



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.*

**February 12, 2009**  
**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

New England Institute of Technology  
Hall of Fame Room  
2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Denise Ahern, Melissa Angell, Jeffrey Aubin, Wilfred Beaudoin, Ann Brockmann, Sheila Collins, Steven DiBiasio, Joanne Eichinger, Deborah Goessling, Craig Levis, Kelly Marie Martin, Dorothy McDonough, Marty Morris, Ralph Orleck, Mary Pendergast, Kellie Piche-Tatro, Walter Sage, Lisa Shea, Jane Slade, Paul Stroup Jr., Louise Tillinghast,

**Absent:** Deborah Ambeault, Deborah Belanger\*, Amy Canario, Barbara Chadwick\*, Kim Chouinard\*, Marie Cummiskey, Ruth Feder, Kat Grygiel, Richard Moore, Jane Morein\*, Pamela O'Brien\*, Robin Pacheco\*, Karen Rebello\*, Sharon Schubert\*, Sharon Terzian\*

\*sent advanced notice

**RIDE:** Sally Arsenault, Ken Swanson

**Guests:** none

**Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review,**

**Announcements:** Ralph announced the following future Leadership Team meeting dates 3/10, 4/7, 5/5 & 6/9. He asked that committee members keep these dates in mind when communicating to the leadership team items they would like included in meeting agendas and/or submission of issue forms.

Family voices and RIPIN will hold their annual conference on 3/12/09

**Approval of the January 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** There were no corrections and the minutes were approved.

**Director's Report:** Kenneth Swanson, Office for Diverse Learners

### **IDEA Issues**

- The ESY (Extended School Year) guidelines passed 2/5/09. The ESY task-force, coordinated by Barrie Grossie will be working on further guidance and technical assistance including the development of documents similar to those used for RIAA eligibility
- Regulations regarding identification of students as having specific learning disabilities – The regents will be reviewing the draft regulations and proposed dates for the phasing out of the sole use of the discrepancy model and transition to full implementation of the use of RTI data for LD identification. The Regents meeting is scheduled on March 12, 2009.
- Major IDEA change – allowance of revocation of parental consent for special education. Parent can withdraw their consent at any time. The Office of Diverse Learners forwarded documents to include with Procedural Safeguards for parents.

### **Commissioner search**

The receipt of applications closed at the end of January. The committee is screening applications and reviewing candidates. The timeframe for identifying a candidate is March/April.

### **Parent Survey**

The survey is going out in March.

### **Leadership Institute**

The institute in May will focus on drop out prevention.

### **Stimulus package**

IDEA and Title 1 monies may potentially increase for the next 2 years.

### **PLP guidelines**

Guidelines for students on RIAA are being developed and reviewed an advisory will be sent out when the work is completed.

### **The SPP**

(State Performance Plan) was submitted 2-1-09. Based on the feedback from RISEAC, RIDE will review the due process hearing process and share panel trends and themes through call center with advisory

### **ODL Vacancy**

There is a vacancy in The Office of Diverse Learners for an Educational Specialist. Please get the word out.

## **Old Business**

### **• Subcommittee Reports**

**Physical Restraint committee-** Asked to present update first. Attached is report of recommendations the committee would like to make to RIDE and a Rationale for those recommendations. Committee members presented sections of the report and opened the floor up for comments and feedback. The committee made not of proposed changes and clarifications. Next steps will be to revise the document, put it to a vote for approval in the March meeting. It will be then presented to RIDE personnel, specifically David Abbot and Marv Abney. Ralph will extend invitations to attend our April or May meeting.

**Childrens Mental health** - There will be a presentation next month from DCYF representatives to cover PEP (Positive Educational Partnerships) initiatives and updates on childrens' behavioral health initiatives. Other topics covered will

include issues around services for young adults 18-21 and FCCP (Family Care and Community Partnerships). The presentation will run from 7:15-8:30.

**ESY** – The ESY work group will reconvene to develop guidance. Future meeting dates are 2/27/09 and 3/9/09. Several RISEAC members are on the work group and will report out at a future meeting.

**IEP** – IEP cohorts are meeting through March to develop training and presentation materials for trainers to train in districts. A report on the number of trainings offered across the state was shared. The training was provided thoroughly across the state at the regional and district level and to private schools and parent groups

**Secondary Regulations** - nothing new

## **New Business**

### **Membership update**

It is the time of year for member recruitment and interviews. The membership committee will be reviewing the member list to identify any areas that need representation and the process will begin. Sheila welcomed current members to join the committee and participate in the recruitment and interview processes.

**Miscellaneous:** Included in the packets is a copy of Dr. Wood's letter of response based on discussion and notes from meeting in January and her presentation of the SPP.

**Public Comment** - None

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned.

2/12/09 Recording Secretary: Mary Pendergast

RISEAC website: [www.riseac.org](http://www.riseac.org)

**Next Meeting: March 19, 2009**

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