

**Washington State Special Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for February 7-8, 2007
Olympia, Washington**

February 7, 2007

Members Present:

Trip Goodall, Chair; Anne Golden, Vice-Chair; Ann Waybright, Executive Committee; Cheryl Fernandez; Janet Gonzalez; Kathleen Wenzl; Mary Alice Heuschel; Monica Meyer; Ron Seifert; Steve Nourse; Susan Dineen; Renee Buell.

Excused Absences: Heather Hebdon.

OSPI Staff: Terry Bergeson; Bob Harmon; Douglas Gill; Mary Ellen Parrish; Kristin Hennessey.

Note Taker: Jessica Diaz, OSPI

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
Call to Order:	Chair, Trip Goodall, called the meeting to order at 9:45am. The meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Trip announced that an agenda change had occurred, Representative Quall would be unable to attend the meeting. Terry Bergeson was introduced for her update.			
Dr. Terry Bergeson	Terry began by thanking those who served on the Excess Cost Committee. She is very excited about the committee's recommendations. Mary Ellen Parrish will further explain during her presentation. Discussion followed regarding Terry's attempts to work with the US Department of Education to allow our state to implement the DAW for another year, not			

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	<p>for accountability purposes, but for research purposes. All attempts were denied by the Department of Education. A new alternate assessment is in the process of being designed but there is a large amount of work to do before it is finalized.</p> <p>Terry produced a document outlining the differences between the Governor's proposed budget and OSPI's proposed budget. The budget was briefly discussed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governor used the basis of SEAC's recommendation, shown on the funding flyer, but kept the definition of basic education as it is currently stands. • While we still have no conclusion of the special education lawsuit, this will also effect the deliberation of funds. • Recommendations for funding that will allow full day kindergarten for students with poverty. <p>Other issues were discussed that will effect special education including the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and other bills that are of importance to special education and funding.</p>			

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Dr. Doug Gill, Director's report	Doug Gill reviewed the sections of the governor's budget that could have an impact on special education. This review was to allow SEAC members to be informed of upcoming legislation when meeting with their representatives. Questions and discussion followed each bill.			
Ombudsman Report- Kristin Hennessey	Kristin Hennessey gave a brief overview of her status as Ombudsman. Information included: her increase in calls (338 in the last 4 months); adding 10 hours to her work week (she now works 30 hours per week); updated SEAC on her involvement with the Governor's ombudsman; and asked for clarification on the type of reports/data SEAC would like her to report on and how often they would like the information.			
Mary Ellen Parrish	Mary Ellen briefed the SEAC committee on a proposal in the legislature that recommends a new methodology for special education excess cost accounting. It will have to be adopted into the appropriation governor's budget. Please see the PowerPoint for further information on the recommended changes.			
Senator McAuliffe	Senator McAuliffe was unable to attend due to family emergency.			
Prepared for the representative meetings.	SEAC publications were reviewed to ensure that all questions were answered and clarifications were made to further			

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	prepare SEAC members to meet with their representatives.			
Public Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jeannie, a teacher of students with disabilities is disappointed by the changes to the WAAS portfolio and the need to access the general education curriculum instead of functional curriculum (life skills) in order to pass the portfolio. 2. Don, a teacher of developmentally delayed students, in a life skills program, is opposed to adding general education curriculum assessment which will overload the students who are working on learning how to cross the street and brush their teeth. 	<p>OSPI will look into what happened during the training. Where is the information coming from?</p> <p>Determine what information OSPI is giving out regarding the portfolio and the alternate assessments.</p>	Joe Willhoft presented to the SEAC Committee Day 2 of the meeting. He will also give further updates at upcoming SEAC Meetings.	2/8/07
Recommendations for future meetings	<p>Recommendations for upcoming meetings were briefly discussed. These recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the draft regulations • Update on the Special Education Lawsuit • Update of Alternate Assessments • Planning on the Annual Report and retreat. • Follow-up to the outcomes of SEAC members' meetings with their representatives. 	Send an email checking the availability of SEAC Members for the tentatively scheduled upcoming meeting and see if anyone has any further agenda items.	Jessica sent this email.	2/9/07
SEAC Dismissed	SEAC was dismissed for the day at 4:30			

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Visit Representatives:	Day 2 of the SEAC meeting began with a scheduled time for SEAC members to meet with their representatives and share SEAC's message. Members returned at 11:00am to wrap up the meeting.			
Discussion on Representative Visits	Overall, SEAC members felt that they received good feedback from those that they visited. Some members had additional meetings in the weeks to come. Members will provide further feedback about upcoming representative meetings at the next SEAC Meeting.			
Assessment Presentation	Joe Willhoft, Assistant Superintendent of Assessment and Research, presented to the SEAC Committee on the current changes to alternate assessments which Terry Bergeson had discussed on day one	Follow-up discussion at the next SEAC Meeting with assessment staff.		

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	<p>and SEAC Members heard in public comment. These adjustments in assessments are needed in order to be in compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB).</p> <p>Joe Willhoft indicated that some of the local trainings for teachers that provided public comment on Day 1 may have been misunderstood, and he would check into their trainings.</p> <p>He also indicated that the US Department of Education's requirements for NCLB were the parameters of whatever state alternate assessment changes that needed to be made.</p> <p>SEAC members reiterated that the goals indicated on the IEP are the most important pieces and need to be the driver, NOT the assessment instrument.</p>			
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.			