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**Sent time:** Wednesday, December 07, 2011 5:42:07 PM  
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**Cc:** **Subject:** Agenda and materials for Friday's call  
**Attachments:** 12-9-11 C4C Call Agenda.doc PISA projects.docx Talent Bench one-pager.docx Townsend McNitt.docx

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Attached please find the agenda and supporting documents for Friday's call at 9:30 Eastern.

Thanks!

Mary Laura

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Foundation for  
**Excellence**  
in Education

**Chiefs for Change Conference Call  
Friday, December 9, 2011  
9:30am-10:30am EST  
Agenda**

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

- I. Waiver update – John Bailey**
- II. NAEP update – Eric Smith**
- III. ALEC resolution on Common Core – Tony Bennett**
- IV. 2012 Funding – Fonda Anderson**
- V. PISA for Schools update – Patricia Levesque**
- VI. Talent Bench Project – Patricia Levesque**

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PISA projects.docx

## **DISTRICTS ENCOURAGED TO GO THE NEXT STEPS** **ON THE PISA FOR SCHOOLS PROJECTS**

Florida - Gerard Robinson, Commissioner

Brevard County School District, FL  
Hillsborough County Public Schools, FL  
Palm Beach County School District, FL  
Sarasota County Schools, FL  
Duval County Public School, FL

Indiana - Tony Bennett, Superintendent & C4C Chair

Hamilton Southeastern School District, IN  
Evansville Community School District, IN  
MSD of Warren Township, IN  
School City of Hammond, IN  
Bartholomew Community School Corporation, IN  
Lafayette School Corporation, IN

Maine - Stephen Bowen, Commissioner

Maine School of Science and Math School District, ME  
Portland Public Schools, ME

New Jersey - Chris Cerf, Commissioner

Monmouth County Vocational School District, NJ  
Jersey City Public Schools, NJ  
Morris School District, NJ  
Somerset Hills School District, NJ  
Montclair Public Schools, NJ  
Princeton Regional Schools, NJ  
Newark Public Schools, NJ

Oklahoma - Janet Barresi, Superintendent

Tulsa Public Schools, OK  
Oklahoma City Public Schools, OK  
Ponca City Public Schools, OK

Rhode Island - Deb Gist, Commissioner

Central Falls School District, RI  
Westerly Public Schools, RI  
Chariho Regional School District, RI  
East Greenwich School District, RI  
Pawtucket School Department, RI

Tennessee - Kevin Huffman, Commissioner

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, TN  
Memphis City Schools, TN  
St. George's Independent School, TN

Memorandum to Chiefs for Change

From: Townsend McNitt

Re: Discussion draft for Talent Bench project

Date: December 7, 2011

#### **Preliminary overview of the talent bench project:**

The education reform movement needs more leaders prepared to take on the critical task of reforming our nation's schools through state education agencies. Many members of Chiefs for Change entered their state departments to find a lack of like-minded leadership personnel or vacancies in critical positions. Additionally, since the formation of Chiefs of Change, the Foundation for Excellence in Education is increasingly asked to identify qualified candidates to fill open state education chief positions. At the Chiefs for Change meeting in October in San Francisco members discussed the creation of a Talent Bench whereby the staff would identify individuals ready to assume senior education leadership roles at the state level, including potential State Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Choice Office and Assessment Directors. This list of qualified individuals would be available to current Chiefs, incoming Chiefs, and Governors to fill existing openings and to help fill key education leadership positions after the 2012 elections. Additionally, Chiefs discussed the Foundation becoming a resource to assist with administering formal searches for specific high level vacancies needed by Chiefs.

#### **Getting Started:**

1. Identify the key positions for which candidates are being sought.
2. Determine the core education reform principles that all candidates must share (ie. annual testing, rigorous and transparent accountability, high standards for all children, viable school options).

#### **Developing the List:**

- Use existing networks – To start this list, gather and categorize relevant names and recommendations from within this group (Chiefs, Education Excellence). This can be done via telephone conversation and email and names will be cataloged for key positions.
- Partner with like-minded organizations – Success in developing and *maintaining* a list of individuals ready to take on key jobs will be greatly enhanced by partnering with like minded organizations who are willing to share their recommendations. Reach out to key reform organizations such as Teach for America, New Leaders for New Schools, Democrats for Education Reform, The Broad Superintendent Academy, Education Trust, Center for Education Reform, etc. and ask if they would be interested in partnering together on this important work.
- Create an education reform group on a social media site -- To encourage people to self-identify as reformers and give them a place to (virtually) meet other reformers, create an open group on a social media site, such as LinkedIn. Such a group would be open to all and could serve as the basis for a large, virtual gathering of self-identified reformers.

**Townsend Lange McNitt**  
**Strategic Consultant**

Townsend McNitt has developed and implemented successful federal public policy and legislative strategies over fifteen years of service in the U.S. executive and legislative branches and as a consultant to state and national political campaigns, nonprofit organizations and schools. As an attorney, legislative advisor and public policy expert, McNitt has worked on education initiatives as a senior staff member in the U.S. Congress, the White House and the U.S. Department of Education and has served as an education policy advisor in the last four U.S. Presidential elections.

McNitt has extensive expertise in national education policy, having participated in the reauthorization of every significant piece of federal education legislation between 1995 and 2008. A graduate of Gordon College and Notre Dame Law School, she presently provides strategic advice to state and local education leaders, public policy and nonprofit organizations and schools. McNitt serves on the Board of Directors of the Henry Ford Learning Institute and provides educational advice to foster children and community organizations serving at risk children.