



P20 Council Quarterly Meeting  
City of Hendersonville Operations Center  
May 10, 2024  
Meeting occurs: 11:30AM-1:30PM

Present: Dr. Gene Loflin, Dr. Ivry Cheeks, Rachael Sawyer, Jorie Matijevich, Chris Todd, Emily Martin, Scott Rhodes, Brandon Priester, Rob Rode, Kim Case, Katlen Smith (staff), Emily Nicholson (staff), Melissa Zenz (staff), Aydan Shelton (student Ambassador), Citlally Diaz Mar (student Ambassador), Kaitlyn Raby (student Ambassador)

Minutes:

- Mrs. Nicholson welcomed the attendees and introduced Chris Todd, Henderson County Business & Community Development Director.
- Mr. Todd updated the attendees on new economic development in Henderson County and various future initiatives county wide.
- Mrs. Nicholson reminded the Council how they can stay updated on P20 news via [LinkedIn](#) & [Facebook](#); [Monthly](#) “Connector” Notifications (Internal) & Monthly Newsletters (External).
- Mrs. Nicholson provided an update on the RFP for an Organizational Development Consultant. Mrs. Nicholson asked the Council to think of other ways we can get this out and to let staff know.
- Mrs. Nicholson mentioned that we have a videography on-site for interviews with Council Members. She will be asking them “*Why is regional, cross-sector collaboration imperative for our shared educational and workforce goals?*”
- Mrs. Nicholson then moved on to introducing our attending Student Ambassadors and provided an update on the various components of the program they just completed.
- The Council members were asked to split up into pairs and develop two recommendations for the Council to pursue with the data and student perspectives in mind. And to consider these questions to frame conversations:
  - *How do these perspectives inspire frame of thought, opportunities, policies (T.O.P.) discussions etc. at my institution/organization?*
  - *How do these perspectives inspire T.O.P. discussions as a P20 Council?*
  - *Can we draw parallels from their responses to the data trends or are we seeing trends that warrant additional research?*
  - *Can these responses shed light to the work of the action teams (in addition to what’s happening)?*
- Mrs. Nicholson opened the floor to the group to share about what they discussed.
- Mr. Rode suggested bringing Pre-K teachers and administration in to hear their ideas about how to close the enrollment gap.

- Kaitlin Raby, a student Ambassador, did a Pre-K work study and shared the low pay wage being a deterrent in getting good accredited teachers in the classrooms.
- Mr. Rode said that 'all roads lead back to the cost of living', and Pre-K enrollment is a multi-issue problem.
- Ms. Zenz provided the specific student numbers that represent the 31% Pre-K enrollment gap:
  - Buncombe County - 255 children
  - Madison County - 9 children
  - Henderson County - 217 children
  - Transylvania County - Met their goal
- The conversation continued with the student Ambassadors expressing the importance of early exposure to various programs, areas of study, job vs. wage numbers and transparency at the college level with actual cost.
- Mr. Rhodes agreed that providing our youth with accurate real world earnings based on their educational path is important.
- Mr. Rode shared that he talks more about educational attainment at job fairs rather than finding actual employees.
- Ms. Martin discussed how to break the generational cycle of earning power with our current youth.
- Dr. Loflin suggested bringing the hiring/business sector into the schools as early as possible, and not just on career days. This can help with exposure and curiosity with our children.
- Dr. Cheeks briefly mentioned the new career development plan that is going to be a required part of High School. The funding for this is still unknown.
- Mrs. Nicholson thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Friday August 16th, 2024 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Madison County Location  
TBD