Steering Committee
Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Welcome and Review of Tuesday's Events

Forum Chair Marilyn King, Bozeman School District #7 (MT), welcomed the Steering Committee to the meeting and invited members to share their thoughts and comments on the day's events.

- The Steering Committee commended Steven Hernandez's cybersecurity presentation and suggested a follow-up meeting in the fall. Members who are unfamiliar with cybersecurity would benefit from basic, introductory information on some of the more advanced cybersecurity concepts that Steven addressed.
- Following Steven's presentation, each standing committee spent time discussing cybersecurity in more depth.
- Almost all National Education Statistics Agenda Committee (NESAC) participants, including several new Forum members, contributed to the discussion or chat. The cybersecurity discussion was shorter than expected, which provided members the opportunity to learn about the School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) from SCED Chair Susan Williams, Virginia Department of Education.
- The Policies, Programs, and Implementation Committee (PPI) had some consistent participant engagement, but only a few new members engaged. Members were very interested in discussing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).
- Only half of the Technology Committee (TECH) participants contributed to the cybersecurity discussion, and no new members contributed to the discussion.
- The committee chairs discussed the importance of welcoming and engaging new members in a virtual environment.

Other Issues

- Steering Committee members discussed their upcoming meeting with Liz Eisner and Chris Boccanfuso, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE). The goal of the upcoming meeting is to strengthen collaboration between the Forum and the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs).
    - Forum state and local education agency (SEA and LEA) representatives will have the opportunity to learn more about the RELs and their work.
    - REL representatives to the Forum will have the opportunity to disseminate their work to education data experts in their regions.

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Review of Wednesday's Events

Steering Committee members discussed time spent in standing committees.

- NESAC started with an update from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) Reporting Focused Working Group, then turned the discussion to standards for race/ethnicity and gender reporting, before concluding with a discussion of the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS).

- PPI welcomed Doug Geverdt, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), for a presentation on the NCES Spatially Interpolated Demographic Estimates (SIDE) Project. Members then discussed alternative measures of socioeconomic status (SES), gender data, and assessment and accountability data.
- TECH discussions on systems and technology went well today, during which members shared best practices and lessons learned.

Forum Elections

Standing committee chairs reported the results of their elections. Nominated chairs and vice chairs for the 2022–23 year were as follows:

- NESAC Chair: Laura Hansen, Metro Nashville Public Schools (TN)
- NESAC Vice Chair: Adrian L. Peoples, Delaware Department of Education
- PPI Chair: Stephen Gervais, San Bernardino City Unified School District (CA)
- PPI Vice Chair: Jonathan Wiens, Oregon Department of Education
- TECH Chair: Chandra Haislet, Maryland State Department of Education
- TECH Vice Chair: Andrew Swickheimer, Noblesville Schools (IN)

The Steering Committee nominated Georgia Hughes-Webb, West Virginia Department of Education, as the Forum Chair and Cheryl L. VanNoy, Saint Louis Public Schools (MO), as the Forum Vice Chair for 2022–23.

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Welcome to New Steering Committee Chairs

Newly elected Chair Georgia Hughes-Webb welcomed new Steering Committee members to the meeting and led the group in introductions.

Review of Thursday's Events

Steering Committee members discussed the time spent in standing committees.

- NESAC members were engaged throughout the meeting. Members identified several topics of interest for future consideration:
    - how to frame and communicate academic return-on-investment (ROI);
    - best practices for sharing dual-credit and enrollment data with workforce and postsecondary institutions;
    - early education and prekindergarten; and
    - social-emotional learning (SEL) and multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS).
- PPI discussions started slowly, but engagement improved during topics from the floor. Members identified areas to improve their dissemination of Forum products but noted that some LEAs face obstacles to sharing resources outside of their agency. Members identified several topics of interest for future consideration, including the following:
    - alternative measures of SES; and
    - data justice.
- TECH discussions continued to improve as the week went on. Members appreciated the ample time for topics from the floor. Members identified several topics of interest for future consideration:

- assessments, including strategies for addressing challenges posed by different vendors and systems;
- emerging issues around poverty;
- interoperability; and
- managing education apps.

REL Roundtables Discussion with NCEE

Georgia welcomed Liz and Chris to the meeting to discuss opportunities for potential collaboration between the Forum and RELs. Liz and Chris noted that REL Roundtables in mid-September could be beneficial for the Forum and RELs. These discussions could include the RELs that have recently been awarded new or continuing contracts, Forum SEAs and LEAs, and NCEE staff.

Other Issues

Steering Committee members shared suggestions for future Forum meetings:

- Verbal introductions take up time, but they help members feel comfortable and make it easier for them to engage.
- Breakout discussions are beneficial for large committees like NESAC; it was also easier to engage new members in the TECH breakout discussions earlier this year.
- Topics from the floor discussions provide time to address the immediate needs of members, which can be hard to anticipate when the meeting agendas are set months in advance.
- Chairs and vice chairs need to coordinate their responsibilities, with one person facilitating discussions and the other monitoring the chat.

Steering Committee members also discussed strategies for leveraging technology for in-person and virtual Forum meetings:

- Technology, such as interactive features like chats, polls, and shared documents, can be used to improve the quality of both in-person and virtual meetings, but there are limitations.
- For example, overreliance on the chat during virtual meetings can hinder discussions, but chats do have a place in Forum meetings. Members appreciate the ability to share resources and links in the chat during virtual meetings and would benefit from a similar tool or method during in-person meetings.
- Some members use a device during meetings to deepen their engagement by taking notes, copying links, and screen-clipping presentation materials. It may be helpful for the Forum to establish norms for technology use during in-person meetings. For example, the Steering Committee could set the expectation that members can use technology to enhance their learning during meetings but should refrain from engaging in non-Forum work during meeting time.
- Using polling tools to ask questions throughout a meeting can help improve engagement. TECH used polls during its past two summer meetings to kick off discussions.
- Some members have used digital whiteboards during other meetings and conferences; this technology could be used during Forum meetings to capture key takeaways from small group discussions.
- Hybrid meetings are not an option for Forum meetings.

Steering Committee meetings will resume in September 2022. They will be scheduled on the third Friday of each month at 12:00 pm (Eastern).