

**Washington State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Meeting Minutes for March 15-16, 2006
Red Lion River Inn, Spokane, Washington**

March 15, 2006

Members Present:

Heather Hebdon, Chair; Ann Waybright, Vice-Chair; Trip Goodall, Executive Committee; Renee Buell; Cheryl Fernandez; Janet Gonzalez; Monica Meyer; Steve Nourse; Ronald Seifert; Kathleen Wenzl.

Excused Absences: Susan Dineen, Anne Golden

Note Taker: Julie Scheffer, OSPI

OSPI Staff: Doug Gill; Kathy Bartlett; Kristin Hennessey.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 9:15am by Heather. Review of minutes from February 2-3, 2006 meeting was done with no corrections or additions. Minutes motioned and approved. Excused absences are Susan Dineen and Anne Golden.			
Sound Options, LLC, Karen Davis	<p>Karen Davis from Sound Options presented materials and information on mediation in special education. She described a mediation triangle of issues facing candidates with mediation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually look at the mediation process and assess • Have the procedural needs been met to the client through mediation • Emotional needs of the client- are they being met? <p>Karen also covered the main issues in the annual report that Sound Options provides to OSPI. She bulleted highlights of the report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpersonal conflict and communication (at least ½ of the cases last year were related to communication issues including cases filed by districts as well as parents.) • Program and IEPs • Placement 			

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline and suspension • Reimbursement for private services • Staffing • Assessment and eligibility • Transition and graduation (i.e. holding child back vs. keeping with peers) • Transportation <p>Karen noted a trend that discipline issues have increased in the last 10 years- since 1996. There has also been an increase in Asperger's Syndrome cases and in Developmental Disabilities cases. Timeline for the mediation process was explained including information on how case timelines are sensitive and affected differently when various parties are involved. The importance of a durable agreement is critical in completing the mediation process. Karen explained that it is important to make sure within the agreement that all parts are discussed, negotiated and agreed upon by both parties and the agreement is clear to both.</p> <p>There are times when a case may have multiple issues including a communications piece which may be resolved through mediation, and the other issues of the same case could be brought forth through complaints or due process hearings. Doug added clarification that if the mediation agreement is not meeting the needs of the client, then the client may file a citizen's complaint.</p> <p>Karen covered the training schedule that is offered through Sound Options LLC. The monthly update found on the Special Education Operations webpage http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed offers the course title, training dates and facilities that will host these events for Sound Options.</p>			

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
WA Learns Funding update, Renee Buell	Renee began with handouts on WA Learns and gave a brief summary. She hopes that the WA Learns chairperson can attend a future SEAC meeting due to the fact special education is such a large part of the funding model. Committee was in agreement to draft a letter to the WA Learns Committee with the Legislative recommendations. Heather agreed to draft letter and bring in the morning for review.	Letter to be submitted to Renee.	Executive Committee/Chair	April, upon completion
Legislative Update, Leslie Goldstein, OSPI	Leslie Goldstein stated that 375 bills in total passed. The main focus within this session was looking at what skills are needed by High School students to successfully graduate. She also covered the details of the bill that passed related to alternative assessment and the graduation requirements. Ron Seifert asked for clarification on HB3127 (Ombudsman bill) and if it was modeled after the Long Term Care Ombudsman. Leslie offered reply with discussion that followed regarding availability of models for Ombudsman in the U.S.	Email funding formula to notetaker.	Leslie	After meeting

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
<p>Paraprofessional Training data, Carol Brewer and Elaine Kurlinski, Bates Technical College</p>	<p>This program has information and registration online available at anytime at www.bates.ctc.edu/paraeducator/para00.htm .</p> <p>College credits are earned in each course from 1 to 5 credits depending on course. Once registration is complete the materials are mailed to the student and they have three months to complete the coursework on their schedule from their home. Nine courses are currently available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with Special Needs in Inclusive Settings • Understanding Diversity • Beginning Sign Language • Child Abuse and Neglect • Child Growth & Development • Deafness: Implications for Learning and Life • Intro to the Education of Students with Disabilities • School Law • Understanding Human Behavior <p>Affordable pricing for classes: 1 credit classes \$21 per class 3 credit classes \$69 per class 5 credit classes \$96 per class</p> <p>An evaluation is completed by each student at the end of each course. The most common places students are learning about Bates courses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School or school website • Bates website • Friend or colleague • Conferences <p>Typically annual course enrollment is 500+ new students as well as the continued enrollment of 3380 of which 2068 is unduplicated enrollment. Participants are made up of paraprofessionals, teachers, related service providers, parents, high school students and other individuals. The three areas that are regularly being assessed are: 1) Keeping current with program needs; 2) Continue to</p>			

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<p>Ombudsman Update, Kristin Hennessey, OSPI</p>	<p>stay current with IDEA; 3) Revise training courses and adjust as needed. The biggest trend discussed was students are consistently asking for more courses to enroll in.</p> <p>Kristin presented the group with a handout of the Ombudsman webpage as provided at www.k12.wa.us/speced . Telephone calls taken from parents were discussed as well as the way these calls are fielded, monitored and replied to. She identified the three main tools and pieces of information she consistently refers to: 1) Dispute resolution information; 2) Due process information; and 3) CADRE’s “Steps to Success: Communicating with Your Child’s School”. Emphasis is always focused on resolving problems at the lowest level. Communication is critical. Call data, format and history were covered. The group asked about the 1) use of data; 2) exploring the idea of an 800 number; 3) keeping neutrality in the ombudsman position. Kristin mentioned an interest in exploring the possibility of making a pamphlet of the ombudsman position. Heather asked if she planned to continue visiting groups outside the agency and she agreed she would be and was working on setting up times.</p>			
<p>Miscellaneous Administrative Issues, Heather</p>	<p>Cheryl suggested that bylaws for the Committee be reviewed every two years and also suggested that the Chair and executive committee have two year terms. All agreed Elections will be in May at retreat and appointments start in September. Janet and Steve volunteered for the nominating committee. A vote will be held in May to decide term of executive committee.</p>			

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March 16, 2006

Members Present:

Heather Hebdon, Chair; Ann Waybright, Vice-Chair; Trip Goodall, Executive Committee; Renee Buell; Cheryl Fernandez; Anne Golden; Janet Gonzalez; Monica Meyer; Steve Nourse; Ronald Seifert; Kathleen Wenzl.

Excused Absences: Susan Dineen.

Note Taker: Julie Scheffer, OSPI

OSPI Staff: Dr. Terry Bergeson; Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel; Doug Gill; Leslie Goldstein; Kathy Bartlett

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	WHO	WHAT	WHEN
Meeting Call to Order	<p>Heather called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Suggestions were solicited from the committee on the letter drafted to the WA Learns Committee Chair. Heather will rewrite with changes. Subjects nominated for 2005-2006 Committee Priorities are (and voted on by committee members):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention/Recruitment- Sped Staff (1 vote) ▪ Literacy (0 votes) ▪ Higher Education Training- Alternative Paths (3 votes) ▪ Transitioning beyond High School- Significant DD (4 votes) ▪ Autism- Early Intervention Services (2 votes) ▪ Staff Development- mental health issues, Sped issues, job development, autism, differentiation training, inclusion (9 votes) ▪ Best Practice: speced services (one vote) ▪ Appropriate Funding (2 votes) ▪ Paraprofessionals - numbers, how used, what training/literacy (5 votes) ▪ Accommodations/Modification Issues & Training (1 vote) ▪ Inclusion- define, what is it looking like? (1 vote) ▪ IEP facilitation training (1 vote) ▪ Violence in Schools/Classrooms (0 votes) ▪ Student Mental Health Needs (2 votes) ▪ Prereferral Interventions (1 vote) ▪ IDEA Implementation- aversive interventions (0 votes) ▪ Assessment Options Training- how to choose/criteria- does it correlate with student's IEP? (3 votes) 			

<p>Dr. Terry Bergeson, OSPI; Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel, OSPI</p>	<p>Retreat Planning is to include: Copies of last year's report DDD Working Adult Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Projects that help students graduate, get jobs ▪ DVR priorities Lou Colwell- Interagency Collaboration Seamless Service Delivery Model (Early Learning) Cinda- data post-school outcome survey Update ATSEP- Kathy Governor's Office report Staff Development- Kathy Davidson Professional Standards Board</p> <p>Terry and Mary Alice were available during work period in which committee chose priorities for the upcoming year and were able to make comments. Terry said one of the things she was concerned about was assessment opportunities for all students in special education programs. She wants to make sure all teachers and staff are clear of all the assessment opportunities available including what the guidelines are and having a clear understanding of them. This would enable them to provide specially designed programs properly and know how to connect them to grade level expectations. Other options are available in addition to the developmentally appropriate WASL (DAW) and portfolio. IEP meetings and components related to the meetings including what items should be differentiated to create appropriate instruction for that child from the evaluation. Progress monitoring has been built into the guidelines. Terry believes outreach is key in getting the information about GLEs and program incentives to special educators.</p>			
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<p>State Improvement Grant Update, Kathy Bartlett, OSPI; Sylvie McGee, Linda Rinaldi</p>	<p>Kathy Bartlett presented with the project coordinators Sylvie McGee and Linda Rinaldi. The Powerpoint presentation included materials on the State Improvement Grant project and presented information on the application due this year and the variable components of the project. This included the five year cycle of the project and vital information on improving literacy. The State Personnel Development Grant application is due this year. Also covered was project overview with goals and information on summits. Terry and Mary Alice had questions regarding the collection of data and information. The project coordinators said they would get the information requested by Terry and Mary Alice to them once it was composed. Information in this report and the Learning Improvement department can be found at http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculuminstruct/SpecialEdLearning/StateImprovement/DemoSites.aspx</p> <p>The higher education group including Association of Trainers for Special Education Personnel, ATSEP, and 22 professors and OSPI staff have met and discussed certification, highly qualified and IDEA. There will be another meeting in May and a summer retreat. Training at the summer institutes for mentoring is being looked at through the coaching model. PAVE has been part of the group and part of getting information out about the grant including coordinating with the state needs project and the PBS program.</p>			
<p>Director's Report, Doug Gill</p>	<p>Doug gave highlights from the March monthly report for Special Education Operations at OSPI. This includes the JLARC report, Sound Options LLC update, OSEP Issues FAQ for parentally placed students, Special Education Data collection forms for the 2006-2007 school year and the 2006 Special Education Summer Institutes schedule. These can be found at http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/monthlyupdates/March_2006_update.pdf</p> <p>Also covered were bulletins that are available on our website that have valuable information: http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2006.aspx</p>			
<p>Public Comment, Barbara Tompkins, Spokane</p>	<p>Ms. Tompkins commented on pay scales and low numbers of special education professionals. What are the incentives and ways to get people into special education programs? Would like to see ideas for Legislation on scholarships and effective programs to fill positions across the state.</p>			
<p>Information about next meeting - including Sub-committee work</p>	<p>Janet expressed that she would like to have a list of nominees and positions available to executive committee by next meeting May 8-9. Wenatchee was chosen for meeting site. Committees were chosen and volunteered for. Sub-Committees were chosen in this order: Steve and Cheryl chose Higher Education; Monica, Renee and Sue chose Transition; Ron, Kate, Monica (alt.) and Ann Waybright chose Staff Development, Trip, Heather and Anne G. chose Paraprofessionals; Assessment was included with Staff Development sub-committee. Sub-committees broke into groups and worked independently to plan for next meeting.</p>			

<p>Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, Astri Zidack ESD 101 and Wendy Bleecker, Project Director</p>	<p>Highlights and notes from presentation by Astri and Wendy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding source -Dept. of Education, Office of Juvenile Justice Department of Social and Health Services ▪ Districts involved - Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake, Nine-Mile, Riverside School Districts and Spokane Public Schools ▪ Dollar amount breakdown per year - \$2,700,000 entering year 2 of 4 ▪ Initiative goals - reduce violence, drug/alcohol use and abuse, truancy and increase mental health services and access for students ▪ Initiative filters - disproportionality and restorative practices ▪ Initiative intentions - system change, program development, sustainability ▪ Structure - Advisory Board (monthly), Element Groups (monthly) and Large Partnership Group (quarterly) ▪ Initiative Elements- 6 key elements including safe school environment, drug and alcohol prevention and early intervention, school and community mental health prevention and treatment intervention services, early childhood psychosocial and emotional development and safe school practices <p>Also covered was system in place for safety of students in case of crisis. The public response system is part of this system.</p>			
<p>Reporting Out by Committees, Adjourn</p>	<p>Committee expectations and items for next meeting were covered. Meeting adjourned by Heather at 2:30pm.</p>			