Hall, Jean (GOV)

From: Siegel, Wendy (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 11:22 AM
To: rcollier@michiganfoundations.org
Cc: Hall, Jean (GOV); Siegel, Wendy (GOV)
Subject: Letter from Dennis
Attachments: 20111229111357952.pdf

Rob - Attached please find a letter from Dennis regarding the Council on Educator Effectiveness. The original of this letter is in the mail, but I thought you might also want a copy e-mailed to you. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks and Happy Holidays!

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

December 29, 2011

Mr. Robert S. Collier
President & CEO
Council of Michigan Foundations
One South Harbor Avenue, Suite 3
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Dear Mr. Collier,

Act No. 102 of 2011 created the Governor's Council on Educator Effectiveness as a temporary commission under Article V, Section 4 of the Michigan Constitution with a life of no more than two years. The Council has five voting members: three appointed by the Governor, and one each by the Senate Majority Leader and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Superintendent of Public Instruction or his designee serves ex-officio, without vote. The members appointed on September 22, 2011 are:

Deborah Ball – Dean of the University of Michigan School of Education;
Mark Reckase – Professor of Measurement, Michigan State University College of Education;
Nick Sheltrown – Director of Measurement and Accountability, National Heritage Academics;
David Vensel (Majority Leader) – Principal, Jefferson High School, Monroe;
Jennifer Hammond (Speaker) – Principal, Grand Blanc High School; and
Joseph Martineau (Superintendent's designee) – Executive Director, Bureau of Assessment and Accountability, Michigan Department of Education.

The legislation also created an Advisory Committee consisting of teachers, administrators, and parents which will be named in the immediate future.

The original legislation did not contain an appropriation, but the Legislature subsequently passed a supplemental appropriation bill that provides $200,000 to support the Council's work, and the Governor signed that bill into law on December 19, 2011. PA 102 of 2011 identifies certain purposes for which these resources may be used, and requires "staffing and support" from the Governor's office.

The Council is statutorily charged to prepare, by April 30, 2012, a report to the Governor, Legislature and the Superintendent recommending all of the following:

- A student growth and assessment tool;
- A state evaluation tool for teachers;
- A state evaluation tool for administrators;
- Recommended changes to the requirements for a teaching certificate; and
- A process for evaluating and approving local evaluation tools for teachers and administrators.

It is the intent of the Legislature to pass bills implementing the Council's recommendations.

The Council's charge is formidable and the time frame within which it must produce its recommendations is short, but nothing could be more important to Michigan's future than improving the performance of our public schools.

As we look forward to the New Year, the Council is ready to commence its work in earnest. Appointments have been made, state resources have been provided, and the Governor has identified a primary staff person in my office to serve as the liaison to support the Council. The Council held its first public meeting on December 7, 2011.

However, given the difficulty of the charge, the brief time to complete it and the subsequent stress imposed upon its volunteer members, I am seeking additional financial support through the Council of Michigan Foundations to facilitate the Council's work.

You have separately received a funding request, including an Outline of Work and a Work Plan detailing the Council's planned meeting schedule and work through April of 2012, from the University of Michigan. I write to strongly support the University's proposal and to urge its prompt and favorable consideration.

The Council of Michigan Foundations has a twenty-five year history of partnering with state government to effect the development of good public policy. The Council is positioned to recommend significant new tools to improve the performance of our public schools and I have great confidence in its leadership. With your help, I believe that the Council can successfully fulfill its charge within the contemplated time frame.

Sincerely,

Dennis Muchmore
Chief of Staff