

## Minutes of the March 6, 2008 SEAG meeting

### Members Present:

Columbia Crest School Parent	-	Ms. Sally Betschart	(1 Year)
Weyerhaeuser Elementary School Parent	-	Ms. Shannon Powell	(3 Year)
Eatonville Middle School Parent	-	Mr. Steve Collins	(2 Year)
Elementary Special Education Teacher	-	Mr. John Trent	(1 Year)
Elementary General Education Teacher	-	Ms. Colleen Arthur	(1 Year)
Secondary Special Education Teacher	-	Ms. April McKinney	(1 Year)
Secondary General Education Teacher	-	Ms. Amie Henry	(1 Year)
Eatonville High School Student Representative-		Ms. Cheyann Joyner	(1 Year)
Eatonville High School Student Representative-		Mr. Jerin Hall	(1 year)
Eatonville Community Member	-	Ms. Renate Bertoia	
Eatonville Classified Staff	-	Ms. Kathy Gillespie	(1 Year)
Eatonville Itinerant Staff	-	Ms. Kelly Mainard	(1 Year)
Eatonville Administrative Assistant	-	Ms. Marge Powell	(Indef.)
Eatonville Principal Representative	-	Ms. Diane Heersink	(1 Year)

-Amendment to minutes: Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Schmidt were in attendance.

Meeting called to order by Mr. David Jacobson at 4:08pm.

Flag salute was given. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves. Everyone in attendance was asked to please sign in and give their email addresses. Mr. Jacobson introduced Ray Arment and stated that Mr. Arment was an "ad hoc" member and would not be attending all meetings. Mr. Jacobson went over the agendas that each member was given, explaining the purpose, objectives, ground work and norms. Background was given as to how the ground work for the SEAG agenda was laid out in prior meetings that took place on December 7 & 14, 2007. Advisory committee members were elected prior to this meeting with the exception to General Education Parent representative. Kelli Bacher was nominated by several people prior to this meeting and has also volunteered to represent Eatonville Elementary School.

It was explained that this advisory committee would help to review the entire scope of Special Education program in the Eatonville School District and make recommendations for special education improvements, including communications, partnerships between the community and the district. A written report will be given to the School Board by the committee chairperson and minutes will be posted on the website. Meeting boundaries were explained. Committee members were asked to put their email addresses on the sign-in sheet as an electronic form of communication was preferred.

Mr. Collins questioned as to what capacity Ms. M. Powell had on the committee. Mr. Jacobson responded that she was the administrative assistant who was elected and would be taking minutes, however she would not be a voting member. Also, Ms. Bacher would not be voting member until she is elected to the committee. All other members would be entitled to vote.

Ms. Betschart asked about the 4:00pm meeting time, that it wasn't necessarily good for parents, however maybe rotating the times would be better. Mr. Collins suggested a time of 6:00pm might be better, scheduled 1 month in advance. Rotation of meeting times was

discussed. A motion was made to review the meeting time between 4:00p and 6:00pm, 6pm or keep at 4pm. A motion was made and seconded to rotate times between 4pm and 6 pm. It was unanimously voted to rotate. Thursday meetings were questioned and it was explained that that day was chosen to reflect the school calendar; it seemed to be the least used days, with reference to school board meeting, events, etc. Next meeting will be Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 6:00pm. Place to be determined.

Future agenda items from the December 7 & 14, 2007 meetings included (in order of priority):

- ✓ Full time special education director
- ✓ 6-12 program separated
- ✓ better transition programs
- ✓ Retention – why we can't keep teachers/paras
- ✓ Someone to take ownership of curriculum
- ✓ More para support in classrooms to facilitate more inclusion and in class delivery of programs

Mr. Jacobson also mentioned the possibility of future speakers coming out if the SEAG desired it.

Ms. Mainard wondered if there was a need to re-visit the items discussed at the Dec. 7 & 14<sup>th</sup> meetings to re-confirm the concern/priority.

Mr. Collins felt there was no need to re-visit the issues as “all” parents had already voiced their concerns.

Ms. S. Powell stated she felt this was untrue because she is a parent who didn't know about the meeting and did not have the opportunity to be a part of that discussion or give her input and she felt “many” parents in special education were unaware of this.

Mr. Jacobson stated that we shouldn't delete the current agenda items, but possibly re-visit all items that were presented at the December 2007 meetings, that most of the items presented were by those now serving on the committee. Committee chair stated that we would be moving forward with the current agenda items and people in the audience may, in the future, bring up items that will need to be discussed, not per say, from SEAG. That we need to look all items, etc.

Ms. Sharpe didn't want any items deleted from the agenda and that the framework had already been started and we need to continue on these. With only a couple of months left in the school year, didn't want to start over.

Ms. McKinney stated that even though some on the committee work for the district also have the same concerns as the parents on the committee have.

Mr. Collins stated that the reason the December 2007 meetings came about that there was significant amount of distrust in the special education program. He also stated that if the agenda changed, then the distrust would likely continue.

A motion was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to continue on with the 6 prioritized items on the agenda first before tackling other items.

A discussion on how to structure the agenda, going through items 1-6, item 1 & 2 were very close, with 20 votes, 5 for each, which made them top priority.

- ✓ **Item #1 – Full time special education director**
  - This is a board decision

- SEAG is only advisors to the board
- Currently Mr. Jacobson is full time special education director and CC principal
- There is now a Dean of Students at CC to take over current responsibilities of the principal. Janna Rush from EMS will begin March 10, 2007 as Dean of students and then later on in the month she will take on the special education teacher role. (FTE: .3 SpEd teacher, .7 Dean of Students)
- Duration will be until the remainder of this school year, at which time it will be reviewed.
- Difference between Dean of Students and Principal—Mr. Jacobson will remain as principal, however the supervision and day-to-day responsibilities will be the responsibility of the Dean of Students. Some aspects will still need to be carried out by principal.
- Next year? - Decision will be made by the Superintendent and the school board, and possibly input by the CC staff.
  
- Mr. Arment-Dean of Students will be responsible for day-to-day responsibilities, provide supervision and support for the CC staff. Principal responsible for things like Exceptional Misconduct, and things that require administrative credentials. There will also be some mentoring done by Mr. Jacobson for Ms. Rush. At one time we had a full time principal at CC; however enrollment played a factor in this, when it dropped. Population has gone up from about 85 to 140 students so Dean of Students was added.
- ✓ **Item #2 – 6-12 programs separated**
  - Some students have been placed back at EMS schedule, why not others
  - HIPPA/FERPA addressed
  - Some are combined, by individual choices, parents contacted, what students to remain in current program
  - Go over what we had last year and why it changed this year
  - Have a graph by next meeting , or outline as to how programs are structured
  - Effects of the construction
  - Is this a temporary solution due to construction or because of other issues
  - Secondary programs previously (6-12)
    - Resource defined as students who are below grade level who need Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) in Reading, Writing or Math
    - Middle School
      - Resource Model-CORE (Eng, History, Literature)
      - Resource Math
      - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade CORE, some blended, 6-7, or 7-8
      - student numbers factor in along with student need
      - Chance to Grow (CTG) program for those who needed behavioral support as well as SDI 6-8 split
      - Daily Living Activities (DLA) - combination of a self-contained program and inclusive piece. Grades 6-8

worked on adaptive, cognitive and living skills, etc.  
Some went out for Resource Math (Music, PE)

- High School
  - Resource English, Math,
  - Chance to Chance (CTC) Behavior Program
  - Adult Daily Living (ADL) Program, adaptive, Cognitive, Life skills
- Secondary programs currently (6-12)
  - Resource classes for both EMS, EHS the same as last year
    - English 9-10, 11-12 combined. Students are grouped in Resource classes by adaptive/cognitive ability not age.
    - Behavior combined both by numbers and location of campus. As numbers increased, separation has occurred between MS/HS.
    - ADL/DLA focuses on appropriate placement to meet IEP Goals & Objectives-split to educate students at their appropriate levels instead of a room for dissimilar disabilities
    - Space has been a large factor
    - Ms Schmidt: Provide children with what they need, not what the school district can provide.
    - Behavior in a house, not appropriate. Numbers very small. Combined
- Issue to separate, committee needs to move forward, proceed, etc. Data to support placement, changes. Concerned with 12 yr old with 18 yr olds. Some have been very successful, some not. Try to find a method to make everyone successful. Raw data to support placements. Is this something that is around the country? Ms. Arthur asked how many students this was really effecting. 6-8 middle school students, 18-20 high school students. Total of about 28 students in the 6-12 program.
- Data to support grouping or not grouping students by either age or ability. Mr. Collins made a motion to request to take a look at this over the next couple of months, but would like data compiled by the next meeting. Wanted to look at evaluations of students in the district, blacking out the names. It was noted that this is a small district and this would be in violation of the HIPPA/FERPA, Right to Privacy Acts.
- Ms. .S. Powell suggested that we have data that has percentages and pros & cons of the current programs.
- Suggested that a national study would be fine.
- Ms. Sharpe pointed out how confusing it was for staff and parents, as well as students, the MS/HS schedule, times, half days, late starts, etc. How no one was happy. The need for consistency.
- Mr. Anderson made the suggestion to get input from the surrounding school districts, around the state or nationally.
- Ms. S. Powell mentioned Tacoma School District groups children based on what the students needs are, not age.

- Ms. Bertoia stated she work in the Transition program in the Tacoma Schools said students were grouped by abilities ages 17-21 for Transition by cognitive ability, placing students into different places in the community.
- Ms. Bacher stated at Clover Park School District students typically move along with their peers, however some do not.
- Ms. Hayward stated that the Behavior program is no longer 6-12, it has been split to reflect MS/HS as of the Semester. Split for individual needs/numbers.
- Mr. Jacobson asked if there was a motion to separate MS/HS for the 08/09. Mr. Collins made a motion that this be discussed at future meeting. It was also suggested that data be compiled
  - Data to support the programs
  - Cognitive ability over age
  - National data on mullet-aged programs
  - Look around region

This would not be the resource programs, as resource is split by grade level. This would pertain to the Life Skills & Functional Academics classes. BD is split 6-8 & 9-12.

Some students have moved from elementary to middle, middle to high school a year early, sometimes in the middle of the year as in the best interest of the students.

Ms. Arthur suggested we look at districts that are equal in size to Eatonville.

Ms. Schmidt suggested we look also out of state, possibly regions.

Mr. Collins sees this as a long term issue.....On going study for a couple of months.

Short terms look at district locally, then expand.

School program planning/discussions are happening now, so months of discussion may not be good.

Volunteers to compile information, someone in charge. It was suggested that everyone on the committee do the research. Some not to “keen” on just one person collecting data. Mr. Jacobson volunteered to compile the data when he receives it from committee members. It was also suggested that a link be put on the website for people to access. It was mentioned that maybe the best place to start is at OSPI.

Ms. Schmidt introduced Janet Gonzalez, who sits on the state SEAG committee as well as the Peninsula School District SEAG committee. Janet has volunteered to be at Eatonville’s SEAG meeting for the next 6 months.

Mr. Jacobson suggested that everyone collecting data email it to him, the sooner the better, so it can be compiled and posted on the website. Moving away from mailings, would rather do electronically.

Minutes and future agendas will be posted on the website

Future agenda items:

Possible guest speakers

Mr. Collins:

Not sure if there is a requirement about a time limit on the meetings, feels that if there is something being discussed, it should continue on. Questioned the current agenda item #4, regarding Purpose, Objectives, Boundaries & Norms.

Would like to add New Business so people can bring up new issues

Members of the community and parents should have opportunity to come and sign in and speak regarding a teacher, a complaint, etc. Teacher leaving, keeping people, would like SEAG committee to be able to meet candidates. Believes committee should have input on who is hired for sped positions.

Ms. Bacher:

Concerned if we focus in on individual students/staff we will never move forward. So much legalities that we have to trust our schools in making the right decisions. We should not be trying to micro manage our staffs decisions. Feels that if we don't work together on these items, we will be spinning our wheels and feels that this it not the purpose of this group.

Ms. Gonzalez:

State level SEAG is considered a public forum to have public comment only. People can comment, however the SEAG cannot comment back. It's not the responsibility of their committee. At Peninsula SEAG is very informal, committee work is at a general level, and no students are discussed on an individual basis. If there is a particular issue, it is between the school and that family.

Mr. Jacobson:

Good discussions, not the intent to make it like a school board meeting. Will continue to explore. Next meeting is schedule for Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 6:00pm, place to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm

Mr. Collins wants the next meeting to not have a set ending time. Thinks it should go on as long as needed.