Education and Workforce – Meeting Notes
June 26, 2020 9:00 AM


Audience Attendees: 6

[meeting begins]

- Summary of full ERC Meeting cross-committee highlights
  - Public health infrastructure and support
  - Support for education and childcare sectors
  - Broadband expansion

[Presentation from Paula Voelker, Executive Director of Maine Education Associate]

MEA Slide Deck will be posted on website: https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/economy/economic-recovery-committee

- Ken Williams and Cedena McAvoy, both Maine educators, also share their insights with the subcommittee
- Remote Learning Educator Polls [please see MEA presentation for full survey results]
  - Sudden transition in March was a transition to emergency learning, not normal remote learning
  - Polls of Maine educators reflect educator and student experiences
    - Keywords: challenging, stressful, frustrating
  - Vast majority of educators felt remote learning was worse than in-person instruction, but improved throughout spring semester
  - Educators who received training felt prepared for remote learning, but majority did not report receiving adequate training
- MEA is working collaboratively with DOE and others to aid in planning and preparation
  - Re-opening Gateways
    - Community transmission data
    - CDC school reopening flowchart
    - Districts are establishing collaborative planning teams
  - Key Considerations
    - Social Distancing
    - Face Masks
      - Challenge across ages and grade levels
    - Transportation
      - Important consideration for equitable access to education
    - Restructuring School Day
    - Stakeholder Flexibility
      - School schedules may change mid-year
• Childcare for educators
  • Some teachers live and work in multiple different
    • May be opportunity for open-enrollment in employing
      districts
  • Some educators will feel unsafe returning

  o Funding Considerations
    • Smaller class sizes, more educators
    • PPE
      • Estimate $50 Million statewide cost
    • Hybrid learning models
    • Professional development and training
      • Transitioning traditional curriculums to remote environments
      • Training in best practices and methodology for remote learning
      • Opportunities to collaborate and share learnings with other
        educators

  o Broadband
    • Barrier to basic attendance in remote learning environment
      • Major barrier to equitable access

  o Special Education
    • Many students cannot access remote education
      • Life skills and physical care

  o Performing Arts and Physical Education
    • Additional barriers to engaging students remotely

  o Food Security
    • Some students cannot access “grab and go” meals because of lack of
      transportation

  o DOE is currently messaging to prepare for four different learning environments
    • Virtual
    • Hybrid
    • Dynamic
    • In-person

[end of MEA presentation]

• Subcommittee will be working to finalize quick-start recommendations by EOD

[meeting adjourns]