



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.

March 15, 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: Present - Lori Barden, Wilfred Beaudoin, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockman, Mike Burke, Anthony Caetano, Jennifer Connolly, Sue Donovan, Allyson Dupont, Joanne Eichinger, Patti Hien, JoAnn Nannig, Pamela O'Brien, Linda Osborne, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Paul Stroup, Gillian Elliott-Pearis, Deb Garneau, Pattie Hien, Craig Levis and Louise Tillinghast

Absent: *Melissa Moniz, *Ann Rudman, *Sharon Schubert * Amy Canario * Jeff Aubin *Kate Barnas * Dot McDonough, Donna Alqassar, *Lynn Bouvier-Kapiskas, Sharon Ferrara

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: David Sienko, Sally Arsenault

** Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, and Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm Paul did a welcome and reviewed tonight's agenda and the minutes from February. Wilfred Beaudion and Pattie Hien noted that they were here last month. Linda Osborn approved minutes with the exceptions noted and Tony Caetano seconded.

Announcements:

Director's Report:

David recognized Paul Stroup who received the Lasallian teacher of the year award.

David updated the group on recent House bills introduced: suspension and referral to IEP teams, due process switch from RIDE to DOH and DCYF bills also introduced this year. The Leadership team also reviewed the bills presented.

Dyslexia bills intro. An Act & a Commission for students with dyslexia was also presented. Many bills are introduced every year. Some have been researched more than others. If anyone has any questions on bills proposed and how they will affect students with disabilities, please call David with questions.

State Part B- Federal assurances for compliance obligations are currently being reviewed. This review needs to occur so that the Federal funds will be awarded. Please be encouraged to review. Comments are due by April 13th 2012.

Data in for SPP indicators: most districts are ahead of the curve on the indicators. There were no major surprises.

Indicator # 4: there are 2 districts slightly high at this time. Letters of *corrective action* went out today.

OSEP call- OSEP is revisiting the state monitoring protocol. They will cease onsite verification visits starting next year. We may expect to see more of a desk audit process.

ESEA flexibility- will be looking at how we measure outcomes in addition to compliance.

Old Business:

Sally Arsenault was our guest speaker. She oversees resolution, mediation and due process system. Focus is on good decision making and working together to make that happen. School/Family partnership in center for providing FAPE and student centered support. Parent organizations are providing phone support. The Call Center at RIDE is providing 4 full days a week. The Call Center at RIDE is processing over 900 calls per year. Deena LaVallee is the staff person at RIDE. Resources, problem solving and communication are key. When decisions become very tough and parties do not agree - other venues are available such as, Resolution, Mediation and Due Process.

New Business:

Joanne – membership update: Jeff Aubin & Dottie McDonough have expired terms, 15 parents, 12 districts are represented. We have one person in each category: DOH, DCYF, ICC and private special education schools. We meet 50% parents or individuals requirement. Tony and Paul are retiring this year. We will need representative for private special education schools. Leadership needs- email Joanne if interested in a leadership role.

SEAN will disseminate RISEAC application also.

Upcoming speakers:

April- Alice Woods (restraints and seclusions data)

April –Jane Slade (indicators # 13 & 14)

May-Phyllis Lynch (common core and state assessment for 2014)

***Next year- Sharon Lee for update on graduation.
April 26th next meeting.***

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted

Susan Donovan

Recording Secretary:

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org

Telephone (401)222-4600 **Fax** (401)222-6178 **TTY** (800)745-5555 **Voice** (800)745-6575 **Website:** www.ride.ri.gov

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