



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

Deborah A. Gist
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 17th, 2011
6:30pm – 8:30pm

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

Meeting Minutes

Present: Donna Alqassar, Kate Barnas, Wilfred Beaudoin, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockmann, Amy Canario, Jennifer Connolly, Susan Donovan, Joanne Eichinger, Sharon Ferrara, Deborah Garneau, Patti Hien, Craig Levis, Dorothy McDonough, Pamela O'Brien, Linda Osborne, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Kellie Piche-Tatro, Melissa Reilly, Sharon Schubert, Jane Slade, Mike Burk, Walter Sage and Susan Donovan

Absent: Deborah Ambeault, Jeffrey Aubin, Jacqueline Barrington, William Cauley, Barbara Chadwick, Susan Pfeil, Paul Stroup, Kelly Marie Martin, Ann Rudman, Karen Ramealca, Lisa Shea, Sharon Terzian and Louise Tillinghast.

RIDE: Melissa MacDonald, David Sienko

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review

Announcements:

- Guest speakers for tonight, Sue Stevenson from the Autism Project and Alice Woods from RIDE were welcomed
- Next date for the SEAN meeting is April 14th 2011
- State Special Education Advisories webinar flier was passed out
- Review and approve December and January minutes
- College Planning Forum 7th annual- registration/brochure was passed out

Director's Report: David Sienko

- NECAP scores- RIDE will disaggregate data for students with disabilities and English language learners
- Response to Intervention has played a role in reducing our numbers of students with disabilities in the sub-group
- High School regulations- Commissioner is recommending the BOR hold off on the 1/3 rate for state assessment until we move to the PARCC assessment, as some districts are not ready
- The Commissioner is committed to supporting all students on state assessments and acknowledges "our work has just begun"
- Questions remain on what tools districts will use to measure growth and what growth will be measured
- Governor has appointed four new BOR members and expresses his support of Commissioner Gist
- Two successful statewide trainings have occurred: **Advanced Transition Training for Educators** and **RTI**
- Secondary schools will have the option to waive RTI implementation until after next year
- New Due Process and Mediation forms have been updated and posted on the RIDE website and are available in Spanish
- David Sienko sent out a notice to districts with guidance on the regulations- specifically on referral for special education services. OSEP guidance has also recently come out. David will forward as well as respond to question on "2 cycles of intervention" posed by Mary P.
- Conversation on RTI followed

New Business

- **Speakers:** The group voted on future speakers. Growth module=8, RTI=17, NECAP/PARCC=15, RTTT= 5 and Parent Survey=0
- **Restraint Data** – Melissa will forward the Restraint Data PowerPoint to the RISEAC group
- **Restraint Regulations-** The Director (David Sienko) suggested that RISEAC re-look at the Restraint Regulations and make recommendations based on their questions and concerns that were expressed tonight.
- **BOR letter/High School Regulations-**Based on recent updates, RISEAC has decided to hold off on any "clarifying" letters of endorsement on the regulations until further notice. RISEAC would like to express interest in supporting the agency on guidance for proficiency.
- **Autism Project** –Sue Stevens explained the work they are doing for students with autism as they come to the conclusion of a one year, one million dollar grant from the Department of Health. Focus areas were: parent mentors, social groups for teens and adult education.

Old Business

- **Restraint Presentation-** Alice Woods shared information on the data collection that the Office for Student, Community and Academic Supports completed on restraint use in the districts. A follow up conversation led to Pam O'Brien and Sue Donovan offering to collaborate on a FAQ sheet for families. Alice Woods agreed to help.

There was no public comment

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

**Next Meeting: March 24th, 2011
6:30-8:30pm**

Recording Secretary: Susan Donovan

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org