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Date: Thu, 4/21/2011 10:46:02 PM
Subject: Articles/Blogs on New Chiefs Announcement

Below are the blogs and articles we've collected regarding the announcement of new chiefs joining Chiefs for Change. I'm also including a link to the release posted on our website.

Jaryn

Press Releases

1. [Reformers Join Ranks of Chiefs for Change](#), *Foundation for Excellence in Education*

Online Blogs and Publications

2. [Five New State Officials Join 'Chiefs for Change'](#), *Education Week*
3. [5 New Chiefs for Change & 5 Reasons Chiefs Matter](#), *EdReformer*
4. [Barresi Joins Education 'Chiefs for Change'](#), *The McCarville Report Online*
5. [Hoping Colorado's New Education Commissioner Will be a Chief for Change](#), *Ed is Watching*
6. [Five State Schools Chiefs sign on to Jeb Bush's Reform Group](#), *Smart Brief*
7. [TN education chief joins education "reform" group](#), *Knox Views*

[Five New State Officials Join 'Chiefs for Change'](#)

By [Sean Cavanagh](#) on April 19, 2011
Education Week

Five more state schools chiefs have signed on to an effort, supported by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, aimed at promoting new approaches to evaluating teachers, improving standards and testing, and overall academic innovation.

The project, dubbed "Chiefs for Change," was [announced last year](#) at a summit on school issues organized by Bush. It originally drew five state schools superintendents as participants. The new members of the coalition, announced today, are all new to the state superintendent's job: Janet Barresi of Oklahoma, Stephen Bowen of Maine, Kevin Huffman of Tennessee, Chris Cerf of New Jersey, and Hanna Skandera of New Mexico (a [former education aide](#) to Bush in Florida).

Bush, who has emerged as an [influential figure](#) among Republicans for his work on [education issues](#), has said that one of his school-focused foundations will support the group financially.

The group has billed itself as a bipartisan coalition focused on issues such as creating "value-added" evaluations for teachers and principals, stronger standards and testing, and expanded school choice. When the group was formed last year, its members emphasized that they do not expect to be in sync on all of those issues—such as on school choice, a topic on which some of them would favor charter schools and virtual education, but not necessarily vouchers to use public funds to allow students to attend private schools.

In a statement announcing the addition of the five new participants, the schools chiefs said they would also seek to "present a unified voice on federal education policy," including the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act.

The original five members of Chiefs for Change are Tony Bennett of Indiana, Deborah A. Gist of Rhode Island, Paul Pastorek of Louisiana, Gerard Robinson of Virginia, and Eric J. Smith of Florida, who has since announced that he intends to leave his state post.

[Back to Top](#)

[5 New Chiefs for Change & 5 Reasons Chiefs Matter](#)

EdReformer

Tom Vanderark, April 20, 2011

Sean Cavanagh, EdWeek, reports on the addition of 5 chiefs to the Foundation for Excellent Education sponsored group, **Chiefs for Change**.

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The original five members of Chiefs for Change are Tony Bennett of Indiana, Deborah A. Gist of Rhode Island, Paul Pastorek of Louisiana, Gerard Robinson of Virginia, and Eric J. Smith of Florida, who has since announced that he intends to leave his state post.

A little background: about half the chiefs are elected, the other half are appointed. I think the Changers are all appointed (I think that tells us something). Chiefs usually work for a state board which may be appointed or elected or a combination. State boards have their own association, **NASBE**, and can either accelerate or hinder the work of a good chief.

Gene Wilhoit, who runs the chiefs association (**CCSSO**, the commissioners and superintendents of education in all 50 states) is a great edreformer and is leading an aggressive agenda himself. But this group of 10 are exception—they are pushing hard and learning from each other.

Chiefs make a big difference—and it's getting bigger. Here's five reasons why their job is getting more important:

1. With the likelihood of a weak reauthorization of ESEA, more responsibility for accountability will roll back to the states. We got NCLB because states did such a lousy job on this front. Chiefs need to make a 'good school promise' to the families of their state and enact tough measure that won't tolerate chronic failure.
2. College ready standards. Adopting the Common Core or real college-ready equivalents, is a big deal. Chiefs need to lead thoughtful efforts to ensure students have the coursework and instruction necessary for students to reach high standards and they need to lead the charge for alignment with higher education. For example, students should know in high school exactly what it takes to become eligible to earn college credit and if that includes a placement exam, it should be available in high school.
3. Assessment. The work of the Race to the Top funded state assessment consortia are likely to frame the next decade the way NCLB framed the last. State chiefs will guide additions (or alternatives) to this frame and the implementation of new assessments. Because they are likely to be online, the assessments will require high access environments for consistent and secure testing.
4. Fiscal crisis. Smart budget cuts take leadership. Taking advantage of a crisis to boost long term productivity takes real leadership. Most chiefs are engaged in the awful reality of the 'new normal.' Chiefs for Change are looking for ways to do more with less.
5. Personal digital learning (PDL). The fiscal crisis, online assessments, cheaper access devices, and better open content are all signaling that it's time to pivot from the time and print focused model to personal digital learning. The shift from groups to individuals, from time to learning, from print to digital requires a good plan considering academic, financial, technical, policy, and political dimensions. Chiefs are on point for the shift to PDL.

[Back to Top](#)

[Barresi Joins Education 'Chiefs for Change'](#)

McCarville Report

April 19, 2011

Education chiefs in five states today joined the ranks of Chiefs for Change, a bipartisan coalition of state education chiefs and leaders who are leading the nation in advancing bold reform.

New members are Oklahoma State Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi, Maine Commissioner of Education Stephen Bowen, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Chris Cerf, Tennessee Commissioner of Education Kevin Huffman and New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary-Designate Hanna Skandera.

Together, Chiefs for Change lead education reforms in ten states, representing one-fifth of the country and a combined population of 60 million.

“Leadership matters.” said Paul Pastorek, Louisiana Superintendent of Education and Chair of Chiefs for Change. “These five education chiefs have demonstrated unwavering leadership in advancing bold reforms that focus on students’ success.”

[Back to Top](#)

[Hoping Colorado’ s New Education Commissioner Will Be a Chief for Change](#)

Ed Is Watching

Posted under [Independence Institute](#) & [Innovation and Reform](#) & [Just For Fun](#) & [PPC](#) & [State Board of Education](#)

April 19, 2011

Yesterday the [Colorado State Board of Education](#) was in deliberations to interview and consider one or more applicants for the state’ s next [education commissioner](#). Right now everything is in the hush-hush, so don’ t even bother to ask me who any of the finalists are. Why? Because I don’ t know.

The new commissioner is scheduled to be appointed at the next monthly Board meeting (May 11 and 12). Whoever it ends up being, I hope the leader is a true [education transformer](#), someone who would be at home fitting in with the 10 state education commissioners (having just doubled in size) who form the group [“Chiefs for Change.”](#)

Have you heard about Chiefs for Change? It’ s “a coalition of state school chiefs and leaders that share a zeal for education reform. Together, they provide a strong voice for bold reform on the federal, state and local level.” [You can read their mission statement and guiding principles here](#). Where are they from? Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Virginia. Maybe Colorado’ s next?

While we’ re on the topic, I can think of a couple other good potential Chiefs for Change nominees. First, Idaho superintendent Tom Luna —who just successfully helped to shepherd through a comprehensive [“Students Come First”](#) reform package. You can read my Education Policy Center friend Ben DeGrow’ s [latest School Reform News story](#) for the scoop.

Second, what about the new director of Iowa’ s Department of Education, [Jason Glass](#)? I don’ t know whether or not he subscribes to all of the agenda, but the *Christian Science Monitor* listed the former Coloradan first among [“eight school chiefs to watch in 2011”](#) (all the others already are part of Chiefs for Change).

I think the next goal for the group Chiefs for Change should be to reach an even 12 members. Then we could come up with a new nickname for them along the lines of the “Dirty Dozen.” (This is your mission, should you choose to accept it.) If Colorado’ s new commissioner comes from the current group, then they still would need two more. But if the new commissioner is a transformer from outside the current ranks, then only one of my two nominees would have to enlist to get the clever nickname campaign in motion.

Of course, no reason to stop at a dozen. The more transformers at the helms of state education departments, the better chance for meaningful change that benefits American students in the long run.

[Back to Top](#)

[Five state schools chiefs sign on to Jeb Bush's reform group](#)

Smart Brief

April 19, 2011

A group supported by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush recently drew support from five more state schools chiefs. The group Chiefs for Change is dedicated to education-reform efforts, such as changes to the way teachers are evaluated, new standards and testing. New members are the school leaders in Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee, all of whom are new to their posts.

[Back to Top](#)

[TN education chief joins education “reform” group](#)

KnoxViews

April 19, 2011

State Education Commissioner [Kevin Huffman has joined “Chiefs for Change.”](#) an education “reform” group formed by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The group advocates for an “aggressive policy agenda topped by school choice and performance-driven evaluations for teachers and principals.”

[Chiefs for Change](#) is a program of Jeb Bush's [Foundation for Excellence in Education](#). As governor of Florida, Jeb Bush was an outspoken advocate for [school vouchers](#).

[Back to Top](#)