

MINUTES

Land of Sky P20 Council: Executive Committee

August 11, 2025: 11am

Present

Dr. Ivry Cheeks, Pam Hartley, Trina Jackson, Dr. Gene Loflin, Emily Martin, Deanne Meadows, Tracie Metz, Emily Nicholson, Melissa Zenz (Staff),

Agenda

1. Introductions & Welcome
2. Review of Draft Strategic Plan (prepared by Tracy Metz)
3. Alignment with MyFutureNC Priorities
4. Strategic Priorities Discussion
5. Next Steps & September Full Council Meeting Planning

Key Discussion Points

1. Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves, including new participant Trina Jackson (Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Asheville High).

2. Purpose of Meeting

Review and refine the first draft of the new P20 Strategic Plan. Discuss structure, ownership, and delivery to full council in September.

3. Strategic Plan Draft Overview (Tracy Metz)

Built from previous plan, stakeholder engagement, committee notes, and ripple effect mapping. Organized into four strategic priorities:

1. Learner Readiness & K12 Engagement
2. Postsecondary Access, Transitions & Success
3. Workforce Preparation & Career Pathways
4. Collaborative Leadership & Shared Community Commitment

Emphasis on pragmatism and shared responsibility. Actions are categorized as Initiate, Scale, Continue, plus county-specific strategies.

4. Discussion Highlights

Priority 1 – Learner Readiness & K12 Engagement

- Focus on grades 8–12 while acknowledging the importance of pre-K.
- Suggestion: broaden language to support career planning teams (not just counselors).
- Opportunity for P20 to bridge conversations between early education and K-1 teachers regarding learner readiness.

Priority 2 – Postsecondary Access, Transitions, and Success

- Emphasis on access, transitions, and adult learners.
- Justice-involved populations noted as a priority; Buncombe County Reentry Council now has education/employment subcommittee.
- Concern raised about naming specific institutions (e.g., AB Tech, UNCA). Recommendation: use general terminology (“colleges/postsecondary institutions”) for inclusivity.
- Need to ensure strong stakeholder buy-in; potential use of MOUs with council members.

Priority 3 – Workforce Preparation & Career Pathways

- Strong focus on employer connections and reducing duplication of events (e.g., career fairs, expos).
- Desire to coordinate across counties/districts to streamline student participation.
- Suggestion to revisit Race to the Top group model for cross-sector collaboration.
- Importance of involving “worker bees” (career development staff, coordinators) in addition to superintendents/CEOs.

Priority 4 – Collaborative Leadership & Shared Community Commitment

- Members agreed this priority should move to the front (#1) since collective buy-in is foundational.
- Stronger language needed: expectations (not optional) for leadership participation and commitment.
- Committees may be reorganized around these strategic priorities with representation from both leadership and staff.
- Include a section in plan documenting the process used to gather input.

Next Steps

- Tracy Metz to revise draft plan incorporating committee feedback. Here’s the link to the feedback form: [LINK](#). She would like for everyone to provide final input by Friday, August 22, 2025.
- Move Collaborative Leadership to Priority 1.
- Adjust language (career planning teams, inclusive terminology).
- Add section outlining strategic plan development process.
- Emily Nicholson & Tracy to design method for council-wide feedback (possibly two links: one for council members, one for CEOs/leadership).
- September Full Council Meeting to focus on presentation of finalized plan, committee formation, leadership buy-in, and next steps.

Closing

Meeting ran over scheduled time due to depth of discussion. Members expressed appreciation for consultant support and cross-sector partnership.

Next Meeting: Monday September 8, 2025 @ 11am