



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.

October 18, 2012

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

RI Parent Information Network
1210 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, RI 02920

Meeting Minutes

Present: Kate Barnas, Wilfred Beaudoin, Princess Sirleaf Bomba, Eileen Botelho, Ann Brockmann, Cris Brodner, Amy Canario, Jennifer Connolly, Susan Donovan, Allyson Dupont, Joanne Eichinger, Gillian Elliot Pearis, Deborah Garneau, Rosemary Gomes, Patti Hien, Laura Laviano, Craig Levis, JoAnn Nannig, Cynthia Notarianni, Pamela O'Brien, Robin Pacheco, Mary Pendergast, Robert Wall

Absent: Donna Alqassar*, Lori Barden*, Lynn Bouvier-Kapiskas*, Melissa Moniz, Ann Rudman*, Louise Tillinghast

RIDE/RITAP Attendees: David Sienko

Guest: Elizabeth Pinto, Anthony Rafanelli

** Notes that prior notice was given regarding absence*

Call to Order, Welcome, Agenda Review: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Susan welcomed everyone and review the agenda for the evening.

Announcements:

- A workgroup is being formed with a very aggressive timeline to consider Early Childhood Standards. Contact Ruth Gulluci if you are interested.
- November 30, Parent Conference on Transition. Various sponsors include OSCAS, DOH. More information will be shared on the ListServe.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for May 17, 2012 needed the following corrections. Correct spelling of Ponagansett was noted and correction under Old Business: "Lynn passed out a *revised version of the incident report.*" A motion was made by Ann and seconded to approve the minutes with the corrections noted. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Director's Report:

- David Sienko introduced Beth Pinto who is the new Education Specialist hired to fill the position left vacant by Melissa MacDonald. Currently Beth is Director of Special Education in Narragansett and will join RIDE full time in January. She will work with the OSACAS team in the areas of family engagement and coordinating the RISEAC as well as other duties.
- David reported that RIDE had received the State Personnel Development Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) at the US Dept. of Education. This grant was developed in partnership with the Sherlock Center at RI College along with other partners such as RIPIN and the RtI initiative at the Northern RI Collaborative. Every 5 years a pool of money is made available to the states. It will be used to develop systems of support (RtI) with positive behavioral as well as academic supports. They have had their first organizational meeting with the other grant recipients. RI was one of 17 out of 19 states awarded this grant.
- Special Education Directors' briefings will continue this year with the first one on November 8. It will focus on the new Race to the Top/Early Childhood link.
- Statewide Transition Capacity Building Institute – March 14 & 15 – This institute will provide technical assistance and training with support from the National Post School Outcomes Center and the National Transition Technical Assistance Center for district teams. RI was one of only 5 states chosen this year to get this assistance.
- College Forum Student Panel - This group of students with disabilities who attend RI colleges will travel to districts to make presentations about what it is really like at college. The panel was held this spring at PC when students spoke about the process to get accommodations for students going to colleges. Joe Walejko is the contact person to arrange for this panel to visit schools.
- RIMAC – The RI Materials Access Center for students with vision and print disabilities is now housed in Tech ACCESS in Warwick, a good fit.
- National Center on Intensive Interventions (NCII) has chosen RI as one of the top ranked states to work with them in the technical assistance project to assist students with more severe disabilities. This is getting started and will build on the RtI work already begun.
- RI's Statewide Communication Competence Initiative for students with disabilities was held. Sue Dell from RIC participated in the discussion. This meeting was in response to an identified need for identifying best practices regarding assistive technology.
- OSEP's system of monitoring is changing, being re-designed. There has been no notification yet and is not expected until November. It will not change the data collection system. The Fiscal Monitoring has been completed and findings are expected within 60 days.

Old Business: Members were asked to review and approve the Annual Report. Ann made a motion, seconded by Amy, to approve the report. It was noted that the May minutes with the corrections approved at this meeting should be added. A vote was taken and the Annual Report with the addition of the May minutes was approved by all.

New Business: Workgroup selection and meeting time

- Mary summarized the process used at the Strategic Planning Meeting in September for those members unable to attend. She explained that through the process of consensus, the group arrived at 5 focus areas for this year's work by the committee. The five areas are: 1) Graduation and the new certificate process, 2) Meaningful participation in the IEP process, 3) FAPE and Physical Restraint, 4) Social-Emotional umbrella of several topics, and 5) the Educator Evaluation System and its impact on students with disabilities.

- Each group then shared a summary of their work group's focus and action plan. Members who had not attended the September Strategic Planning meeting were asked to select a workgroup on which they would serve for this year.
- Those sub-groups were then given time to meet and discuss any further details of the action plan to be submitted to the large group including the request for any speakers or special presentations.
- A brief discussion was held about having an update about the Common Core and PARCC as well as Alternate Assessment.
- Each sub-group then reported out to the large group about their discussion and identified possible speakers and presentations needed to meet their group's goal. Those amended action plans were collected to be re-typed and used by the Executive Committee to plan the year's speakers.

Public Comment: The guest from the Jamestown SELAC said that he had been impressed by the scope of work of the group.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Eileen and seconded by Robert to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Recording Secretary: Ann L. Brockmann

RISEAC website: www.riseac.org