MINNESOTA
P-20 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

P-20 Education Partnership
Meeting Minutes

Date/time: Thursday, April 17, 2026, 2:00-4:00pm
Location: Hybrid (WebEx and Minnesota Office of Higher Education, 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN)
Attendees: Eric Billiet, Rigel Bloome, Marcus Chaffee, Rachel Coleman, Chibuzo Ezeigbo, John Fanning, Ryan Fiereck, Satasha Green-Stephen, Mandy Janssen, Sherene Judeh, Jennifer Kunze, Josiah Litant, Jesse Mason, Katie McClelland, Anthony Miller, Nora Morris, Joe Nathan, Malaka Refai, Sally Reynolds, Megan Rozowski, Deborah Seelinger, Kisha Shanks, Kirk Shneidawind, Nick Stilp, Liz Williams, unknown participant via phone

Meeting minutes:

1. Welcome

- Executive Director (ED) Litant opened the meeting and said a smaller group was anticipated today due to conflicts with the legislative session. Meetings are moving to 9am starting this fall to avoid ongoing conflicts with the House Ed Finance Committee.
- Guests were welcomed, no new members present today.
- Leadership changes:
    - Deputy Commissioner Graff departed MDE. MDE's new Deputy Commissioner, Maren Hulden, has joined the Executive Committee but could not attend today.
    - Former Vice Chair Dr. Satasha Green-Stephen stepped into the Chair role 18 months earlier than scheduled. Chair Green Stephen offered remarks to members thanking them for their ongoing dedication to this work.
    - Dr. Amy Pittenger (U of M) and Commissioner Olson continue on the Executive Committee.
    - The Vice Chair role is currently vacant, and the Executive Committee will select one of its members to serve in this role next month.
- February meeting minutes reviewed and approved without edits.

2. MNP20 bylaws

ED Litant stated that we did not have quorum, so the vote on bylaw changes will occur in September. He highlighted what the changes were, including:

- Removal of outdated language (e.g., references to original "P-16" membership).
- Principal office now defined as the location of MNP20 staff (currently OHE).
- Clearer distinctions between:
    - Responsibilities of the Board (oversight).

    - Responsibilities of the Executive Committee and Executive Director (strategic direction, operations).
- Committee structure updates:
    - Executive Committee and Executive Director would manage committees, task forces, and work groups.
    - Committee members would be appointed by the Executive Committee.
    - These changes align with current practice but we realized we needed to update our bylaws to be in accordance. This ensures that the Executive Committee is managing the operations, though the MNP20 membership still have oversight of committee work, especially as anything done in committees that would lead to recommendations always comes back to the full MNP20 council.
- Chair/Vice Chair language cleaned up for consistency and clarity.
- ED Litant notes that committee and task force meeting minutes must be recorded and approved by MNP20 council, which we will begin doing at our fall meeting.
- Members had no questions or comments about the changes.

3. Legislative updates/discussion

ED Litant provided an overview of bills currently active and directly involving MNP20.

- MNP20 Funding Bill (SF 4481/HF 4450), authored by MNP20 legislative member Sen. Clare Oumou Verbeten.
    - Would provide $1.06M/year in base funding for MNP20 staff and operations.
    - First-ever bill for a direct appropriation for ongoing operations. MNP20 has been historically funded via grants and support of our Executive Committee organizations.
    - The Senate Higher Ed Committee held a hearing on the bill a month ago. There was strong support for the bill from a number of MNP20 members, and ED Litant thanked them for their generous and gracious support, including those who submitted written and/or verbal testimony. The U of M, Minnesota State, and the Private College Council submitted a joint letter of support that was very positively received. The bill was unanimously passed out of committee to Senate Finance, and has recently been included in the Senate Higher Education omnibus bill.
    - House companion bill did not receive a hearing but did have bipartisan authorship. *(Additional note: authors were MNP20 members Rep. Mueller and Rep. Virnig, as well as House Education Finance Co-Chair Youakim.)*
    - ED Litant acknowledges it is not a budget year and the bill may or may not move forward. If not adopted, intent is to reintroduce next year.
- Educational Attainment Goal Bill (amendment to MN Statute 135A.012), also introduced by Sen. Clare Oumou Verbeten. This has been an area of advocacy for MNP20 for the last several years, encouraging the renewal/refreshing of the attainment goal with new provisions including ECE and K-12 subgoals. ED Litant highlighted some of the key proposed changes in the bill, which were written in consultation with guidance from the Office of Higher Education and MNP20 (Assistant Commissioner Dr. Wendy Robinson and ED Litant). ED Litant stated that no one from OHE was able to be at today's meeting, but if the bill is adopted perhaps MNP20 could host a lunch and learn with Assistant Commissioner Robinson to go over the changes in more detail. Highlights include:

- Renames goal to: “Educational Attainment Goal” (broader than “postsecondary attainment,” recognizing that postsecondary attainment is the culmination of a learner’s entire preceding educational journey).
- Expands age range from 25–44 to 24–55.
- Raises the state goal from 70% to 75% attainment by 2040.
- Adds ECE and K–12 benchmarks to explicitly link early learning, K-12, and postsecondary/workforce outcomes.
- Strengthens data disaggregation:
    - Maintains the state’s commitment to disaggregating by race and ethnicity and closing/eliminating equity gaps.
    - Adds gender and economic development regions as additional disaggregation categories, to broaden our understanding of how certain populations are or are not being served.
- Clarifies data sources; removes DEED and DLI where not needed for measurement because the data needed is being received from other named entities.
- Requires interim progress reporting for disaggregated populations.
- Newly includes management of the work shared between OHE and MNP20, including:
    - Joint monitoring and reporting of progress
    - Strategic planning to ensure a coherent strategy across siloes of work
    - Tracking of progress and metrics related to actions being taken across state agencies and other stakeholders
    - Convening relevant agencies with frequency and intentionality
- Sub-goals for ECE and K-12 will be co-developed if the bill passes. They are not identified in the bill specifically, but the bill calls for OHE to work with relevant agencies to develop those goals.
- ED Litant reports that there has been strong enthusiasm among our members for this renewal and expansion of the goal, as well as from legislators he has spoken with who sit on ECE, K12, higher ed, and workforce committees. This is recognized as a major step toward a more explicit statewide cradle-to-career framework.
- ED Litant says that, ultimately, if the legislature chooses not to renew the goal, MNP20 might consider adopting a version of it ourselves to continue to guide our work.

- ED Litant says there were other bills that named MNP20 as participants, members, or leads of a project, including HF 3650, a career pathways bill. The only other bill still actively moving forward as of today is a bill to establishment a Dual Enrollment Funding Task Force (SF 2769), which would establish a large task force (29 members) to examine PSEO and Concurrent Enrollment funding models. MNP20 is listed as a member of the Task Force (Executive Director or designee). Unclear whether the bill will be passed, but it is still active at this time. ED Litant notes that this bill aligns well with MNP20’s existing work on dual enrollment which is focused less on funding and more on vision, intentionality, access, and success. A report of recommendations from that work will be released publicly this fall, and the partnership will likely review it at our September meeting for discussion and potential endorsement of some or all of the recommendations.

4. Committee/taskforce/workgroup processes

Deputy Director (DD) Janssen presents a new framework for clarifying roles and responsibilities for the partnership and its committees, task forces, and workgroups *(see PowerPoint slide for more information)*. In this new framework:

- Members help identify priorities for new committees/work groups.
- Executive Committee approves creation of each new group.
- Members help identify the *right* participants (recognizing member time constraints).
- All groups:
    - Receive clear scopes.
    - Align to strategic plan.
    - Follow consistent structure and documentation.
- Minutes and deliverables must be recorded and reported back to full MNP20.

The goal of this work is to increase transparency, participation, and alignment across our work and across sectors. ED Litant comments that DD Janssen is also working on building some tools for use by our committees and workgroups that will help make their work more consistent, structured, and easily reported back to the full council.

5. Strategic planning progress report and discussion

MNP20's strategic planning consultants, The Improve Group, facilitated a presentation and discussion about the progress on our strategic plan. The strategic plan is in the final phases of development.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- An overview of data sources used
    - Environmental scan:
        - Member survey
        - Community partner survey
        - Legislative interviews
        - Focus groups with national/state P-20s
        - Executive Committee interviews
- SWOT analysis themes were highlighted
    - Strengths:
        - Trusted, neutral, cross-sector convener
        - Commitment to equity
        - Access to longitudinal data systems (SLEDS)
    - Weaknesses:
        - Limited funding
        - Role clarity challenges
        - Too much data, hard to use effectively
    - Opportunities:
        - Define clearer roles and governance
        - Expand collaboration with less traditional partners

        - Strengthen strategic focus and alignment across systems
    - Threats:
        - Political/funding volatility
        - Capacity constraints (volunteer members)
        - Potential backlash to equity work
        - Distrust of data systems
- Draft Strategic Directions are aligned with our Theory of Change (advocacy, collaboration, data proven practice, and equity). These were just workshopped with the MNP20 Strategic Planning Task Force earlier this week and will be further adjusted. Each includes targeted outcomes over 3–5 years.
- ED Litant talks about the "seams of education" approach MNP20 is pursuing, focusing on student transitions as our sweet spot.
- A major emerging theme is that MNP20 should focus on the transition points where no single agency has ownership.
- Members then were engaged in a discussion about pain points at each "seam" of education (ECE-K12, K-12-higher ed, higher ed-workforce). Notes were captured and this feedback will inform year-one activities in the strategic plan.

6. Guest comments, member announcements

- Guest Joe Nathan commented on the importance of including student voices directly in MNP20 processes. He also raised concerns that many districts are not complying with PSEO information-sharing requirements.
- ED Litant states that the next meeting is in September and will be our annual in-person meeting. The meeting will include the postponed bylaws vote and likely a presentation of dual enrollment project results. A summer pop-up meeting will preview the draft strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59pm.