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Subject: agenda for tomorrow's Chiefs for Change call
Attachments: 8-5-11 C4C Call Agenda.doc Chief Bio Glass.docx Chief Bio Tomalis 2.docx Chiefs for Change Invite.NACSA Conference 2.docx

Chiefs,

Attached is the agenda and information for tomorrow's Chiefs for Change call. We are still working on a bio on SC Chief Mick Zais.

Patricia



Chiefs for Change Conference Call
Friday, August 5, 2011
9:30am-10:30pm EST
Agenda

Call-In Info: Number: 850-391-0329/Passcode: 84940

- I. Idaho Waiver – Tony Bennett**
 - II. ESEA Waiver Guidelines update – Hanna Skandera and John Bailey**
 - III. Race to the Top federal waiver update – Chris Cerf, Deb Gist, Eric Smith**
 - IV. Tom Vander Ark / PARCC discussion – update from Eric Smith**
 - V. San Francisco Summit – proposed policy topic areas for Chiefs’ staff – Mary Laura Bragg**
 - **Teacher Quality initiatives (teacher evaluation, value-added models, evaluation in non-state tested areas)**
 - **School Accountability & Assessment (A-F grading, student growth)**
 - **K-3 reading initiatives (retention policies, K-3 literacy screeners, professional development)**
 - **Voucher implementation (private school accountability, parent outreach)**
 - **Legislative agenda review for 2012**
 - VI. Backgrounders on Ron Tomalis, Mick Zais and Jason Glass – Tony or Hanna**
- VII. Funding program updates and Dell Foundation performance management system demos – Fonda Anderson**
- VIII. National Association of Charter School Authorizers’ panelist invitation to Chiefs – Patricia Levesque**

P.O. Box 10691 • Tallahassee, FL 32302 • (850) 391-4090 • (786) 664-1794 fax

Director of the Department of Education

Appointed by Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds in December 2010

Party Affiliation: Republican

Iowa Department of Education:
<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/>



Shortly after his appointment, the Christian Science Monitor put the 39-year-old Glass in the top spot on its list, "Education reform: eight school chiefs to watch in 2011." It's a bipartisan mix of education leaders from across the country who have promised to reform public school systems.

But Glass bristles at the label "education reformer" because, he says, too often those are code words for someone with a plan to build charter schools and pass out pink slips to teachers.

"I don't think that's the complete solution," Glass says. "To really transform public education, you have to have a much more ambitious view than 'charter schools are the answer' and 'firing people is the answer.'"

Biography

- Seton Hall University, Ed.D., educational leadership, 2009-2011 (expected)
- University of Kentucky, MA, political science/ public policy, 2001-2003
- University of Kentucky, MA, education 1995-1996
- University of Kentucky, BA, political science, 1990-1994

Education Experience

- Senior director of human capital strategy, Battelle for Kids, August 2010-January 2011
- Jason E. Glass Consulting, January 2008-January 2011
- Director of Human Resources, Eagle County Schools, August 2007-August 2010
- Director of Research and Assessment, Eagle County Schools, March 2007-August 2007
- Vice President of Qualistar Ratings, Qualistar Early Learning, October 2006-May 2007
- Principal Consultant for Student Achievement, Colorado Department of Education, June 2001-September 2006
- Senior Consultant-Research and Evaluation, Colorado Department of Education, July 2001-September 2005

Governor Branstad on Glass' Appointment

Governor's statement on Glass Appointment: *"My goal is to make Iowa's schools the best in the country, and I have found the individual who will help our state achieve this objective," said Gov. Branstad. "Jason is a reform-minded leader for this department, and someone who will bring a strong sense of accountability to the position. He is a collaborator, and all of Iowa's students, teachers and parents will benefit with Jason as director."*

Public Statements on Education

Glass' statement on his appointment: *"I feel very fortunate to accept this position in a state where education has been, and continues to be, a priority," said Glass. "To all the educators in Iowa, you have my admiration and I honor your noble service in this sacred and important work. Our efforts to meet the challenge of this global economy and post-industrial era must come on two fronts, innovation and improvement. I pledge to work closely with Iowa's policy makers, community leaders, and most importantly its talented and dedicated educators in meeting the challenges before us."*

PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE IN TEACHER COMPENSATION: "There isn't a great deal of empirical research to support that it's going to make a dramatic impact in student achievement results. We don't know what merit pay or strategic compensation will do in terms of 'Does it lift student achievement?' What we do know is the system that 99.9 percent of the districts use, the step and lane system, and education credits, we know that neither one of those two things are particularly good measures of teacher effectiveness or teacher quality."

PRESCHOOL FUNDING: "This agency is an extension of executive power, so I support the governor's bill. My goal is to extend quality early childhood education to as many people as we can. If we have to make a hard choice about where we spend our money, then we should be targeting that toward the children that have the most need, which is what this does."

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS: "The school choice movement is charter schools, partnerships with private schools, virtual schools and home schooling, it's all of these options. Vouchers? I don't have a problem with public funds going to private entities so long as they are open to everyone, just like the public school is ... and they are held to the same level of accountability."

QUALITY TEACHERS: "The goal is every human being working in our schools is better. It's not just narrowly focused on just trying to fire people, that's too narrow. How we get the best and brightest to go into education is the goal. Frequently we get stuck on those two issues, dismissal and compensation, because they are sort of labor relations issues, but those are just two levers of an overall process. We need to be much more efficient. It shouldn't take us a year and hundreds of thousands of dollars to remove an ineffective teacher."

SENIOR YEAR: "Generally, people think senior year is kind of a waste, let's take a year off and have a good time. I would argue that we as a country, we can't afford to take a year off and have a good time. We have to start taking the bar and moving it forward, and we need to recapture that senior year and junior year."

IOWA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: "I'll stand on my prior reputation as someone who collaborates with the union to get things done. I need the state teachers' association to get a bold reform initiative through here. I didn't come here and I wasn't brought here to perpetuate the status quo. I came here to confront important problems, and I'm going to confront those by working with people it affects the most, and that means the teacher's union, the school administrators, school boards, community leaders, legislators. We're going to have difficult conversations, have honest conversations, but they need to be had."

STATE'S ROLE IN INSTRUCTION: "The state's role should be set the standard, provide the measurement system to be sure the standards are being met, adequately fund that effort, and then the state needs to get out of the way."

HIRING PROCESS: "The most error-filled processes we have is the hiring process. It typically doesn't take into account anything other than that one-point-in-time interview to make that decision."

Acting Secretary of Education
Appointed by Governor Corbett, February 2011
Party Affiliation: Republican

Pennsylvania Department of Education:
http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania_department_of_education/7237



Biography

- Director of the Education Practice, Dutko Worldwide/Whiteboard Advisors. Principal advisor to nonprofit education groups and foundations and for-profit education companies. (2009-2011)
- Director, Camden Learning Group (2007)
- Director, Chartwell Education Group (2004-2007)
- Counselor to the Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, US Department of Education (2001-2004)
- Executive Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Bachelor's degree from Dickinson College

Education Experience

Pennsylvania Department of Education

During the Ridge Administration, Tomalis worked for Secretary of Education Gene Hickok, and served as Executive Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Governor Ridge and Secretary Hickok were strong advocates of school choice and pushed for school vouchers for Pennsylvania, which was unsuccessful. (Tomalis was a political science student of Gene Hickok, when Hickok taught at Dickinson College.)

US Department of Education

During the George W Bush Administration, Tomalis served as Counselor to the Secretary (Rod Paige) and Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education from 2001 – 2004. Tomalis worked closely with Deputy Secretary Gene Hickok on the NCLB legislation and implementation.

Higher Education

Tomalis has worked with for-profit education organizations while at Chartwell Education Group and Dutko.

Governor Tom Corbett Education Priorities:

Promoting Flexible Funding for Schools and Students - Tom will begin to cut the strings from Harrisburg, giving greater flexibility to districts and schools to direct resources to best achieve students learning. Tom's plan will:

- Link funding directly to students and the schools they choose to attend and make that funding transferable with the student. This is especially critical for students in failing schools. Students have a right to attend a good school and not be forced to attend a failing one by virtue of their zip code.
- Better track the use of educational dollars and ensure those with greatest educational challenges get proper funding
- Provide flexible funding for school districts, greater control of resources at the school level and lessen state mandates

Enhancing Educational Opportunities - Tom will provide better access to great schools and educational opportunities that work student learning needs by:

- Enhancing charter school quality and accountability
- Improving dual enrollment opportunities
- Provide Opportunity Grants for students attending failing public schools
- Growing the Education Improvement Tax Credit program
- Expanding career and technical centers
- Supporting pilot of Innovation School and workforce development

Ensuring Effective Teachers and Leaders - A more efficient and fair evaluation system for teachers and school leaders maximizes growth and education in our schools. Tom's plan will link student achievement to compensation, as well as expand pathways to teaching and leadership, such as Teach for America, that allow professionals from other fields to enter the education community. Tom Corbett also believes that teachers should be compensated for their excellence in the classroom, most importantly for improving student achievement. He supports merit pay programs, which operate in addition to base pay, not only to incentivize teaching excellence for current teachers, but also work to help recruit and retain the nation's brightest minds by attracting new teachers and non-traditional educators into the classroom.

Embracing Results-Based Accountability - A system of accountability based on student performance forces schools to place students at the center of our educational system, as well as assists in removing barriers to improvement and gives the state a compelling interest to intervene in failing districts. Tom will develop a school grading system to better explain educational success and identify those schools that are in need of the most assistance.

Creating Safe Learning Environments - A quality education matters little if our students are at risk while at school. Tom will make our schools safe, and he plans on making them more secure by:

- Implementing mandatory reporting of crimes by schools
- Requiring schools to establish and publicize clear codes of conduct and emergency plans
- Ensuring accurate reporting of school violence incidents
- Broadening the list of offenses that bar dangerous individuals from working in our schools
- Encouraging the use of school safety programs that simultaneously reduce the need for disciplinary action and create a safer learning environment

Tomalis Public Statements on Education

2011 School voucher bill (SB1):

<http://www.delcotimes.com/articles/2011/02/28/news/doc4d6b252f86867262628778.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

[SB 1 would provide vouchers to low-income students (130% of the federal poverty level, or annual income of \$28,665 for family of four). Plan would be phased in over 3 years: Year 1: low-income students at persistently low-achieving schools are eligible; Year 2: all low-income students living within attendance boundary of a persistently failing school are eligible; and Year 3: all low-income students statewide would be eligible.]



June 1, 2011

Ms. Patricia Levesque
Chiefs for Change
C/O Foundation for Excellence in Education
P.O. Box 10691
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Dear Patricia,

As you well know, reforming the public education system is vital to the future of our nation. We must work together as a community – reform advocates, parents, national associations, and state officials – to truly create an open and dynamic system of quality school choice opportunities.

The work of each of member of Chiefs for Change to accomplish this mission has affected thousands of children in their respective states and beyond. NACSA would be honored if the members of Chiefs for Change would serve as panelists for the conference's opening plenary session the morning of Tuesday, October 25. The session, moderated by MSNBC Political Analyst and Bernard Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy's President Michelle Bernard, will discuss how the members of Chiefs for Change are improving education in their respective states and the challenges they face in tackling each of these important issues.

The NACSA Leadership Conference will take place October 24-27 on Amelia Island, just outside of Jacksonville, Fla. Each year, this event attracts a diverse group of charter school authorizers, education reform advocates, policy makers, and superintendents to engage in thoughtful discussions about emerging trends in the charter school movement. The four-day conference features plenary sessions aimed at inspiring and challenging conventional wisdom to foster the systemic redesign and reform of public education choice in the nation.

This forum is the ideal opportunity for Chiefs for Change members to interact with the entities directly responsible for executing state laws and protecting public and student interests in the charter movement. I am confident Chiefs for Change participation in this event will have a tremendous impact on our attendees and help to further the group's mission to put children first through bold and visionary education reform.

I sincerely thank you in advance for considering this opportunity, and look forward to Chiefs for Change's plenary discussion at the 2011 NACSA Leadership Conference. You may contact NACSA Vice President of Communications & Outreach Rebeca Huffman at rebecah@qualitycharters.org or (312) 376-2321 with your response to this invitation. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this invitation, our conference, or NACSA in general. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Greg Richmond
President and CEO

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