

Veldran, Lisa

From: Veldran, Lisa
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Ahrens, David; Baldeh, Samba; Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva; Carter, Sheri; Harrington-McKinney, Barbara; Kemble, Rebecca; Obeng, Kwasi; Rummel, Marsha; Skidmore, Paul; Obeng, Kwasi
Cc: Arntsen, Allen; Cheeks, Maurice; Furman, Keith; King, J Steven; Martin, Arvina; Palm, Lawrence; Phair, Matthew; Tierney, Michael; Verveer, Michael; Wood, Zach; Zellers, Ledell
Subject: 3/19/19 CCEC Agenda Item No. 8 - Update on Status of Education Committee

Ald. Matt Phair asked that I forward the following email to CCEC members for tomorrow's meeting. It will be attached to the Legislative File.

Good afternoon colleagues,

Before I speak with you tomorrow I wanted to give you a little background about the Education Committee as well as provide you some questions (bottom of this email) that will hopefully drive the discussion. I apologize for the tardy nature of this email.

To start with: The Education Committee was created in June of 2012; before that it was known as the Board of Education/Common Council Liaison Committee. It was restructured to consist of two Council members, two MMSD board members, two County Board supervisors, a Mayor's designee and a Superintendent's designee. In ordinance it states that the committee shall - *serve as a formal channel of communication and policy recommendations regarding issues of shared concern between the City of Madison, the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education, and Dane County.*

Here is the link to the official

ordinance <https://madison.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=18925&GUID=5E76E044-114F-4FD6-8974-0CB45FC20C6A&Search=>

Beyond that, in September, 2012 the committee established a mission statement. It is very broad, more of that to follow, but perhaps it will help you understand the nature of the committee, if not it's specific charge.

<https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=2126739&GUID=13C343C4-0A3D-4C01-999B-818EA9CA96A8>

The Education Committee is a truly unique body in the fact that it has representatives from the three major elected bodies in our community as well as executive branch representation. Because of that, I and others have maintained an optimism for the potential it has. No other place in Madison are the "big three" coming together to work on issues related to our students and their families. Perhaps it is because of this tantalizing potential that it is equally frustrating to report that there hasn't been much action to come out of the committee in the last seven years. In fact, the frustration got to the point where I instigated a committee discussion on whether dissolution of the committee was appropriate. To skip to the end of the story, so to speak, the body reached consensus that it does not want to dissolve but recognizes that it needs to do some serious soul searching before it moves forward. Optimism for the potential power of the committee reigns!

As a way to move forward we decided that a survey will be sent out to all Council, County Board and School Board members as well as former Ed. Comm. members and other selected members of government. For this CCEC conversation we left the questions more open-ended than they will appear in survey form. Before I get to the questions that I would like CCEC to contemplate and help us work through, I list the myriad reasons why the Ed. Committee has struggled to find its way and why we recently had a discussion about whether to disband or continue. Please note that the committee has gone through at least two previous "strategy/visionary" sessions in the last several years in an attempt to prioritize the work and light a fire under our you-know-whats!

- **Turnover**, the structural makeup of the committee means that we have seen members come and go frequently due to appointment and election changes.
- **Lack of quorum**, somewhat due to the turnover issue but also because of the extreme busy schedule of elected officials and (I can only assume) due to frustration that the committee isn't "doing anything."
- **Natural tension between legislative and executive branches**, "whose agenda are we working on?"
- Related, **an absence of the sense of "we."** In other words, the committee has never been able to find an identity and rather has been a collection of representatives from different elected bodies; legislative and executive
- **Struggle with mission/charge**, should the committee be a info. sharing organization or a proactive working committee that tackles the biggest challenges our kids and families face, or something in between? This question is at the heart of how we move forward.
- **Difference of legislative processes and budget timelines between the three entities**, this has made it difficult to find the right way and time to put forward policy, budget or program recommendations.

Thanks so much for reading through this. Hopefully it makes some sense. I will be able to elaborate more tomorrow afternoon.

Regards,

Matt

1. Does the committee add value to your organization?

- Can the committee support your strategic goals and objectives in regards to your work with school age children and families? If yes how so?

2. What role should the committee play?

- Information sharing
- Review body of current collaborative initiatives that are under way
- Proactive policy making body
- Provide budget recommendations to respective entities

3. What issues/projects/initiatives should the committee focus on?

- When answering this question, consider if the issue/project/initiative is being worked on in some other legislative body (full or committee, sub-committee, workgroup, etc)