Washington State Special Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for June 5-6, 2008
Leavenworth, Washington

June 5, 2008

Members Present:
Trip Goodall, Chair; Mary Alice Heuschel, Vice Chair; Kate Wenzl; Ron Seifert; and, Susan Dineen

Excused Absences:
Ann Waybright, Executive Committee; Heather Hebdon; Anne Golden; Janet Gonzales Renee Buell; Cheryl Fernandez; and, Steven Nourse

OSPI Staff:
Doug Gill; Kristin Hennessey and, Pamela McPartland

Note Taker:
Krissy Hall, Administrative Assistant, OSPI

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
Called to Order	Trip called the meeting to order at 9:30. April 17-18, 2008 Meeting Minutes were not approved due member absence.	Send electronic version to absentee members for approval.	Krissy	June 5, 2008
Housekeeping	• The group went through and updated the latest SEAC brochure with changes and additions aligning with updated IDEA/WAC and fine tuning the "Focus" and "Responsibilities" of the council.	Make the proposed additions and changes to the brochure and submit for approval.	Krissy – Directly	July 2008
	• The group agreed that the best way to update the SEAC Bylaws would be to send the document to members of the council and have each member make changes and submit for later discussion and approval.	Send electronic version to all members.	Krissy	June 5, 2008

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
	• Members agreed that the SEAC information on the Website is directly related to council updates that are currently being made and the council's Annual Report.	Update information on the website.	Doug/Krissy – As updates are approved	
Director's Update – Doug Gill	Doug updated the group on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making for Part B. The proposed rules allow parents to revoke consent for special education services. Parents currently have the right to refuse initial services, but now would have the right to revoke consent for services currently being provided. This is a change in policy which previously indicated that the entitlement for services belonged to the student that was eligible for services and that parent decisions could be overruled in a due process hearing. Other proposed amendments to the rules relate to technical changes regarding the calculation of base amounts of Part B and 619 services. Comments are due to OSEP on July 30. Doug reminded SEAC that the Basic Ed Task Force Meeting is Monday and Tuesday – Doug mentioned that the SEAC position remains the same: Fix Basic Ed and in turn, you fix Special Ed. A discussion of the Coordinated Service Agreements with the ESDs ensued. The current thinking is that the CSA agreements should emphasize support for the districts in regard to the 20 indicators of the annual			

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	performance report and that fiscal differences in and among ESDs need to be reconciled. An update on current legal actions against OSPI in special education was provided. A settlement agreement has been reached with respect to Frances Haddon Morgan, and a settlement agreement has been reached in a due process hearing against one of the districts.			
Special Education Ombudsman Update, Kristin Hennessey	Kristin updated the group on the different areas where there seems to be recurring issues between parents and the district. These issues include: unproductive IEP meetings, counter-productive ways the districts are addressing behaviors, referral timelines not being followed, and, required IEP team members not being present at meetings. She went on to describe ongoing concerns regarding parents not understanding when Transition Assessments should be done along with teachers not being unaware that a particular student needs accommodations. To conclude, Kristin has concerns about the general lack of understanding regarding basic components of Special Education, by parents as well as on the district level.			
Special Education Citizen Complaint (SECC) Update, Pamela McPartland	Pam began by updating the group on data compiled from the 2006-2007 school year on SECC files opened and Due Process cases filed. She went on the report on the trends. The number of Citizen Complaints went up and the number of Due Process went down. She noted that one underlying reason for			

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	SECC numbers going up is implementation and progress reporting, and as far as the Due Process numbers going down, she mentioned a more complicated process may be the reason. Pam doesn't think that trend will continue however, but rather go the other way for each.			
Public Comment	None			
Adjourned	The meeting was adjourned for the day at 4:20 pm			

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Excused Absences:
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OSPI Staff:
Doug Gill

Note Taker:
Krissy Hall, Administrative Assistant, OSPI

Topic	Discussion	Action	Who/When	Completed
Day 2, Call to Order	Trip called the meeting to order at 9:00. Due to the number of absent members, the group skipped ahead to the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) update.			
SPDG Update, Doug Gill	Doug began by reviewing the current process of pilot site reviews. Pilot Site reading took place on Wednesday and Thursday. Special Education is currently finishing up the reviews. There should be some reportable results by Monday the 9th. He added that the RFP for an evaluator has gone out and there will be serious attention paid to qualifications, adding that it is very important to have a nationally known evaluator for this project.			

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	Doug went on to inform the group that Tonya Middling has taken a new position at our Tacoma office in "School Improvement" and her last day will be Friday the 13th. She will be missed.			
Annual Report, Group Discussion	Group discussion began with going over and updating the "Purpose" of the council and updating membership information which led to a discussion about recruitment. Several members had suggestions and Trip suggested that Doug draft a letter to be used for the purpose of recruiting those individuals. The group went on to discuss their recommendations from last year, what results have come from those recommendations and council recommendations for the current year. This led to a discussion about council participation on task forces and committees. The group concluded with looking at the final thoughts.	Draft the Annual Report and send to members for input and approval.	Trip – In time for council input and submission to Superintendent Bergeson by the July 13th deadline.	July 13, 2008
SEAC Priorities for the Next Year – Group Discussion led by Trip Goodall	Trip started by saying he was a little apprehensive about proceeding without the absent council members but mentioned that the group could put forth some ideas now for later approval. "Interagency Communication and Cooperation" was a hot item and the members present agreed it should be considered as one of the priorities. Another suggestion was "Support Systems Needed for Students with Social/Emotional Needs". Trip added the	Compile a list of priorities and forward to all members for input.	The Group - Today	

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	"Importance of Higher Ed being involved in RTI", "Family Advocacy Issues" and "Continuing Partnership with ESDs".			
Review and Evaluation of 2007-2008	Each member present took a moment to talk about how they felt about the year and what was accomplished. The general feel was that the group was happy about the year but agreed that there is always room for improvement and as a group they are ready for the challenge in the years to come. Mary Alice voiced her appreciation for all the members and what they have brought to the table, and for OSPI's involvement and effort. Trip voiced his appreciation for the group's commitment and Ron noted how important it is to have members who are parents of children with disabilities and what that experience brings to the table. Ann added her appreciation of the communication efforts between OSPI and the council members. Doug agreed and thanked the group for its honesty and integrity in its efforts as members.			
Future Dates	September, January, March, May (Thu/Fri)	Schedule dates and send to members for approval.	Krissy - Directly	Sent out tentative dates on June 16, 2008
	Meeting was adjourned at 11:45			