

**Washington State Special Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for September 27-28, 2006
Vancouver, Washington**

September 27, 2006

Members Present:

Trip Goodall, Chair; Anne Golden, Vice-Chair; Ann Waybright, Executive Committee; Cheryl Fernandez; Heather Hebdon; Kathleen Wenzl; Mary Alice Heuschel; Monica Meyer; Ron Seifert; Susan Dineen.

Excused Absences: Steve Nourse; Janet Gonzalez; Renee Buell.

OSPI Staff: Douglas Gill; Kristin Hennessey; Paul Alig; Tonya Middling.

Note Taker: Jessica Diaz, OSPI

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Call to order:	The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Trip Goodall, SEAC Chair. A thank you went out to the previous chair, Heather Hebdon for all her hard work as chair during the 2005-2006 school year. Mary Alice Heuschel, a new SEAC member was introduced. The May 8-9 SEAC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.			
Our Mission:	SEAC members discussed the reasons each member was on the SEAC committee and what they hoped to accomplish for this year.			
Ombudsman's Report- Kristin Hennessey, OSPI	Kristin Hennessey gave an update on the Ombudsman position. She reviewed how her time was spent and provided data in relation to the number, type, and main issues of the correspondence she received. Recommendations for future Ombudsman's reports included: data on the age group and eligibility category of the population Kristin corresponds with; data on how people are			

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	<p>informed about the ombudsman; creating an informational pamphlet about the ombudsman; requests to increase the ombudsman position's hours; encourage district administration to consult with Kristin on alternative ways to communicate with parents; create a satisfaction survey; and coordinate with the newly filled ombudsman position at the Governor's office.</p>			
<p>RTI Presentation- Paul Alig and Tonya Middling, OSPI</p>	<p>A Response to Intervention (RTI) overview was presented by Paul Alig and Tonya Middling. SEAC members were walked through the components of the new manual. It was strongly emphasized that this is a best practice method not only for special education students, but for ALL students. Comments/questions regarding use of funds were discussed as well as the ongoing need for professional development when using this model. Pilot districts, which are in the beginning stages of RTI were also mentioned and will be monitored over time on their progress. See the attached PowerPoint for more information.</p>			

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Excused Absences: Steve Nourse; Janet Gonzalez.

OSPI Staff: Douglas Gill.

OSPI Staff via Conference Call: Terry Bergeson; Bob Harmon.

Note Taker: Jessica Diaz, OSPI

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Call to order:	The meeting was called to order once again at 8:25 by Chair, Trip Goodall.			
Conference Call- Dr. Terry Bergeson and Bob Harmon, OSPI	<p>Superintendent Terry Bergeson and Assistant Superintendent, Bob Harmon, joined the SEAC meeting via conference call at 8:30 am. Terry discussed her thoughts and ideas for the committee's interests during the 2006-2007 school year. Her idea to focus on three main topics were discussed in further detail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improving education for children with disabilities and the possible ways to do that. 2) WA Learns. 3) Ways to impact the partnership between general education and special education funding and services (ex. RTI). <p>Superintendent Bergeson and Mr. Harmon exited the discussion with an opening for communication on</p>			

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	ways to achieve Terry's vision for this year's SEAC contributions			
Discussion on recommendations	SEAC expressed many ideas on how to achieve Terry's vision. SEAC agreed once again that funding special education students, primarily as general education students will be the most effective way to improve education for all, including special education students. Using I-728 dollars to provide a coach for Scientifically Based Instruction, such as RTI, for each district was one suggestion. Another suggestion included recommending more teaching of scientifically based instruction at the higher education level.			
WA Learns presentation- Anne Golden, Vice-Chair	Anne Golden gave a PowerPoint presentation, originally presented by Terry Bergeson, on Washington Learns explaining the breakdown of funding for Washington State students. See the attached PowerPoint for more information.			
WA Learns discussion/ Motion Passed	A motion was passed by the committee to create a flyer indicating SEAC's stance on the funding of Washington State students. It is SEAC's belief that if the funding situation is solved for all students, it will also allow for funding issues to be solved for special education students.	Mary Alice Heuschel will create a flyer showing SEAC's belief on how to improve funding for all students.	Jessica Diaz, will then send out the flyer to all committee members for changes. All changes will be made and the flyer finalized.	The SEAC flyer will be posted to the website by October 20, 2006.
Scheduling of upcoming SEAC meetings- dates and locations	Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4-5, 2006 in Olympia. Tentative dates for future meetings will be: February 7-8, 2007 in Olympia, March 22-23, 2007 in Spokane, May 16-17 in Yakima			
IDEA '04 in Washington State Presentation- Doug Gill, OSPI	Dr. Gill gave an overview on the Topical Briefs, produced by the federal government. He then went on to review a document titled "Overview of State and Federal Implementation of IDEA 2004". This document covered changes included in federal			

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	<p>regulations that will affect the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs). Concerns were expressed regarding how these changes would effect school districts until the WACs were published. The committee was reminded to give a “good faith” effort to follow the IDEA 2004 changes to the best of their ability.</p>			
<p>Identifying priorities and small group development</p>	<p>SEAC members unanimously agreed that there were three main priorities SEAC should focus on during the 2006 – 2007 school year. These priorities are as followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Special Education Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to Supt. Bergeson • Legislative influence including redefine and fund basic education, special education funding, and • Public Relations/ Communication and Education with educators, parents, and students. 2) SPDG (State Personnel Development Grant) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data review of state programs • Previous grants • New focus 3) Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional coaches • Best practices • Early Interventions • RTI for General and Special Education • IEP • Transitions • Awareness of Special projects around the state 			
<p>Motion Passed</p>	<p>SEAC members discussed the use of current contracts that organizations have in partnership with OSPI. SEAC has passed a motion to advise Superintendent Terry Bergeson to initiate a new RFP</p>			

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	(Request for Production). This motion was unanimously passed with the exception of one abstainer, due to a conflict of interest.			
Public Comment	Two individuals voiced concerns during public comment. One parent had concerns regarding the lack of appropriate accommodations and modifications on IEPs being implemented. The parent mentioned additional class time and assistive technology as examples. Another parent discussed the lack of continuity of services between one district and another though in the same immediate area.			
Evaluation of meeting	SEAC members agreed that this SEAC meeting had the greatest amount of participant processing of information. Members were pleased about the overwhelming unity felt in the decisions about what topics SEAC should make a priority.			
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm by Trip Goodall.			