

**State Special Education Advisory Committee
(SSEAC)
Martha Washington Inn, Abingdon
April 26-28, 2006
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Executive Subcommittee Dinner Meeting

The executive committee met on Wednesday evening. Mike Wong, Ann Fischer, Carmen Sanchez and Emily Dreyfus were present. Topics discussed included – ad hoc committees, members not in regular attendance, operating procedures, executive committee officers, how new officers would be impacted, the agenda, and the July meeting.

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Committee Members Present

Mike Behrmann, Charlene Christopher, Susanne Conroy, Mary Ann Discenza, Emily Dreyfus, Sharon Duncan, Stacie Ellis, Anne Fischer, Heidi Lawyer, David Martin, Jacqueline Nelson, Rick Richardson, Carmen Sanchez, Peter Squire, Tamara Temoney, Michael Wong

Committee Members Absent

Cindy Mills, Linda Richardson, Leslie Snyder

Department of Education Staff

Pat Abrams, Pat Burgess, Cindy Cave, Doug Cox, Judy Hudgins, Debbie Pfeiffer, Cathy Pomfrey, Paul Raskopf,

Guests

Alan T. Lee, Lisa McCoy, Connie Phillips, Annette Sannuti

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson, Ms. Charlene Christopher, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Dr. Lee, the Superintendent of Washington County Public Schools welcomed committee members.

Response to Intervention Follow-up

Mr. Doug Cox introduced the Director of Student Services, Dr. Cindy Cave. She talked with members about the Instructional Support Team (IST) initiative and answered questions posed by committee members.

Mr. Paul Raskopf talked with members about Special Education State Performance Plan and the requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. He mentioned several indicators including disability categories that the state has to address. Several of the indicators will require the department to collect new data from school divisions. Schools will have to keep data and document to be used for eligibility determination.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Mr. Cox welcomed new member Tamara Temoney, reminding members of the new requirement that state advisory panels have a representative from the foster care system.

Mr. Cox reviewed materials that had been mailed to members for information purposes as requested at the previous meeting.

- FAQ: Parentally Placed Private School Children
- NCLB Accountability Workbook amendments
- Comparison of federal requirements to state-imposed requirements
- VGLA local scoring information
- Letter to USED commenting on proposed rulemaking for children with disabilities to be assessed using modified achievement standards
- Application for Part B funds

Mr. Cox discussed several additional topics including:

- Department staff is working with the executive directors of the secondary and the elementary school principals associations to provide training for their members. Initiatives include training to enhance principals' skills and better collaboration with general and special education teachers.
- ABTEL issues
 - Special Education add-on endorsement
 - Praxis II option
- Update on the General Assembly session
 - The consolidation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- Upcoming institute for VAAP teachers

Public Comment

Dr. Mike Behrmann read a statement from Cherie Takemoto, Executive Director of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC). Comments included several issues resulting from telephone calls received from parents and school divisions.

Special Education Staffing Task Force

Mr. Doug Cox asked Dr. Pat Abrams to provide an update on the Special Education Staffing Task Force. Dr. Abrams reported that the Special Education Service Delivery/Staffing Task Force produced nine guiding principles to be considered when revising staffing and caseload regulations. VDOE staff has consulted with representatives from the Delaware Department of Education who are moving to a new staffing/funding system based on student needs with less focus on disability categories.

Dr. Debbie Pfeiffer, specialist at the Department of Education for hearing impairments and deaf was introduced. She presented on the challenges and opportunities that are currently present in the field of education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Lunch

Business Session

The minutes were approved as read.

Ms. Anne Fischer provided a copy of minutes from the January 2006 executive committee meeting held in Richmond.

Nominations for Executive Committee

The nominating committee moved the following slate of officers for the 2006-2007 year.

Chairman – Anne Fischer
Vice-Chairman – Mike Behrmann
Secretary – Stacie Ellis
Members at large:
 Peter Squire
 Carmen Sanchez
 Emily Dreyfus

There were no nominations from floor; Ms. Charlene Christopher closed the nominations. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Cox told members that nominations are being accepted for the committee positions of parent representing Superintendents' Region 1 and a teacher. The Board of Education is expected to appoint new members at its June meeting.

Changes to the committee's *Operational Procedures* were discussed with recommendations for several changes including a new #3: (When members are elected to the executive subcommittee it is effective at the conclusion of the meeting at which they were elected.) Other changes include a new #12 (Minutes will be taken by staff and reviewed by the SSEAC secretary for accuracy. Staff will post and disseminate the minutes.); a new #14 (Draft meeting minutes are distributed by email to members or sent by U.S. postal mail for members without email.); # 17

(The official written meeting minutes are maintained by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and posted on the VDOE Web site.)

The motion was made to adopt the *Operating Procedures*. The motion carried.

Members reviewed the *Guidelines for Public Comment*.

It was requested that a brochure about SSEAC meeting dates and locations be drafted that they could distribute to people in their areas.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Mike Behrmann reported on the Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. The committee made the following motions:

1. The SSEAC would like VADOE to communicate with The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) the need to maintain, develop and implement undergraduate special education licensure programs as part of baccalaureate degree programs in Virginia.

Motion carried.

2. The SSEAC supports the concept of the add-on special education endorsement provided that it is at either the elementary level or the middle/secondary level (i.e. not K-12). Further we recommend that the Personnel Subcommittee work with VADOE to develop the details of the add-on endorsement requirements.

Motion carried.

3. The SSEAC supports the recommendation that the Fundamental Subjects Praxis II test be studied as to how it can meet special education highly qualified requirements.

Motion carried.

4. The SSEAC recommends that VADOE develop and implement statewide administrator training and technical assistance support to prepare, retain, and develop knowledge and leadership skills for 1) special educators and administrators in supervisory positions in school divisions as well as for 2) building level administrators (principals and vice principals).

Motion carried.

Mr. Peter Squire reported on Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. Dr. David Martin reported on the Data & Reports Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Suzanne Conroy reported on the Autism Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting. Sharon Duncan's name should be added to the Personnel and State Operated Programs subcommittees.

Thursday Evening April 27, 2006

Committee Members Present

Mike Behrmann, Charlene Christopher, Susanne Conroy, Mary Ann Discenza, Emily Dreyfus, Sharon Duncan, Stacie Ellis, Anne Fischer, Heidi Lawyer, David Martin, Jacqueline Nelson, Rick Richardson, Carmen Sanchez, Peter Squire, Tamara Temoney, Michael Wong

Committee Members Absent

Cindy Mills, Linda Richardson, Leslie Snyder

Department of Education Staff

Pat Abrams, Doug Cox, Judy Hudgins, Debbie Pheiffer, Cathy Pomfrey

Visitors

Trevor DeVore, Kevin and Tammy Mullis

An informal discussion was held between the visitors and members of the SSEAC about educational issues for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The discussion included the qualifications of interpreters for the deaf.

Friday, April 28, 2006

Committee Members Present

Mike Behrmann, Charlene Christopher, Susanne Conroy, Mary Ann Discenza, Emily Dreyfus, Sharon Duncan, Stacie Ellis, Heidi Lawyer, David Martin, Jacqueline Nelson, Rick Richardson, Carmen Sanchez, Peter Squire, Tamara Temoney, Michael Wong

Committee Members Absent

Anne Fischer, Cindy Mills, Linda Richardson, Leslie Snyder

Department of Education Staff

Pat Abrams, Doug Cox, Judy Hudgins, Cathy Pomfrey

Guests

Annette Sannuiti

Ms. Charlene Christopher called the meeting to order.

Constituency Reports

Name	Report	Comments
Mike Behrmann	Oral	
Charlene Christopher	Oral	
Susanne Conroy	Oral	
		<p>a. The Charlottesville SEAC worked extensively with local School Board members and the Director of Special Education to improve resources and training to expand access to general education classes and institute the use of positive behavioral supports.</p> <p>b. Ms. Dreyfus presented information about the SSEAC at a workshop sponsored by the local Parent Resource Center and VCU/DOE to promote SEAC involvement in Region 5.</p>
Emily Dreyfus	Written	<p>c. Constituents continue to voice concerns about being unable to understand the Procedural Safeguards, primary due to inaccessible language. Ms. Dreyfus shared copies of documents from North Dakota and Vermont, and suggested that the SSEAC begin to look at options for more readable language and better organization of the document. Mr. Cox suggested the need to verify that these documents are PS and not something similar to Virginia's "Parents' Guide." Members suggested that the Policy and Regulations sub-committee follow-up on this issue.</p>
Sharon Duncan	Oral	
Stacie Ellis	Oral	
Heidi Lawyer	Oral	
David Martin	Oral	
Jacqueline Nelson	Oral	
Rick Richardson	Oral	
Mary Ann Discenza	Oral	
Carmen Sanchez	Oral	
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Started up a young discussion on the matters that confront individuals. 2. What if individuals have questions about the document, Virginia Assessment document? 3. The need for youth with disabilities to get connected and exposed to those who have disabilities as positive role models. It is felt that this will in turn increase motivation, and the self-determination skills of youth with disabilities to improve outcomes. 4. Training needs to take place to help professionals and youth/students become more aware about disabilities and the disabled. This training can be done by the youth themselves. 5. Youth Involvement - Transition Forum Planning
Peter Squire	Written	

		Committee (Christina Draper was contacted to be apart of the planning committee)
		6. Not only on boards but involved in the response process. How to help spread the word on those matters.
Tamara Temoney	Oral	
Mike Wong	Oral	

Public Comment Follow-up

Mr. Cox stated that response letters had been mailed. He and Cherie Takemoto at PEATC had talked regarding her comments.

Local Special Education Advisory Committee Effectiveness Project Update

Ms. Judy Hudgins presented a summary of completed and planned activities for the "Effectiveness Training for Local Special Education Advisory Committees" project. There will be training events for Partners in Policymaking graduates in May and for local SEAC chairpersons and sped directors in June. She showed the committee the Partnership Web site and the page for this project. The committee recommended that the font on the site be changed to provide greater accessibility. A flyer for "VA INFO Center" and a July conference announcement was also handed to the committee.

Assistive Technology Priority Project

Dr. Pat Abrams and Dr. Mike Behrmann

John Eisenberg is the lead coordinator for assistive technology at the Department of Education. As he was unable to attend, Dr. Pat Abrams and Dr. Mike Behrman, T/TAC at George Mason, provided an update. Dr. Behrman demonstrated T/TAC on line.

Meeting Adjourned