

OFFICE OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, OVERSIGHT AND RECOVERY
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
October 17-18, 2013

OFFICE OF DROPOUT PREVENTION

03. Approval to contract with Christopher J. Vecchione, Ed.D. to provide consultative services relative to training and technical assistance to schools and/or districts to comply with Senate Bill 2658

Awarded Vendor: Christopher J. Vecchione, Ed.D.
Randleman, North Carolina

Scope of Project: The purpose of this contract is to retain the services of Christopher J. Vecchione as a consultant to the Mississippi Department of Education relative to school restructuring. The Mississippi Department of Education will work with schools, districts, and in some cases, state-level leadership teams to help build the internal capacity necessary to support and sustain effective school turnarounds. A specialist in this area will provide training and technical assistance that will aid districts in identifying key issues and developing strategies based on their own school/district's context. This will be a multi-departmental initiative (Dropout Prevention, Federal Programs and School Improvement).

Personnel associated with this contract are not former Mississippi Department of Education employees or related to any employees.

Scope of the Contract:

- Term of Contract: November 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014
- Total Amount to be Awarded: \$80,000
- Method of Award Pool of Service Providers

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Christopher J. Vecchione, Ed.D.
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EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

- Doctor of Education (2004): NC Administrator Level III Certification
- Specialist of Education (2002): NC Administrator Level II Certification
- Master of School Administration (2000): NC Administrator Level I Certification

North Carolina Principal Fellow (1998 – 2000), The University of North Carolina at Greensboro *Graduate Student*. Selected from a competitive statewide group of applicants. Selections were based on previous academic performance, professional leadership, leadership potential, and dedication to education within the state of North Carolina.

Liberty University (1995), Lynchburg, VA

Bachelor of Science: Elementary / Middle Grades Education

LICENSES

- North Carolina:**
- 00011 Superintendent, Doctorate Level
 - 00012 Principal Grades K - 12, Doctorate Level
 - 00025 Curriculum Instructional Specialist, Masters Level
 - 00113 Elementary Education, Bachelors Level

EXPERIENCE

Rowan-Salisbury Schools ~ Henderson Independent HS (2010 – Present), Salisbury, NC

Federal School Improvement Grant Coordinator & High School Principal. Coordinate all district efforts as they pertain to the expenditure of a three year 2.1 million dollar federal grant. The school system was one of 25 statewide that was selected to receive federal funding for targeted school improvement as one of the 5% lowest performing and persistently dangerous schools in the state. Coordinated the preliminary audit that was required for creating baselines for student and teacher performance, discipline records, curriculum planning, leadership development, and school restructuring under the Federal Turnaround Model of School Improvement. Coordinate all school improvement efforts at the school that relate to the grant and have regular detailed communication with the NC Department of Public Instruction regarding planning, implementation, and evaluation of all grant initiatives. During the second year of the Grant was asked to serve dual roles as Federal Grant Coordinator and Turnaround Principal. Increased Algebra I proficiency scores by 60%, Biology scores by 132%, and English I scores by 110%. Dropout rate was reduced by 77%.

Out of School Suspensions decreased by 43%, student attendance increased from 72% to 77%, and teacher attendance increased from 89% to 97%. In one year moved from bottom 1/3 of alternative schools to top 1/3 in the state. Selected by NCDPI to present at multiple state conferences regarding successful turnaround efforts, NCDPI referred several schools to tour HHS to observe a successful turnaround effort and emulate some of the successful strategies and protocols.

High Point University (2008), High Point, NC

Adjunct Professor. Taught a graduate level course that provided future administrators an opportunity to learn how successful, effective schools and administrators operate in an increasingly challenging, fast-paced, and demanding environment. The course *Educational Leadership* provided the graduate students with an understanding that by replacing the “politics of division” with the “politics of virtue” schools and school leadership can become more community-like, more democratic, and ultimately more responsive to what we know about how students learn and develop. Dean of Education stated the surveys conducted at the close of the course were some of the highest ratings ever observed from graduate students toward a professor.

Randolph County Schools ~ Southwestern Randolph HS (2004 – 2010), Asheboro, NC

Principal. Established the first Parent Teacher Organization and 9th Grade Academy in the history of the school. Increased enrollment in Advanced Placement classes by 500%, increased Advanced Placement course offerings by 200%, reduced dropouts by 58%. Over a period of six years, Southwestern had the lowest teacher turnover rate in the county, lowest number of drop-outs, highest percentage of students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes, highest Advanced Placement class offerings, highest SAT scores, greatest gains with regard to EOC testing, and was the only high school in the region to be awarded the Piedmont Triad Education Consortium’s “Signature School” award in 2009. *Newsweek Magazine* designated Southwestern Randolph as one of the nation’s best high schools for five consecutive years. Selected by the school system to mentor new high school principals. (1,250 students)

President, Randolph County Schools Principals Association (2009 – 2010)

President, Mid-Piedmont 3-A Athletic Conference (2008 – 2009)

Vice-President, Mid-Piedmont 3-A Athletic Conference (2007 – 2008)

Guilford County Schools ~ Johnson Street Global Studies (2003 – 2004), High Point, NC

Principal. Founding administrator of the first K - 8 magnet school in the history of Guilford County Schools. Created and developed the entire instructional and magnet program for this K – 8 school. The school was recognized by Guilford County as one of the greatest and most successful turnarounds for the 2003 – 2004 school year. (300 students)

Guilford County Schools ~ Brooks Global Studies (2001 – 2003), Greensboro, NC
Principal. Administrator of this high performing K – 5 school as first principalship. During tenure the school was designated as a School of Excellence and PTA National School of Excellence. Nominated for PTA Principal of the Year for 2001 and 2002. (450 students)

Guilford County Schools ~ Ben L. Smith High School (2000 – 2001), Greensboro, NC
Assistant Principal for Instruction. Directly responsible for certified staffing, school-wide student attendance, teacher supervision, English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Arts departments, 9th grade student discipline and overall academic progress in the school. Within one year, improved the attendance standing from lowest in the district (14th) to 7th among all high schools. Promoted to principal after one year as assistant principal, selected to lead the most requested magnet school in the county. (1,050 students)

Guilford County Schools ~ Grimsley HS / Hunter Elementary (1999 – 2000), Greensboro, NC
Principal Intern. Worked with educational teams, state equity funding, wrote the 1999 School Improvement Plan for Grimsley High School and created and designed the 2000 Hunter Elementary School Master Schedule. (1,500 students / 450 students respectively)

Guilford County Schools ~ Allen Jay Elementary School (1996 – 1998), High Point, NC
Fifth Grade Teacher. Teacher Assistance Team, Chair; Mental Health Team, Chair; Creative Leadership Team; PTA Board; School Climate Committee; District Media Advisory Committee; PTA Teacher of the Year 1998.

Guilford County Schools ~ Sedgefield Elementary School (1995 – 1996), Greensboro, NC
Fifth Grade Teacher. Director and creator of Comer Sports Program, first elementary school sports program in the county. Awards Committee, Chair; Teacher Assistance Team, Padeia trained, PTA Teacher of the Year 1996.

Africa Inland Mission ~ Rift Valley Academy (1994), Kijabe, Kenya
Middle School / High School Teacher. Taught middle and high school students the subjects of science and physical education in this international boarding school located in East Africa.

PRESENTATIONS

25th Annual National Drop-Out Prevention Council Conference (Atlanta, GA)

Summer Institute on Alternative and Nontraditional Education (Jackson, TN)

14th Annual Conference on Alternative Education (Hot Springs, AK)

25th Annual At-Risk Youth National Forum (Myrtle Beach, SC)

19th Annual National Alternative Education Association Conference (Atlanta, GA)

Faith Elementary School Professional Development (Rockwell, NC)

“High School Matters” Instructional Conference (Salisbury, NC)

Knollwood Elementary School Professional Development, (China Grove, NC)

Federal School Improvement Grant Turnaround Conference (Raleigh, NC)

North Carolina Safe Schools & ALP Conference (Greensboro, NC)

NC Department of Instruction Conference for Student Achievement (Greensboro, NC)