memos submitted to Governing Board members before the meeting. Rep. Stebelton explained he is not inclined to allow scoring of these applications.

Rep. Stebelton made a motion to accept the recommendation that these applications not be scored. Supt. Scheu seconded the motion.

### **Legislative Update**

Dr. Zelman explained the proposed legislative changes Straight A Fund Staff drafted in response to changes requested by Governing Board members during prior meetings. Supt. Scheu made a motion to support the staff recommendations for changes in the enacting legislation. Ms. Phillips-Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion passes with Rep. Stebelton, Rep. Brenner, and Sen. Lehner abstained.

### **Plan for Programmatic Scoring Meeting**

Dr. Zelman reviewed the remaining timeline for FY14 grant application. Chairperson Fischer asked whether the Governing Board could invite the applicants to the Governing Board meeting and ask questions. Rep. Brenner was in favor of innovations, not necessarily in rank order. Sen. Lehner expressed concerns that larger cities are somehow favored through the grant process and asked if there was a way to account for it. Mr. Leming explained that during the Grant Advisor meeting they will set a quality cut score and that the Governing Board will receive redacted copies of any applications above that quality cut score. Chairman Fischer proposed moving the next Governing Board meeting to 9:00 am to ensure there is adequate time to review and discuss applications.

### **Close of Meeting**

Rep. Stebelton motioned for Adjournment. Supt. Scheu seconded.

Meeting is adjourned.