



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 16, 2012
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

New England Institute of Technology, East Greenwich Events Room- # S-216
1408 Division Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Meeting Minutes

Present: Donna Alqassar, Wilfred Beaudoin, Lori Barden, Kate Barnas, Eileen Botelho, Lynn Bouvier-Kapiskas, Ann Brockmann, Anthony Caetano, Amy Canario, Susan Donovan, Gillian Elliott-Pearis, Craig Levis, Dorothy McDonough, JoAnn Nannig, Pamela O'Brien, Linda Osborne, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Paul Stroup Jr., Patti Hien,

Absent: Jeff Aubin*, Mike Burk, Jennifer Connolly*, Allyson Dupont*, Joanne Eichinger Sharon Ferrara, Deborah Garneau, Melissa Moniz, Ann Rudman and * Louise Tillinghast*

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: David Sienko

Guests: Jane Slade, Jennifer Paolantonio, Sue Lyons, Diane Kriner, Cynthia Van Avery

** Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, and Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. Paul welcomed all and reviewed the agenda. He then made the following announcement.

Announcements: There are 4 postings at RIPIN for different positions: two 20-hour positions looking for a bilingual person and two 10-hour positions for a parent mentor. Please check online for further details.

Approval of the Minutes for January 19, 2012: A motion for approval of the minutes "as is" was made by Anthony C. and seconded by Lori B. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Director's Report:

- **Parent Survey** – David reported that they had found a vendor Avatar who conducts surveys in 7 other states and is familiar with the process. They have asked the districts to update their student rosters so addresses will be correct. Sally Arsenault with partner RIPIN will work together to get the survey out. It will go out a little later than March, probably in May, which will still give time to analyze the results.
- **State Performance Plan (SPP)** – It was due in Washington, DC on Feb 1 and was sent in a timely fashion. David expressed his appreciation to the members of the RISEAC for their input and

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patience during the presentation. Most notable were the timely evaluation and due process compliance indicators which were at 98%. David was appreciative to the Special Education Directors who worked hard to ensure accurate and timely census data on which the SPP is based. David's goal is for the highest rating of "Met Requirements".

- **FLEX Bill** – David mentioned this but indicated that Paul would address it later in the meeting.
- **Governor's budget** – It is up to the House now to pass. The only department which was increased was education. The governor emphasized providing assistance to local schools through the special assistance section. David said that it looked good that it would go through.

Old Business:

- **SPP Response letter** – This was provided in the RISEAC packet and was generally very encouraging. One area of concern for RISEAC was Indicator # 14.
- **Action Plan** – Paul indicated that there are three dates open yet for any guest speakers which the sub-groups may wish to have speak to the membership. Jane Slade is scheduled for May to speak about the High School drop-out rates. Information about the RI Model of the Educator Evaluation System is scheduled for April to be given by Anthony C. and Mary P.

New Business:

- **FLEX Plan Application to NCLB**– Paul indicated that the letter from the leadership team was sent out via the ListServe. It expressed concern about the n-size of 10 and possible unintended consequences of too small a group. The super subgroup (ELL and IEP) has two groups which are quite different. Mixing the two may "muddy" the data and not give clear data. There is a concern if it will target IEP students who show progress differently. There was also concern about the 6-year cohort for high school graduation: do you want a 21-year-old with a 16-year-old in the same cohort?
- **Guest Speakers on Alternate Pathways and available certificates for students with disabilities** – A folder packet was distributed to the members and a PowerPoint presentation was given by Jane Slade and four members of the full work group of twelve people. A brief summary of some of the points follows:
 - **Alternate Assessments** – for the less than 1% of students with IEPs called Rhode Island Alternate Assessment (RIAA). It is based on the AAGSE (Alternate Assessment Grade Span Expectations) and is determined at the annual IEP meeting. A tool is provided by RIDE to assist in determining eligibility for this.
 - **Rhode Island Diploma Requirements** – Students on RIAA do not meet the same standards as the NECAP. The RIAA is not in a position to meet proficiency requirements for a diploma. This presented an opportunity to develop a credential that documents skill attainment and transition to adult education. The certificate options are locally-driven, but RIDE would like to have a framework from which local districts can work to develop/tweak.
 - **Research of the work group led to four critical areas:**
 - **Certificate of Academic Achievement**
 - **Certificate of Work Readiness**
 - **Certificate of Self-Determination**
 - **Certificate of Community and Citizenship**
 - **Time for Input** – David gave time and asked for input/feedback from RISEAC on areas regarding the certificates in these areas: Content, Language, Structure, Communication (re: how to share this information with stakeholders) and Capacity (challenges in implementation). Members in attendance were able to give written feedback to the guests in the identified areas as well as "parking lot" issues. Those members ***not*** in attendance can give feedback to Jane.Slade@RIDE.ri.gov or can contact David or Carol Lovett (David's assistant) if they would like to secure a similar packet of information as that given at the meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Adjournment: Mary P. made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Sue D. The meeting adjourned approximately 8:20 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Ann Brockmann

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org