

**State Special Education Advisory Committee  
(SSEAC)**

**Holiday Inn Richmond Airport  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Thursday July 14, 2011**

<b>SSEAC Members</b>					
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Eva Aikens		x	Sandra Hermann	x	
Judy Averill		x	Mona Holmes	x	
Mike Behrmann	x		Lori Jackson	x	
Michael Carrasco	x		Bernadette Jones		x
Mary Ann Discenza		x	Jackie Fagan		x
Christina Draper		x	Jacqueline Nelson	x	
Christy Evanko	x		Jennifer O'Berry-Ham		x
Fran Goforth	x		Peter Squire	x	
Melodie Henderson	x		Tamara Temoney	x	

<b>Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff</b>			
Doug Cox	Suzanne Creasey	Pat Haymes	Susan Trulove
Cathy Pomfrey	John Eisenberg	Cindy Cave	Gloria Dalton

<b>Guests</b>			
Carolyn Beckett	Beth Haw	Adam Amick	Cynthia Hartung
Samantha Vanterpool	Deborah Parker	Jusolyn Bradshaw	Dale Mann
Mike Asip	Larry Hahn	Bekah Saxon	Christina Glynn
Melanie Sterling			

## **Call to Order**

Dr. Mike Behrmann, chair, called the meeting to order. He asked members and guests for introductions. Dr. Behrmann welcomed the new members who were recently appointed by the Board of Education (BOE), Ms. Christy Evanko, parent representative from Superintendents' Region 1 and Mr. Michael Carrasco, parent representative from Superintendents' Region 4. Other appointees present, whose terms begin October 1, were also recognized. Mr. Adam Amick was appointed as a person with a disability. Ms. Jusolyn Bradshaw will represent Correctional Education. Mr. Doug Cox also indicated that Mr. Darren Minarik, who was not able to attend this meeting, will join the committee representing higher education.

## **Business Session**

Dr. Behrman stated that there was a quorum.

### ***1) Approval of Minutes***

The minutes from the April 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

### ***2) Annual Report***

Dr. Behrmann announced that he had drafted the 2010-2011 Annual Report and explained his reasoning for including certain issues and topics. The committee studied the draft document reviewing each topic.

There was discussion and some questions regarding the issues to be included. Dr. Scott Kizner moved to give the chair the authority to work with VDOE to finish the report making any necessary edits. Ms. Sandy Hermann amended the motion requesting that a copy be sent to members by E-mail giving members the opportunity to review and then make any substantive comments at the September meeting before presenting to the Board of Education (BOE). The motion passed.

### ***3) Report Follow-up to Public Comment from previous meeting***

Dr. Behrmann reviewed some of the public comments that were received during the year. He noted that the comments often play a part in creating the agenda, as they are issues that the committee would like to spend more time studying.

### ***4) Future Meeting Schedule and Locations***

- September 29-30, 2011
- December 8-9, 2011
- March 22-23, 2012
- June 28-29 (dates not confirmed)

## **Presentations**

### ***Response to Intervention Update***

- Dale Mann, Ph.D., Managing Director of Interactive, Inc.

Interactive, Inc.'s presentation summarized findings from a third-party evaluation of the Response to Intervention (RtI) initiative in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The evaluation methods included site visits, interviews with teachers and administrators, documentation of the components and business process re-engineering components implemented in each school, web-surveys of teachers and administrators, document collection, SOL student achievement scores, and used administrative data such as referrals to Special Education and discipline referrals. Findings from year one and year two show that schools are progressing with RtI implementation, and have implemented more components and business process re-engineering elements in Year two than in Year one. Administrators and teachers have demonstrated positive attitudes and opinions about implementation. When comparing SOL scores from 2008-09 and 2009-10, student achievement for all students has increased in six of the pilot schools for both English and Math, and achievement for students with disabilities has increased in six of the schools for English and seven of the schools for Math. Finally, discipline referrals and referrals to Special Education have decreased in several of the schools. These positive outcomes early in the implementation process are positive indicators that Response to Intervention implementation will likely have a long-term substantial impact on the administrative, instructional, and assessment practices of the participating schools, in addition to the academic experiences and performance of students, including those with special needs.

## **Break**

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Christina H. Glynn, mother of a twice-exceptional son, talked about the needs of twice-exceptional students and asked that the SSEAC be a guide for positive change in this area providing these students with the opportunity to reach their potential.

Mr. Doug Cox read a comment received in an E-mail from Sue Sargeant who submitted a comment on behalf of The Arc of Rappahannock about three issues:

- #1-Increasing incidents of cheating on VAAP portfolios
- #2-Second request for Nanny-Cams in classrooms
- #3- Loophole in Code of Virginia for reporting teacher abuse of a nonverbal student

## **Business Items (continued)**

### ***5) Bylaws and Operating Procedures Revision Discussion***

Ms. Pat Haymes, coordinator of administrative services at the VDOE, distributed a page that summarized her findings after reviewing the SSEAC Bylaws. She highlighted several areas where the bylaws differed from BOE provisions.

Dr. Peter Squire moved that the discussion and review of the bylaws be shifted to members of the policy subcommittee who would then report back to the full committee. Dr. Behrmann suggested that the operating procedures be reviewed at the same time. The motion passed.

### **6) *Suggestions for New Member Orientation***

Mr. Doug Cox stated that there will be several new members at the September meeting. As there are several new members joining the committee, it was agreed that a new member orientation should be held. Ms. Samantha Vanterpool, from the Attorney General's (AG) office mentioned several items that should be included in the discussion including knowledge of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and what it means. She and others in the AG's office are still working to determine what should be included in a training packet for BOE advisory committees.

It was decided that new members would meet for dinner on Wednesday evening September 28, 2011 to begin the discussion and continue the orientation meeting following dinner. All SSEAC members are invited to join the new members for the training.

### **Lunch**

Following a request to meet by the chair, the nominating committee reported with a list of new officers. Proposed nominations were:

***President*** – Ms. Jackie Fagan

***Vice-President*** – Ms. Lori Jackson

***Secretary*** – Ms. Christy Evanko

### ***At large Members***

Mr. Michael Carrasco

Ms. Christina Draper

Ms. Sandy Herman

The nominees were approved.

### **Presentations Continued**

#### ***Accessible Materials Center of VA (AIM-VA)***

- Mr. John Eisenberg

Mr. John Eisenberg, director of the Office of Instructional Support and Related Services at the Virginia Department of Education in partnership with Dr. Michael Behrmann from George Mason University provided the members of the SSEAC with an overview of the Accessible Instructional Materials Center of Virginia (AIM-VA). AIM-VA provides students with print disabilities textbooks and instructional materials in accessible formats (Braille, Large Print, Electronic Files, and Audio). An update on the number and types of materials ordered for the upcoming school year

was presented. SSEAC members discussed who was eligible to receive materials and ideas for expanding awareness of AIM-VA. New CLOUD based technologies for delivering electronic textbooks files to local school divisions was also discussed.

### ***Intellectual Disability Instructional Resources***

- Mr. John Eisenberg

Mr. John Eisenberg, director of the Office of Instructional Support and Related Services at the Virginia Department of Education presented the members of the SSEAC with an overview of the instructional resources available to schools and families who support students with Intellectual Disabilities. Mr. Eisenberg shared information on the VA state Special Education Regulations, assessment tools, instructional lending libraries, training and technical teams, and future products to be developed. Resources found on [www.ttaconline.org](http://www.ttaconline.org) were also highlighted.

### ***Assistant Superintendent Report***

- Mr. Doug Cox

Mr. Cox provided an update on activities in the Division of Special Education and Student Services. He talked about several topics including:

- Indicator Meeting: May 12 – 13, Washington
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Aspiring Leaders Program
  - Cohort 3 will “graduate” the first week in August
  - Cohort 4 will commence the following week
  - Reunion professional development event was held for cohorts 1 & 2 in June
- Mr. Cox reviewed certain issues contained in the determination letter for SPP/APR that was received. After receiving “needs assistance” for two consecutive years, VDOE was required to issue a press advisory and to post the letter on the VDOE Website.

## Constituency Reports

Name	Report
Eva Aikens	absent
Judy Averill	absent
Mike Behrmann	<p>Dr. Fred Orelove has retired from the Partnership at VCU and Donna Gillis is the acting Director. Dr. Marti Snell has announced her retirement in January of 2012, both of whom have been instrumental in the development and implementation of the SD Consortium. The Consortium is planning its future without these two key faculty. Tara McDaniels (VDOE) and Brianna Quinn (JMU VI Consortium) have both had healthy twin babies this summer, future faculty for Virginia's professional development consortia. TTAC Online has some new features in saving favorites, the look and feel of training which now includes various video formats and a new login system. There are nearly 7000 registered users and the site has about 300,000 hits each year. The VA Family Family Connection (Parent Portal) was demonstrated to VDOE in May. The site will customize content for families of children with disabilities using TTAC Online content and additional information for families.</p>
Mary Ann Discenza	absent
Christina Draper	absent
Christy Evanko	none
Fran Goforth	<p>The local directors of special education have been busy completing the data for the various Indicators that are due to VDOE by July 15th. They have also been participating in the webinars related to the Master Schedule Collection and working with division level staff to ensure that accurate information is incorporated into this system. VCASE is pairing with National CASE for an International Conference in Williamsburg on November 9 – 11, 2011. The theme of the conference is “Leading Edge to Data Driven Decision Making”.</p>
Melodie Henderson	oral
Sandra Hermann	oral
Mona Holmes	oral
Lori Jackson	<p>The focus of the Mathews County SEAC has been community outreach. They have partnered with the PTA and PRC to present programming. The SEAC is working with the school division on implementing Disability Awareness Education. Plans for October include lunchtime activities for elementary education students as to not take away from instructional time and take some of the pressure off of the teachers. Another goal is to have more communication and collaboration between teachers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, administrators, SEAC, gifted advisory board and the Parent Resource Centers.</p> <p>Another concern is teacher retention. In Mathews we lost 3 regular education teachers because of the lack of a raise for the last 3 years. This combined with the rise in health insurance costs means these teachers were making less money than they did 3 years ago. One teacher went to a larger school division where her</p>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Report</b>
	pay was higher. Another teacher took a job at the Governors School where he got a significant raise and yet another left for a job in the private sector where again, money was the deciding factor. All three of these regular education teachers were wonderful collaborative educators who embraced full inclusion practices.
Bernadette Jones	absent
Scott Kizner	oral
Jackie Fagan	absent
Jacqueline Nelson	none
Jennifer O'Berry Ham	absent
Peter Squire	none
Tamara Temoney	none
(PEATC) Carolyn Beckett Information Specialist	oral

**Friday, July15, 2011**

<b>SSEAC Members</b>					
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Eva Aikens		x	Mona Holmes	x	
Judy Averill		x	Lori Jackson	x	
Mike Behrmann	x		Bernadette Jones		x
Michael Carrasco	x		Jackie Fagan		x
Mary Ann Discenza		x	Jacqueline Nelson	x	
Christina Draper		x	Jennifer O’Berry-Ham		x
Christy Evanko	x		Peter Squire		x
Fran Goforth	x		Tamara Temoney	x	
Melodie Henderson	x				
Sandra Hermann	x				

<b>Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff</b>			
Doug Cox	Suzanne Creasey	John Eisenberg	
Cathy Pomfrey	Susan Trulove	JoAnne Carver	

<b>Guests</b>			
Carolyn Beckett	Beth Haw	Adam Amick	Cynthia Hartung
Samantha Vanterpool	Deborah Parker	Jusolyn Bradshaw	Anita Schilling
Mike Asip	Larry Hahn	Bekah Saxon	Melanie Sterling

**Call to Order**

Dr. Mike Behrmann called the meeting to order.

**Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s Meetings**

Members of the Ad Hoc Subcommittees met.

## **Ad Hoc Subcommittee's Reports**

### ***Policy Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Ms. Sandy Hermann reported that the committee had reviewed the comments submitted by Pat Haymes. The committee requested that Ms. Haymes send her recommendations for the bylaws and policies and procedures to the committee for further review. The members will respond by E-mail with any comments directly to Pat Haymes. A draft with all changes will be brought back to the full committee at the September meeting.

### ***Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Mr. John Eisenberg reported that the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Severe Disabilities will be losing two of their members, Dr. Fred Orelove at VCU and Dr. Marti Snell at UVA, both of whom will be retiring. Teachers continue to retire and there is the issue of having teachers trained to replace them. He mentioned several issues of concern including highly qualified teachers, students being taught by unendorsed special education teachers and teachers teaching in/outside of their endorsed content area. He also mentioned students with autism and new legislation mandating insurance coverage.

### ***Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Ms. Carolyn Beckett reported that the committee discussed progress on the recommendation from the April meeting that there be regional meetings with special education directors and local SEAC chairs. Dr. Suzanne Creasey provided them with details on how she had been working on decisions regarding those regional meetings.

### **Report from Local Chairs**

Ms. Cynthia Hartung reported on some of the successes of local committees. She also reported on ways that the SSEAC can support local committees such as training and regional networking.

### **Public Comment Review from Thursday AM and Thursday PM**

Dr. Mike Behrmann reviewed the 2 public comments received,

1. Parent talked about frustration of getting adequate services for her child. She felt that protocol is more important than meeting the needs of child.
2. Sue Sargeant submitted a comment on behalf of The Arc of Rappahannock regarding three issues:
  - #1-Increasing incidents of cheating on VAAP portfolios
  - #2-Second request for Nanny-Cams in classrooms
  - #3- Loophole in Code of Virginia for reporting teacher abuse of a nonverbal student

Ms. Sandy Hermann requested information on the “loophole” in the Code of Virginia.

***Future Agenda Items included:***

Update from Paul Raskopf

Speech/language update

New member orientation

Loophole in code – attorneys to provide information

Report on VAAP

Gap kids

Changes in assessment

Report VA mental health law commission – children in institutions rights being violated

Disability Awareness in October – Notification needs to be sent now from VDOE and not wait until September.

Mr. Doug Cox recognized several members, Dr. Mike Behrmann, Dr. Tamara Temoney, Ms. Jackie Nelson, Dr. Peter Squire and Ms. Mary Ann Discenza, whose terms on the committee have ended and he presented them with certificates of appreciation.

**Meeting Adjourned**

