

Date/time: Thursday, September 18, 2025
Location: Minnesota Department of Education (Minneapolis, MN)
Attendees: Eric Billiet, Joey Cienian, Scott Croonquist, Jeremiah Ellis, Jessica Espinosa, Nancy Floyd, Moira Gaidzanwa, Stephanie Graff, Dianne Haulcy, Sheila Hoffman, Krystle Igbo-Ogbanna, Mandy Janssen, Jennifer Kunze, Josiah Litant, Katie McClelland, Nora Morris, Dennis Olson, Jon Peterson, Sally Reynolds, Megan Rozowski, Becky Stewart, Jen Verbrugge, Liz Williams, Tambryanna Williams-Alcui

Notes:

1. Welcome

- a. Welcome from Josiah, May minutes were approved without revisions.
- b. Josiah stated that Deputy Commissioner Graff, our new MNP20 chair, won't be able to join us until 10:30, so she will share some remarks with the group when she arrives. He thanked Commissioner Olson for his tenure as chair from 2023-2025, expressing gratitude for the Commissioner's commitment to and belief in this work.
- c. Josiah shared that the U of M is considering changing their designee to the partnership (someone in a role that oversees all of their campuses, not just the Twin Cities campus). This is still being worked out, and for now Vice Provost Raj Singh remains the president's designee. Josiah said he appreciates how much President Cunningham values MNP20's work, as well as he appreciates her commitment to strong representation on the council. Josiah said he is grateful for all of Raj's support and engagement as an Executive Committee member over the past year. Updates on this change will be provided when we have them.
- d. Josiah welcomed new MNP20 Deputy Director Mandy Janssen. Mandy comes to this work with an extensive background across education including in K-12, higher ed, and workforce development, and she will be a tremendous asset to helping further our efforts. Mandy introduced herself, shared more of her background, and expressed her enthusiasm to be part of MNP20. She will be reaching out to all of our members to meet 1:1 over the coming few months.

2. Introductions

Members went around the circle and introduced themselves and shared one thing they are working on at their agencies/organizations this year that they are excited about.

3. Strategic planning

- Moira and Becky from the Improve Group introduced themselves and gave background of the organization and their work. They are a MN-based work-owner cooperative consulting organization focused on evaluation, planning, and facilitation. They work nationally.
- Folks shared what they liked about previous strategic planning processes they were part of.
- They provided an overview of what strategic planning involves as we build Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership's 5-year plan. Will include identifying critical issues, mapping a strategy towards our vision accounting for current challenges, strengths, opportunities, and emergent issues. We will also be developing implementation plans that operationalize strategy. The result will be determining the focus of the organization and where we spend our resources.
- Improve Group went over their participatory approach to the work that includes inclusive participation, teamwork and collaboration, individual and group creativity, action and ownership, and an iterative process.
- They provided an overview of the timeline (see slides for more details). Four phases between September 2025 and August 2026.
- Josiah mentions that there will be a strategic planning task force. We are putting together the outline of the expectations and ask of that group and will be inviting members to participate in the coming weeks. There will be multiple opportunities for members and stakeholders to participate throughout the process. The Executive Committee will approve the final plan.
- The consultants walked through the phases of the project and the specific activities that each will entail (see slides for more details).
- The consultants facilitated group discussion: what hopes or fears do you have for the planning processes?
- Commissioner Willie Jett also stopped into the meeting during this session, and he welcomed everyone to MDE and thanked the group for their critical work. Following Commissioner Jett's remarks, Deputy Commissioner Graff took a few moments to speak, welcoming members, expressing her excitement as our new chair (2025-2027), and speaking about her enthusiasm for the work we are doing and the strategic planning we are launching.

4. Priorities and progress

Josiah provided updates on key projects:

- **Strategic planning:** A brief recap of why this work matters and what we have done to prepare for it.
- **Educator workforce:** Summarized efforts to-date with Governor's Workforce Development Board and the Interagency Workforce Alignment Task Force, with recommendations coming forward to this group in the coming 6-12 months.
- **"Next phase of dual enrollment policy" cohort:** Updates on progress to-date, announcement of a public webinar to share the results of our dual enrollment survey

on 10/1 and a follow-up MNP20 meeting immediately after to gather input on process. Josiah says the group will have the chance to provide input on the draft vision statement for dual enrollment in November, and the team will be conducting roundtables with students and surveying parents then as well (to provide feedback on some of the ideas around increasing intentionality, access, and success in dual enrollment).

- **Educational attainment goal:** MNP20 is working closely with OHE and MnEEP to develop an attainment goal proposal for next legislative session. More updates on this are expected as process details are determined. We anticipate inviting participation and feedback from key stakeholders by November.
- **Career pathways statewide effort:** MNP20 is working with the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the EPC and discussing strategies for supporting career connected learning across MN.
- **MNP20 financial sustainability and ROI:** There are not currently long-term funding commitments for MNP20's operational budget. Josiah shared he is grateful to the Executive Committee for sustaining funding for the current moment, and we are working on a multi-year funding strategy for the partnership. This includes developing an ROI statement to demonstrate the impact of the work—several IDUC members are working with Josiah on this now.
- **FAFSA supports landscape review:** The FAL committee had paused this work at the start of the year with so much change happening nationally. The group leaders have decided that we are now in a place where this particular work can move forward, and that will begin next month.
- **MNP20 communications strategy:** Josiah has asked Mandy to lead the development of a communications strategy for MNP20 this fall, to develop a plan for how we will routinely reach our stakeholders with news, updates, and information about our work.

5. Closing

There was time for member announcements. Josiah shared that starting in November we will ask organizations to take turns sharing a 5-10 minute highlight from their work (one at each of our meetings moving forward) as a way to continue to lift up the great work everyone is doing. Then the group went around and everyone shared a closing thought reflecting on today's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.