



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee Is An Active Voice In Advocating That All Students Receive Superior Educational Services Enabling Each Student To Achieve Optimum Success Throughout The School Years And Into The World Of Adulthood.

October 18, 2007

New England Institute of Technology
Hall of Fame Room
6:30pm – 8:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Present: Denise Ahern, Deborah Ambeault, Melissa Angell, Jeff Aubin, Ann Brockmann, Amy Canario, Barbara Chadwick, Kim Chouinard, Sheila Collins, Steven DiBiasio, Roberta Emery, Ronald Martin, Dorothy McDonough, Jane Morein, Marty Morris, Ralph Orleck, Robin Pacheco, Lillian Patterson, Mary Pendergast, Kellie Piche-Tatro, Walter Sage, Marion Slater, Paul Stroup Jr, Sharon Terzian, Louise Tillinghast, Barbara Whalen.

Absent: Gloria Bussell, Maya Colontuono, Cheryl Collins, Joanne Dodd, Ruth Feder, Kat Grygiel, Lisa Guillette, Richard Moore, Jane Slade, Kim Wilson.

RIDE attendees: Sally Arsenault, Gregory Stewart

Visitors: Alena Hazard, Wilford Beaudoin

Call to Order, Agenda Review, Announcements

- **RI Regulations: Public Hearings**
 - Wednesday, November 7th, CCRI, Warwick, Room 4080, 5:00pm
 - Thursday, November 8th, The Shepard Building, Paff Auditorium (1st floor), 5:00pm
80 Washington Street, Providence
- **Special Education Advisory Network (SEAN) meeting, November 5th, 5:30-8:30 pm, Chelos, Warwick**
- **IEP *Community of Practice* Network, Saturday, November 3rd, 8:30am-12:00pm, Save The Bay**
 - Register on line by going to: <http://www.ritap.org/iep/membership/membership.php>

Materials: Meeting notices, agenda, minutes, and other materials will be disseminated to members through email, with hard copies in packets at each meeting. Sally and Greg will send hard copies by U.S. mail upon request; one member presently requesting. Meeting packets will be sent by mail to absent members.

Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes approved with one abstention.

(continued)

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Directors Report: Read by Sally Arsenault for Ken Swanson

The Director's report encouraged RISEAC's assistance with the following developments:

- o Regulations - Providing RISEAC comment through testimony and written submission regarding the draft Regents Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities;
- o State Performance Plan (SPP) - Will look to RISEAC for comment on the draft SPP/Annual Performance Report;
- o RIDE Statewide Curriculum website and omission of Alternate Assessment Grade Span Expectations (AAGSEs): Requesting RISEAC's consideration of comment to RIDE and the Commissioner
 - The group voted to write a letter and address with Commissioner in the Annual Report meeting scheduled on November 5, 2007.

- o Resources and Options Brochure: Offers information on RI informal and formal Special Education options and resources for dispute resolution; RISEAC welcome to share this information.

Transportation: Currently no updates or upcoming meetings.

Old Business

Regents Regulations: Eleven major areas that the Regents had considered and addressed in the draft regulations were reviewed and voted on by the committee to be addressed in the testimony presented to the Board of Regents at the public hearings. The following positions were decided:

- 1) Definition of Child with Disability (DD through age 8):
 - The committee supports.

- 2) Definitions of Special Education and Related Services (S/L as a related service):
 - The group opposes.

- 3) Definition of Teacher of Record (definition added):
 - The committee supports.

- 4) Evaluation Timelines (60 calendar days vs. 45 school days):
 - The committee supports.

- 5) Learning Disability Identification (using RTI data in eligibility decisions):
 - Criteria needs to be developed for what constitutes "adequate progress" in response to interventions under RTI. Include group comments in testimony.

- 6) Extended School Year Services (elimination of 230 day provision for certain category of disability):
 - The committee opposes adopting this change without standards.

- 7) IEP Content (keep short-term objectives for IEP goals):
The committee fully supports.

- 8) Transition (keep start age at 14 vs. 16):
Committee fully supports.

- 9) Personnel (Removal of references to minimal staffing requirements, special education class size , and resource teacher caseloads):
 - The committee opposes. Group concerns will be presented at public meeting.

- 10) Continuum of Alternative Placements (streamlined):
 - Committee did not decide. Needs further research.

- 11) Parentally Placed Private School Students (federal language/proportionate share):
 - Committee did not decide.

**The executive committee will draft testimony based on committee work in this meeting, and send the draft testimony to the committee via email for review and comment prior to the public hearings.*

New Business (Due to time constraints these issues will addressed in future RISEAC meetings.)

- **Other Strategic Planning topics**

- State Performance Plan (SPP)
- Individualized Education Program format and related professional development (IEP)
- High School/Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR)
- Unmet needs
 - Transportation safety under upcoming statewide plan
 - Needs of students with mental health issues
 - DCYF
 - Early childhood agenda

Adjournment