



Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council

Date: March 13, 2025

Council members present: John Hagan, Adam Clark, Sheila Vitale, Dean Manke, Jennifer Schorr, Dave Cash, Tiffany Delong, Cris Gulacy-Worrel, Bill Watson

Department staff in attendance: Colleen Grady, Lily Bartholomew, Katie Beahr

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Hagan called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. With nine members present, a quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dean Manke made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Bill Watson seconded the motion. January 2025 minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.

BUDGET UPDATE

Colleen Grady provided updates to the budget, including the Governor's priorities of literacy, health and wellness, and workforce. Colleen explained the process and steps for the budget, as well as the proposed funding. It was noted that there has been increased focus on community schools, particularly dropout recovery schools, and home education. The Council requested the Department to provide additional follow-up information regarding the changes to the 22+ Adult Diploma Program as well as the expansion of CTE to middle school students.

RESOLUTIONS

Colleen Grady provided a list of the resolutions that the Council has adopted and shared with the legislature and Governor's office. Colleen noted that there has been ongoing discussion in the legislature surrounding some of the offered resolutions: DPIA online funding, transportation, and funding for students aged 22-24. In a prior meeting, the Council discussed the Governor's Merit scholarship and the additional requirement for homeschooled and dropout prevention and recovery students. Colleen provided the following draft resolution to the council.



Governor's Merit Scholarship

Whereas community schools that are designated as dropout prevention and recovery schools are public schools; and

Whereas dropout recovery community school students must meet the same graduation requirements and take the same state assessments as all other public school students; and

Whereas the Governor's Merit Scholarship requirements are established by the Department of Higher Education, and discriminate against graduates of dropout recovery community schools, requiring submission of ACT and SAT scores rather than awarding graduates in the top 5% of their graduating class a scholarship;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Advisory Council respectfully requests that the Ohio General Assembly clarify the eligibility requirements for awarding the Governor's Merit Scholarship to ensure that awards are made fairly and that all public school graduates meet the same eligibility requirements.

Jennifer Schorr made a motion to approve the resolution. Cris Gulacy-Worrel seconded the motion. The council approved the motion by a vote of 9-0.

BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION WORKFORCE LITERACY

Lori Wood, administrator with the Office of Community Schools, introduced Buckeye Community Hope Foundation for a presentation on their Schools Forward Workforce Literacy work. Members from Buckeye Community Hope Foundation spoke on their program design, dedicated courses, subject area integration, and career pathways. A teacher and students from Academy for Urban Scholars, a local dropout prevention and recovery community school sponsored by Buckeye Community Hope Foundation, presented a workforce literacy lesson. Carol Young with Buckeye, spoke on results of the Schools Forward project, including performance indicators met, attendance, pre and post test results, and overall academic growth.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Colleen Grady provided the following updates to the Council.

- The spring DOPR extended window for high school end-of-course assessments begins Jan. 20 and runs through March 28.
- Ohio was awarded a \$60 million federal literacy grant
 - Support teaching and learning to improve literacy skills
 - Grant is focused on traditionally underserved students
 - Application deadline extended to April 8, 2025
 - List of priority districts and community schools are available [here](#)
- Feedback for the online testing pilot for online schools has been very positive



NEW BUSINESS

The Council discussed a potential resolution seeking to fund the Schools Forward project going forward as it has had great success.

ADJOURNMENT

Bill Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Tiffany Delong seconded the motion. There were no objections offered. Chair Hagan adjourned the Council meeting at 12:22 pm.