

**Ad-Hoc Dashboard/Benchmark Committee**  
**970 Madison Street, Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:30 P.M. December 18, 2013**

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chairwoman Rupa Datta called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Rupa Datta, Bob Spatz, Harla Hutchinson, Dr. Felicia Starks Turner, Jim O’Conner, Amber Stitziel Pareja, Denis Roarty, Gudelia Lopez, Rebecca Kaegi, Lou Anne Johannesson (secretary)

**Absent:** Dr. Al Roberts, Superintendent

**2. Discussion with ECRA, Kim Perkins, Ed.D.**

Members Harla Hutchinson, Amber Stitziel Pereja, and Rupa Datta of the committee met with ECRA members John Gatta and Kim Perkins on December 10, 2013, and prepared written questions (see attachment). Mr. Perkins shared with the committee information from that meeting as well as what ECRA has helped develop as dashboards for other districts. He reported that ECRA has worked collaboratively on dashboards with, Mequoin, in Wisconsin, Thornton District 205 and Freemont District 70. He further stated that ECRA uses state ISAT scores, national MAP comparisons for growth and state report cards as factors to use as benchmarks. He said that any district within the state with similar demographics would be good to use to establish dashboard measurements. Chairwoman Datta asked if other districts ask what is realistic as a measure for potential growth. Do they examine the composition of students spread across a district to determine the range of change that they are measuring? Mr. Perkins answered that local models measure growth differently. If they take demographics out of the mix they create a propensity score for each student. He went on to describe how ECRA assists districts to guide improvement efforts by using their strengths to eliminate their weaknesses and to evaluate their own programming using data, and he used the example of full-day kindergarten. Member Lopez stated that not all academics have the same components and therefore comparing programming is perhaps not a good example. She stated that it is vital to examine if programs were implemented with fidelity. She warned that there needs to be cautious when comparing data because there are so many factors to consider for each individual program. Member Hutchinson stated that models show if there has been statistical growth has taken place, but not how it has taken place. Chairwoman Datta and Member Kaegi asked about ECRA’s work with the new teacher evaluation standards and how they are using data in the evaluation process. A lengthy discussion ensued that dealt with taking in all variables and looking at whole growth models. The discussion also involved a conversation about students’ predictive scores. Member Lopez asked Mr. Perkins if the committee or the board could get an actual model or technical report from ECRA. The full committee asked that ECRA provide technical documentation of ECRA’s local growth model and requested ECRA to forward that to Member Spatz and the full board.

### **3a. Implications of mission statement and other board strategic documents**

Members Lopez and Kaegi presented their first attempt at fleshing out the board's priorities as measurable. They proceeded to explain their draft of a flow chart and detailed explanation of a draft of dashboard domains and indicators (see attached). The biggest focus is the "Conditions for Learning" portion, those factors that the board can influence. A discussion ensued about the percentages of students that begin at District 97 at Kindergarten, and those who come after Kindergarten. The committee also discussed extracurricular activities and how to track those using data. Member Starks Turner suggested that the PTOs would be a good resource for that information and she also reported that there are scholarship opportunities available for all sports, extra-curricular activities and lunch time programs, so the demographics are not skewed. Member Roarty asked if the dashboard would list out all new curriculums. Member Spatz stated yes, for programs that a history has been kept on. He stated that is why the district has been very purposeful on tracking the roll out of IB, for example, which will be a four year process. Member Lopez asked if that would include the implementation year. Member Spatz was unsure. Member Roarty asked if the district has done past program analysis. Member Starks Turner stated that the district did with the roll-out of FastForWord. Member Spatz questioned if that kind of program analysis should be looked at every year. Chairwoman Datta stated that the notion of a quantitative journal and a dashboard of distilled items are very appealing. Member Lopez stated yes, within a logic model that illustrates inputs, activities and outcomes, not in a dashboard, but something more informational to accompany a dashboard. Member Stitzel Pareja asked if that would all be located in one place.

Member O'Connor suggested using the 5Essentials Survey as a starting point to develop measures for the "Conditions for Learning" portion of the dashboard. Member Lopez asked how the district will be using the survey information. Member O'Connor suggested asking some people associated with the development of the survey to come to a future meeting. Chairwoman Datta suggested a separate meeting for that.

Chairwoman Datta asked what Members Kaegi and Lopez propose as a next step. Member Lopez suggested that they explore the Financial Contributions component of the draft dashboard. Member Stitzel Pareja also suggested a look at students beyond eighth grade. Kaegi and Lopez agreed.

### **3b. Community Foundation/STRIVE and other dashboards**

Member O'Connor shared several examples of other district's dashboards from around the country. Each example he shared were from districts that work with the STRIVE network. He explained that he chose these for the breadth of indicators they used. Chairwoman Datta commented that not all of the examples are pure dashboards but contain more information. She asked Member O'Connor what his sense of the STRIVE effort is locally. He remarked that he sees them moving ahead to determine what their measures will be and that they are very interested in collaborating with the committee. Member Spatz commented that STRIVE tends to focus on academic measures and that they are aware that the Oak Park-River Forest school districts are also interested in social-emotional measures. Member Stitzel Pareja stated that STRIVE is looking beyond just academics measures moving forward.

### **3c. Analyses using test scores**

Chairwoman Datta stated that she and Member Stitzel Pareja are still seeking more information. She stated that she anticipates getting more information from ECRA. Member Spatz stated that there is a difference between the committees focus and that of the administration in terms of the data that ECRA will provide. He stated that a goal should be watching growth towards goals and where the district wants to go relative to the past, and reiterated that the focus of growth should be on the “Conditions for Learning” portion of the proposed dashboard.

### **4. Action Items**

Chairwoman Datta asked the committee members to send any comments on the draft of domains and indicators to Member Lopez. Member Spatz suggested getting a copy of the amended domains to the board in January. Chairwoman Datta asked Ms. Johannesson to set up a document dump site for the committee to access all documents presented at meetings. She also suggested making an update presentation to the board in February.

Possible dates for the January regular meeting and an ECRA presentation were discussed.

Adoption of the October regular meeting minutes was tabled until January’s regular meeting.

### **5. Public Comment**

Mr. Alan Randolph stated that Kathy Hymson, FORC liaison to the committee asked him to attend the meeting.

### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Anne Johannesson  
Secretary

