

Context for Summit Planning Meeting

In March 2005, the Board of Education of the Greece Central School District commissioned an educational audit of the District and appointed a task force to develop and conduct that audit. Dr. Kathleen A. Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of the Leadership for Learning Alliance, chaired the task force and directed the audit.

The task force identified critical issues to be addressed and developed questions to be posed to five stakeholder groups - teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members. Auditors subsequently analyzed perception data collected from surveys and focus groups, and conducted a systems analysis to define key elements of the Greece Central School District. Synthesis and analysis of findings and their relationship to research-based factors of high performing school systems served as the basis for recommendations.

In October 2005, Dr. Fitzpatrick presented the audit report to the Board of Education. The report's "General Recommendation" includes these points:

- "The fundamental purpose of the educational audit is to . . . identify key steps to strengthen and enhance the future work of the District on behalf of the students served...."
- "There exists a tremendous opportunity for all...who hold a stake...to make a profound difference...by collaborating in forging a unified vision and shared values and goals to advance the work of the system."
- "The first step in building a shared vision and goals for the district...is to convene a summit that brings all stakeholders to the table together."
- "The design of the summit would be based on a four-part research-based framework..."
- First "would be a root cause analysis of the success of the Greece schools...coupled with a 'foresight analysis' to examine the future challenges and opportunities that are anticipated for the students...in 2020.
- Second, "engage in a collaborative process in defining a set of core values and forging a shared vision and goals to guide the work of the system."
- Third, "the next element of the summit framework focuses on designing key arenas of action that hold the greatest promise of advancing the core values, vision, and goals..."
- Fourth, identify "the critical steps required to facilitate the implementation of the agenda for action."
- "To accomplish these tasks would require a three to four-day commitment of all stakeholders."
- "In advance of the summit...bring together a planning team of representatives of each stakeholder group that would collaborate on several key dimensions of summit design.
- "In addition to addressing critical issues *before* the summit and planning for the work to be accomplished *during* the summit," pay attention to "the ongoing work of each stakeholder group *after* the summit to ensure the sustained support and commitment to advancing the shared vision of the District."