

**Washington State Special Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for January 21-22, 2010
OSPI Annex - Olympia, Washington**

January 21, 2010

Members Present:

Trip Goodall, *Chair*; Ann Waybright, *Executive Committee*; Anne Golden; Jeanmarie Moore; Steven Nourse; Amy Patterson; Ron Seifert; and Anne Shureen Smith

Excused Absences:

Lou Oma Durand; Cheryl Fernandez; Nancy Pack

OSPI Staff:

Doug Gill

Note Taker:

Michelle Milton

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
Called to Order	Trip called the meeting to order at 9:00. Council members went around the room and introduced themselves. Minutes from the October 2009 meeting were approved.			
Agency Priorities and Positions for 2010 Legislative Session – Ken Kanikeberg	Ken Kanikeberg, OSPI Chief of Staff, gave a quick background on the issues OSPI is currently facing for the 2010 Legislative session: OSPI priorities are as follows: 1. Restoration of Levy equalization with a 50% levy cap 2. K4 funding ratio 3. All day kindergarten 4. Early learning OSPI needs to keep an eye on the future and			

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	<p>make a plan that can be implemented by the Legislature to responsibly ensure the future of school funding.</p> <p>Mr. Goodall commented that the SEAC committee made the point that general education funding needs to be fixed before special education funding. Any kind of funding cut to general education will also impact special education.</p> <p>Ken commented that our revenue stream is not in a great position. School districts could go bankrupt when looking at pensions and TRI. The proposal is to have additional resources. If the State controls spending, the districts may have to open up a bargaining agreement and that leads to a possible school district bailout of insufficient funding by the state.</p> <p>Ken also commented how much he and Superintendent Dorn appreciated the SEAC's on-going efforts to improve services for children with disabilities and looks forward to the development and delivery of a consistent and consolidated message for legislators.</p> <p>Discussions ensued and SEAC members had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.</p>			
<p>Washington State Special Education Coalition's Priorities and Positions for 2010 Legislative Session – Christy Perkins</p>	<p>Christy Perkins is the Legislative Chair for the Washington State Special Education Coalition (WSSEC).</p> <p>The Coalition began in 1977 and recognizes the importance of working together with</p>			

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	<p>different organizations and help local special education support groups to get started. The WSSEC priorities for the 2010 Legislative session are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability • Intervention At Any Age • Training • School Safety and Discipline • Recruitment and Retention • Funding <p>The number one issue is the Network for Excellent in Washington Schools (NEWS) lawsuit, (also known as the McCleary case) as the Legislature is not keeping their paramount duty; basic education is more than what has been currently defined by the legislature.</p> <p>WSSEC did not support HB 2261 last year because of the lack of planning around making some joint decisions. WSSEC was locked out and the commitment has always been all parties need to be at the table.</p> <p>OSPI will be involved with HB 3026. This bill is regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws.</p> <p>WSSEC concerns for the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for students who are not Special Education, i.e. LAP. • Career and Technical Education, Dropout Prevention – funding is at about 1990 level, getting wiped out. • Transportation funding – moving \$ out of Special Education to back fill those programs not properly funded 			

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	<p>(transportation).</p> <p>Civil rights issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement gap issues/disproportionality issues – Special Education and 504 needs to be represented here as well. If not, it could be construed as discrimination. • WSSEC supports the current Special Education funding formula. <p>Christy directed SEAC to the other handout (not brochure) to explain a possible training issue.</p>			
<p>Core Issues Review</p>	<p>Doug explained that this session is slightly different than the last 19 he has experienced. Ideally, Legislatures deal with a balance of revenues and expenditures. Right now expenditures exceed revenues at an unprecedented level. Now we either cut or reevaluate essentials versus non essentials to the tune of \$2.6B.</p> <p>In the 2nd Governor’s budget, Levy Equalization is back in, but not K4 ratios. ECEAP slots for 3 year olds have also been restored, but it remains to be seen what the Legislature will ultimately decide. A number of specific bills that potentially impact special education were reviewed with committee members. Since it is early in the session, OSPI will monitor the progress of these bills.</p> <p>By way of background, Doug reviewed the special education lawsuit of 2007, and the relationship of that lawsuit to the current</p>			

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	<p>McCleary case to be decided in February. He also explained the relationship between the agency's position of the funding issues and the impact of those funding issues on special education students and their families.</p> <p>Doug also indicated that the Quality Education Council (QEC) is redefining basic education on the basis of prototypical schools. What the measured steps will be in moving to that approach is the fundamental funding question going to the Legislature from OSPI.</p>			
Protocol Practice Sessions	Members spent time anticipating questions that might come from Legislators and/or legislative staff in their afternoon meetings "on the hill."			
LUNCH				
Finalize SEAC Legislative Position	The group discussed the SEAC brochure and solidifying their message.			
Meet with Legislators				
Public Comment	No comment was received.			
Adjourned				

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January 22, 2010

Members Present:

Trip Goodall, *Chair*; Mary Alice Heuschel *Vice Chair*; Ann Waybright, *Executive Committee*; Lou Oma Durand; Anne Golden; Heather Hebdon; Jeanmarie Moore; Steven Nourse; Amy Patterson; Ron Seifert; and Anne Shureen Smith

Excused Absences:

Cheryl Fernandez; Nancy Pack; Anne Shureen Smith

OSPI Staff:

Doug Gill

Note Taker:

Michelle Milton

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Day 2, Call to Order	Trip called the meeting to order at 8:45.			
Review/Debrief of Legislative Visit	Anne Golden, reported positive feedback from her visit. Her senator was really excited about Levy Equalization restoration, but is concerned about increasing revenue for the state as a whole. Amy Patterson stated that one representative's wife is a special education teacher so he understood the issues, was open, and agreed with Levy Equalization restoration as well. 2 of the 3 legislators she visited with did not think all day kindergarten was feasible this session. Jeanmarie Moore saw 2 of her 3 representatives and a legislative aide. Her	Email OSEP Report	Michelle	

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	<p>senator was really open and agreed on Levy Equalization and K4, but was also concerned about funding all day kindergarten.</p> <p>Steve Nourse suggested finding out what individual legislators have done on a positive level and use that in your approach.</p> <p>Ron Seifert indicated his legislators were positive and responsive to his input.</p> <p>Trip Goodall reported that legislative staff members were very supportive, said with almost 100% certainty Levy Equalization would be passed. The K4 funding ratio issue was unfamiliar to the aide, however the senator does want to pass sales tax to raise revenue, but this is not received well even by her own staff.</p> <p>Mary Alice Heuschel is working with PSESD superintendents. With the Governor's first budget proposal, she loses \$6.2 million which would cut 36 teachers, transportation and increase class sizes.</p> <p>Mary Alice is providing information to the community about what the impact of the governor's budget will be and will be asking for feedback.</p> <p>Doug stated that there are currently 27 school districts on budget watch, which could mean serious financial difficulties and a possible takeover by the state or ESDs.</p> <p>Both Trip and Mary Alice brought up sales and income taxes to fund programs instead of being cut. Maybe even at the local level, instead of the state level so that tax payers know where their taxes are going.</p>			

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	<p>Trip also brought up what our legacy is. It is our generational responsibility to take care of individuals who cannot take care of themselves.</p> <p>Doug brought up the possibility of consolidating small school districts. Possibly going with a district system, or even a regional system.</p> <p>Doug announced the final compliance report from OSEP; all 12 areas are “require no action.”</p> <p>He also reminded members that SEAC is the advisory group for RTI federal SPDG grant and provided the executive summary for the evaluation of the grant which shows the program model, questions asked in the evaluation, and a summary of the next steps. A copy of the summary was provided for each committee member. Doug quickly reviewed this document with the group.</p>			
<p>QEC Update – Superintendent Dorn and Ken Kanikeberg</p>	<p>Trip briefly summarized the results of the legislative meetings that occurred yesterday. He also touched on ways to approach the funding issue rather than decrease and planning ahead.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn provided SEAC with an overview of the Quality Education Council (QEC), which takes a look at our current funding system, and tries to make the system understandable. QEC also addresses the fact that a lot of school districts are already squeezed on funds with regard to collective bargaining agreements, health benefits, and pension funds. When we are able to free up</p>			

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	<p>money for local districts, we want the local district to have discretion to enhance other programs, including special education. We also need \$806K for transportation to move forward in funding the QEC recommendations and helping the whole system.</p> <p>The challenges for the QEC, if it doesn't move fast enough or move forward, is that we may lose some of the partnerships created in the QEC. There is a good cadre of partnerships and continue to move forward.</p> <p>Questions were asked by SEAC members: Mary Alice appreciates the leadership on QEC, and asked if OSPI is supporting HB 2776, regarding funding distribution formulas for K-12 education?</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn indicated OSPI was supportive of the report bill, and hoped a crosswalk bill will get pushed forward.</p> <p>Mary Alice raised a question about the social impact of funding according to school districts.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn stated that communications have been that although superintendents need to scrub their budgets to describe zero based budgeting approaches, be we are now at 0, and there isn't any more to squeeze. Superintendent Dorn also said the current achievement requirements are much more difficult to reach with larger class sizes so we need to assess if our goals are attainable and reachable and perhaps need to reevaluate those goals addressing what is different today in our schools than before, what has been the</p>			

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	<p>impact of our efforts so far, and what is the safest environment for schools? These are the decisions principals and superintendents have to make with the resources we have.</p> <p>Ken commented that the legislators do not understand the K4 funding ratio and that we need to take the message of the impact across the state. This can be done effectively through the ESDs.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn noted that K12 was the first attempt at early learning.</p> <p>Ken said it's been more than 20 years that this has been in place. The first was recognition was the K3 ratio.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn stated that the state has never paid for safety in schools before. Technology isn't the same. It's not just internal technology is needed for data reporting, but does everyone have the ability to use data effectively. If technology is now a part of basic education, how do we level the playing field for all kids?</p> <p>Ken noted a current study showing kids spending 7-8 hours each day on technology.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn also commented the state's Race to the Top (RTTT) federal funding application. The application will be helped by moving HB 2261 and others forward, but it is not going to be a financial release in the future. Today's bills only help us enter the race for additional federal funding. We still need these bills to pass, but it is still going to be a struggle.</p>			

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	<p>Trip asked where is the other federal money coming from that Governor Gregoire is talking about?</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn answered additional questions regarding stimulus funding for education. Discussions are scheduled to examine this option, but we can't count on that.</p> <p>Trip noted this could take years to recover once the legislature starts taking steps backwards.</p> <p>Superintendent Dorn agreed, adding the good news is we are spending a lot of time on the hill building those relationships in a systematic way to positively build those relationships, showing the differences between three years ago and now. The biggest hope is those people in the education system are solid people and committed to making a difference in the lives of children.</p>			
<p>Response to Intervention (RTI)-Leslie Pyper</p>	<p>Leslie discussed the ERS evaluation for RTI in more detail. A full report and executive summary of the RTI evaluation document is on the web site. The appendix includes each district broken down by elementary, middle, and high schools. The final report just sums it up.</p> <p>Heather wanted to publicly thank Leslie for what a wonderful job she has done since taking RTI over.</p> <p>Leslie noted that one suggestion was to narrow our focus for the SPDG, indicating that ERS is suggesting narrowing our focus in order to see better results.</p> <p>Some discussion of the RTI efforts in the state</p>			

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	<p>followed.</p> <p>Doug noted while the RTI program is implemented and working well for the schools, the concept of RTI is not imbedded. This is why we need a reliable evaluation such as the ERS model.</p> <p>Trip indicated that model demonstration sites were within buildings and not sure if this will become district-wide.</p> <p>Ron asked if the districts are willing to implement and further RTI.</p> <p>Leslie said yes, we have seen more RTI implementation.</p> <p>Heather said RTI has the potential to be successful even if there is no funding once we have the buy-in, and that will happen once they see the success.</p>			
<p>Early Childhood Update – Sheila Ammons</p>	<p>OSPI will be setting the target for APR indicator 7 that is due. We have been at full implementation for three years, so now we need to provide the data and improvement targets.</p> <p>Indicator 7 is the early childhood outcomes indicator. The data look at preschool children with IEPs in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Positive social-emotional skills b. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills c. Use of appropriate behavior to meet their needs. <p>This requirement applies to every child who has an IEP in preschool, in all areas.</p> <p>The COSF template will take the data entered</p>			

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	<p>and attach a letter (See Handout). The numbers in the boxes only round up and that is because you want to show progress. These are the target data we are looking for.</p> <p>This data is not representative of the real numbers because they are linked to funding so they are going to be inflated a bit.</p> <p>Ron said if you look longitudinally at this data, it would predict that those who don't make progress now are going to be less successful over time.</p> <p>Anne Waybright indicated she wouldn't want to bump up the numbers higher than a minimal rate because the data is somewhat subjective and that transition for many preschoolers is a potential backslide, but then we do see improvements over time.</p> <p>Sheila indicated one of the new resources for districts was a one page info sheet for parents. What is COSF, how do you do it and what can you do with the data?</p> <p>Amy asked how the proposed targets compare across states.</p> <p>Sheila responded that since no one feels entirely comfortable about the validity of the data at this time and minimal target setting might be the most appropriate approach</p> <p>Heather asked if the numbers in the handout</p>			

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	<p>were the projected numbers going to recommended for APR.</p> <p>Sheila said year one is a base line data, but year two has to show an increase.</p> <p>Heather was glad to hear of the new tools available to increase accuracy of the data as it is so critical and will have a huge impact.</p>			
LUNCH	<p>Next meeting March 18-19 in Yakima?</p> <p>Doug said SEAC needs to think about 1 day meetings unless the agenda is tight.</p> <p>Thursday nights are preferred.</p> <p>Trip said it does say in the bylaws that we are to move regions for meetings.</p>			
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Brattain passed away early January 2010. There will be an organ recital on January 26th at the Washington Center for Performing Arts in Olympia. He died after his battle with cancer. 			
CORRESPONDENCE	<p>On November 7, 2009, OSPI received a letter from Janet Gonzalez thanking the SEAC committee for the plaque that was given to her.</p>			