

New Mexico Coalition for Community Schools

Meeting Notes

March 4, 2024, 9:00 – 11 A.M.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85631698683>

Meeting Attendees:

There were over 60 participants, but due to technical difficulties the first 30 minutes and role was not captured via video and sign-in.

- I. Welcome by Co-Chair Mary Parr-Sancez.
- II. NM Coalition Discussion Items:
 - a. Future Meetings
 - i. Meeting Structure Discussion
 1. Coalition meetings will be 9 – 11 AM
 - ii. Schedule Recurring Meetings
 1. For the time being the Coalition will meet monthly and will move to quarterly if that works better for the group.
 2. The next meeting will be Monday, April 15 (third week of April).
 3. Open Meeting Format will be used moving forward.
 4. Meeting notes will be provided following each meeting. The smaller group meetings are not subject to the Open Meeting structure.
 5. NMPED is supporting the meetings and will provide public notice.
 6. Bernalillo County is providing admin help for a maximum of 4-5 months depending on availability. NMPED will identify a replacement for admin help.
 - b. NM Coalition Vacant Seats
 - i. Table for the meeting in April.
- III. Capacity Discussion Items – Brian Garcia, Sub-Committee Chair
 - a. Statewide Conference
 - i. Current Conference Logistics:
 1. Location: Sandia Casino
 2. Dates: Sept 17-18, 2024
 3. 2 Day Conference
 4. Theme: 4 Hs (Head, Hands, Heart, and Health)
 - ii. The sub-committee wants to expand the conference to include families.
 - iii. 33 respondents have participated in the survey.
 - iv. Questions or comments regarding the State Conference:
 1. What is the purpose of the conference, and what are indicators of a successful conference?
 - a. Celebrate and build capacity and broaden the advocacy and support for Community Schools.
 - b. Use the survey to identify the purpose statements and objectives for the conference.
 - c. An indicator of success would be participants leaving the conference with a renewed sense of passion, some learning about new tools for the toolbox, and the ability to network and come together on an annual basis.

2. Will there be exhibitors at the conference? Want Community Schools Coordinators to know who the Coalitions members are and what support is available to them.
 - a. This is part of the objective through networking, asset mapping, and capacity building. Creating a venue for coordinators, families and staff can go and see all the abundant resources that are available at this conference and then act upon in their work.
3. There was a suggestion to do a mini survey before and after the conference on how much participants knew before the conference, what they learned from the conference, and what they want to see in future conferences.
4. A question was asked about the role of the Coalition in supporting schools and will be discussed in April's meeting.
5. If the Coalition is responsible for supporting schools, then the Coalition should have more of a role on the agenda and give feedback.
 - a. Coalition could provide guidance and clarity.
 - b. The Coalitions Statement:
"The coalition shall provide advocacy, capacity building and technical assistance to ensure equitable distribution of resources to all school districts in New Mexico"
 - c. Some of the Coalition members have been brought on to full fill other roles and different areas. As the Coalition looks at vacancies the gaps will be identified. This will be discussed in the next meeting.

IV. Policy Discussion Items: Dr. Timothy Hand

a. Session Recap

i. Presentation Link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1shzGOuKsPnYOJnBjjFOzgorh8PHy9wt3AXGH_FZ7mnA/edit?usp=sharing

1. There is an additional \$59 Million in the budget, \$30 Million of new funding and some Grant funding for Community School, but there was a compromise in the legislative session. The House Memorial 44 Taskforce has identified how to get recurring money that lands with Community Schools movement. There's still work for the House Memorial 44 Taskforce to do in identify, A) how to leverage this new opportunity, and B) what needs to be done moving forward.
 2. SWIFT Community Schools Spreadsheet: This document breaks down the appropriations that came out this year. There is a link to this document in the above presentation. The bill has not been signed so the document is not public, but permission to view can be granted upon request.
- ii. Questions and Comments:
1. Had to work to get \$15 Million back into the budget for out of school time and summer learning. Request made for clarity on the

Community Schools transformation initiative for \$2.7 million. Has this been funded or is it being funded?

- a. The Public Education Reform Fund is decreasing, and each year, any money that was left over from the extended learning programs went into this fund. New Mexico has not historically been a categorical appropriating body; it's usually been through the SEG and equalized. This has provided the opportunity to explore Community Schools. A lot of money for Community Schools has come from the Public Education Reform Fund, and it is unclear if there is much money left.
 - b. The \$2.7 million for the 18 schools that are transitioning out was not funded.
2. Is the Coalition going to provide support to the 18 schools transitioning out?
- a. School Boards need to know there is money in SEG to support Community Schools. PED will decide how the money is administered, but the Coalition could help think through with PED how the administration is going to go. The Coalition could also work with school boards to deliver the message that there is money in the budget, recurring, for Community Schools movement.
3. New Mexico Budget shows millions sitting there at school level, district level, city/county level so how can we educate people that money is there and how to access it?
- a. Working with Senator Heinrich who sits on the Appropriation Committee for the Feds. There is some federal money left and the recommendation is to figure out what has worked from the trillion dollars. If the federal government can do some analysis on what made a difference, we anticipate that Community Schools will emerge from that data, and high dosage tutoring will emerge from that data.
4. More specifics and thoughts on the rule.
- a. SEG was created to provide equitable funding for school districts around NM, so that the poorest communities don't have the least funded schools. The department's role is to determine the legislative intent, and actions can be anywhere from the money flows out and districts pick what they do with it, to something more restrictive around the extended learning program.
 - b. Regardless of where the department lands, the Coalition has an opportunity to either help envision what that is or enact wherever the department lands.
5. With this money going through the SEG, we're not sure how districts might be looking at that. We expect Secretary Romero to give more guidance.
- a. With the additional money, the unit value will be higher, so schools will be getting more money. School boards can reserve the purposes of those funds based on the needs of

their community. Also, believe the department has some discretion on how that happens.

6. How will the switch in the funding affect our applications?

a. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

V. The topic of where is NMPED on giving guidance for the \$59 million to districts is not included on this agenda because it is new. What we do have on this is a legislative brief from PED, a debrief on quality management coordinators (QMC), and the grant application update.

VI. NMPED Discussion Items:

a. NM CS Evaluation Preview – Tabled for April Meeting

b. NMPED Community Schools Funding – Julie Brenning

i. Link to Presentation: Presentation slides not provided. See recording.

ii. Questions and Comments:

iii. NMPED requested a vote of confidence from the Coalition on the CS Fundin Report.

iv. Of the 53 schools are schools that are currently Community Schools that will not be funded?

1. Yes, there are 91 CS schools that are supported, and 53 schools will be granted awards. The schools that do not receive that funding will hopefully go to their districts for the SEG funding. The memo going out is important so that the schools know that they have tools and language to petition their district for the \$59 million SEG funding.

2. For schools that do not receive the grant funds, they will still be on NMPED list of supported schools. Those schools will still receive the QMC support, evaluation support, going to the CS annual conference, and still participating with the Coalition.

v. Will the Coalition know who is and is not being funded before the information is sent out so the Coalition can provide support?

1. Yes, April 22 is the anticipated deadline for when the awards will be listed on NMPED website, with applications dropping this Friday, March 8.

vi. How do the planning and renewal grants fit in here, or are they through a separate fund? Assume all schools that have the implementation years now and funded this previous year will still be funded going forward since they agreed to a three-year term.

1. Planning grants can be petitioned through the districts through the SEG funding. Planning grants will not occur through the \$8 million this year. There are no schools going into renewal this year. The schools that are currently in renewal, NMPED is opening applications for experiences Community Schools with that \$1.35 million for certified certificate pilot program.

2. There will be applications for all implementation schools no matter what year they are in.

vii. Before the Coalition supports the funding outline, there should be a discussion with legal. Many schools in the implementation received

letters on the front end that they would be supported through the grant all three years.

1. NMPED Will take this comment and will have more discussions with general council and legal.
- viii. NMPED asked members of the Coalition how they feel the funding would be used most effectively throughout the state.
- ix. More detail on the Accreditation Pilot Program and Certification Pilot Program
1. \$300,000 contract for specialist or group of specialists to help build out that guild out the actual accreditation process along with NMPED, QMC team and Eval.
 2. \$75,000 for each school would support the Community School Coordinator
 3. The most PED will give is \$.75 FTE, schools need to show blended and braided funding to qualify for the pilot program.
- x. Process for creating accreditation, will there be input from the community on what the Pilot Program will look like? Will the Coalition be able to give input to any of this?
1. Yes, to both questions. Work is already occurring through HM 44 and through Senator Heinrich's CDS funding with the accreditation process.
 2. Expect the scope of work created for the Accredited Pilot Program will include community listening sessions, community involvement.
- xi. Not sure what HM44 references.
1. House Bill Memorial 44 is the taskforce that was created though House Memorial in the 2023 legislation session.
 2. SWIFT is the Heinrich CDS funding and are equal.
 3. Yes Coalition, SWIFT, and House Memorial, with NM PED and QMC will have influence and oversight on how this plays out.
- xii. Need clarity around the 91schools that are currently funded and moving forward with 53 schools, but they have to write a grant for implementation. It's not based on the three-year cycle discussed before. Please explain again.
1. It's a 53-school estimate based on implementation year grant award of being up to \$150,000 grant per school, \$75K each for approximately 18 schools for the certification pilot program.
 2. Implementation years 1-3 will have an application process and there will be a scoring rubric. Based on the rubric the highest scoring schools will be chosen for the Implementation Grant for up to \$150,000.
- xiii. The degree of complexity and confusion answers the question around if we should meet monthly or quarterly. We should meet Quarterly until things are cleared up.
- xiv. Get clear on the roles and sub-roles because it is unclear if the Coalition has oversight authority or budgetary approval authority. The Coalition is an advisory body, so PED does not need the Coalitions ask for a vote or approval. This needs to be clarified today or at the next meeting.

1. PED is asking for input from the Coalition on this process.
- xv. Are schools able to apply for less than \$150,000 or is that the amount that must be awarded?
 1. The award would be up to \$150,000. If schools, ask for less than \$150,000 or \$75K then that would increase the number of schools that could be supported.
- xvi. When do the grant applications need to be submitted?
 1. The webinar on 3/7 will discuss a timeline, traditionally 30 days from the opening date.
 2. Awards announced on April 22.
- xvii. Will there be two applications, or will the applications for the Certification Pilot Program and Implementation Grant be combined into one?
 1. There will be three applications. There will be a Certification Pilot Program application, an Implementation Year 1 application, and an Implementation Years 1-3 application.
 2. Differentiation will be discussed during the webinar.
- xviii. Please summarize what schools think they are applying for.
 1. There are three categories for application:
 - a. Finished renewal with the NMPED Grant.
 - b. Finished implementation years 1-3 and supported renewal year with other funding.
 - c. Any Community School that's had a full-time Community School coordinator for at least 4 years.
 2. No school would be eligible for both the Certification Pilot Program and the Implementation Grant.
- xix. Can we get the drafts for the applications and information?
- xx. The department should consider some sort of transition support for the schools moving from the grant program to SEG funding. Don't know if that is a technical assistance component or a small grant. If we miss the opportunity for some handholding, some community schools may be lost.
 1. The Coalition appreciate the opportunity to have eyes on this and give input. We need to remember we did not get the full funding.
 2. More on this will be presented in future meetings.
- xxi. What questions can we expect to be prepared for?
 1. This will be announced during the webinar on Thursday, 3/7. If you cannot attend the webinar, it will be recorded and posted on the PED website.
- xxii. There is \$400,000 recommended in the legislation for evaluation. Why was this increased to \$1.4 million? Recommend that the Coalition focus on this and figure out how sustain the movement? Is PED the vehicle for that? What kind of strategies are being put in place to sustain Community Schools? Is this recurring funding?
 1. In HB 2 it is earmarked for \$400,000 for evaluation, but without TA Community Schools struggle to have those quality outcomes. The Coalition has discussed this for many years and the QMC team will present at the next meeting. This is the first year to have

an evaluation earmark for evaluation and a decrease in funding.
The signal is that it is go time for Community Schools.

xxiii. The schools applying for the certification process should be sustained for most of the coordinator salary. Is there wiggle room for schools to get a smaller award if they fund their coordinator to move money into those 53 schools. The \$1 million is to cover the team the PED need to support 91 schools and will now be reduced to 53 schools. Where is that looked out do we need the same number of people to support a reduction of almost 40 schools? Wants to figure out a balance and get above the line funding next year. Still need schools to work toward sustainability.

1. For the Certification Pilot Program, PED requires that at least .25 of the FTE of the Community School coordinators be funded by other funding. This is a requirement to apply. Preference in the scoring rubric to schools that have even more than that.
2. QMC Team will also be supporting the SEG funded schools. PED supports all Community Schools regardless of getting a grant or not.

c. Quality Management Coordinators – Tabled for the April meeting.