Notes 10/8/2018

Attendance: Jennifer Allen-Barron, Jessica Hawkins, Ryan Abernathy, Kathy Knox, Dixie Spear, Sheryl Tatum, Jody Pendleton, Elizabeth Ressel, Garland Delk, Jimmy Acevedo, Amie Hardy, Cindy Allen, Linda Mace, Paul Tryggestad, McGee Winder, Jay Lehr, Travis Graham, Jack Reed, Courtney Vernnon, Williams Stubbs. On the Phone: Mildred Burkhalter, Justin Fite, Lori McGinnis-Madland and Will Parker

Program Networking - presentations from three schools

1. Elizabeth Ressel from FAME Academy (Comanche) - 47 to 50 students a year
   1. Received Oklahoma Arts Council grant
   2. Has received bee hives for alternative education farm
   3. Received two goats for alternative education farm
   4. Farm to School grant
   5. Lowes grant
   6. Regional Food Bank grant from Oklahoma food bank
2. Amie Hardy from Jenks – 13 teachers serving 175 students a year
   1. Received Oklahoma Arts Council grant
   2. Partnerships with Care Point (clothes closet) and Oklahoma Food Bank
   3. Ten student will participate with “City Lights in Tulsa” to help serve the homeless
   4. Two counseling services are visiting weekly to help meet the social/emotional needs of students
   5. Work study guidelines for this year is 110 hours for ½ elective credit and student can receive 2 full credits
3. Jimmy Acevedo from Guymon
   1. Jimmy dissected the new FY18-19 new rubric
   2. Panhandle counseling service will be visiting weekly for counseling and life skills services
   3. New staff member that will be a certified counselor this year
   4. Students that have good attendance are allowed to help with the food pantry as a reward
   5. Work study guidelines for this year is 120 hours for ½ elective credit
   6. Sharing agriculture department greenhouse this year, so program will start seedling program in the spring of 2019 as a fundraiser
   7. School resource office returned to college and is now certified as the new ESL teacher for the district. She is collaborating with Seaboard (major employer in town) to organize a community conversational Spanish class for parents and students in the district.
4. Matt Holder- Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Federal Programs
   1. See attached PPT slides showing funding numbers for 1994-2018
   2. Would alternative education ever get a site code for accountability? *Site code would not typically help with accountability at this point.*
   3. Benefits for spending money for alternative education
      1. $38 million has been cut from alternative education
      2. We do not have to sell alternative education to legislators. At risk students cost districts and communities tax dollars. Alternative education is a last resort for some students before dropping out of school.
      3. Need funding working group to meet to draft funding options by December 7th, anyone can volunteer for committee.
      4. Should we report students that come from virtual schools on our end of year data?
5. Caroline Thompson - Chief of Government Affairs
   1. Bill request needs to be completed by December 7th to set a place holder. Bill draft would then follow around January 18th or 19th.
   2. State task force is very interested in the alternative education bill. School funding is at the top for funding this year.
   3. This new bill might include new districts that currently do not get any funding.
   4. Four or five interim studies are currently being discussed; behavioral issues, bullying, mental health, suspensions and alternative education.
   5. One common thread in all interim studies is that school districts need more counselors and funding.
6. Jody Pendleton from Yukon - asked if we could protect our teachers that teach out of certification by writing something into the new bill. The law currently allows alternative education teachers to teach out of certified areas.
7. Jack Reed from OKC - would like a bullet added to the new alternative education flyer on continued connections with traditional schools.

* This has been added to the flyer.

1. Jennifer Wilkinson, Director of Alternative Education - Do we want to drop 6th grade from the alternative education programs law.
   1. Committee was unsure of dropping the 6th grade. They felt this would be determined by changes in the funding formula.
2. Jennifer Wilkinson, Director of Alternative Education - read the definitions for credit recovery and alternative education and committee was satisfied with new definitions. She is working with the legal department on next steps for Board approval.
3. Jack Reed from OKC - wanted to know if there was a way we could include overage students in the funding formula?
4. William Stubbs from OKC - asked how districts are serving behavioral students in their districts. Norman and Tulsa both gave examples.
5. Need for Pre-Post test was discussed again. Testing would help with identifying students that are on a grade level or not. Committee will discuss further if the testing should be part of the FY 20 alternative education rubric. Language might be include about gathering/using data to drive instruction. This would not necessarily require pre/post testing. Some programs however, explained that data from the pre/post testing helps show student improvements to their local school board members.

Next meeting will be December 11th at 10:00 am in conference room 215.