

EATONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Raymond F. Arment III

Cristin Blaskowitz, Director of
Special Services
Marge Powell, Secretary
P.O. Box 698
Eatonville, WA 98328
Phone: (360) 879-1800
Fax: (360) 879-1812

Together, we commit to excellence in education and preparation for life.

Special Education Advisory Group Minutes September 11, 2008

- 1 **Call to Order**- 6:12 PM
- 2 **Flag Salute**- The Chair, Mr. Steve Collins, led the flag salute.
- 3 **Announcements**-
 - Mrs. Cristin Blaskowitz, Special Education Director presented a brief bio sketch. She stated she has an open door and prefers following a chain of command for addressing issues.
 - Members of the SEAG introduced themselves to Ms. Blaskowitz.
 - Chair Collins announced an opening for General Education Secondary Teacher Representative.
 - Chair Collins announced an opening for Secretary to SEAG.
- 4 **Approval of Minutes**: Ms. Sharpe moved to approve the 12 June 2008, minutes.
 - Carried.
- 5 **Public Comments**
 - Mrs. Tice commended Ms. McKinney
- 6 **Breakout Session**:
 - Chair Collins directed that the SEAG brake into small groups to define the word and philosophy of "Inclusion" for the school district. The SEAG Chair and Vice Chair, Ms. Schmidt, collected the worksheets for the record.
- 7 **Reports** –
 - Vice Chair Schmidt presented a short report on the results thus far of her survey other WA state school districts of similar size as ESD. She posed the question: What do we want to look at for benchmarks?
 - SEAG Interview Task Force Report TF Chair Collins, NSTR
 - SEAG Secondary Special Education Task Force Report: TF Chair Mc Kinney, NSTR
 - SEAG Transition Task Force Report: Ms. Sharpe, TF Chair, met with Ms. Jennifer Hippensteal. The district's curriculum has students working at school sites to develop workplace skills prior to community placement. Ms. Sharpe also met with Mayor Smallwood and he is very supportive according to TF Chair Sharpe.
 - SEAG Community Events Task Force Report: TF Chair Schmidt reported that October is Disability History Month.

- "Fall Fest" Ability Awareness Event – Saturday, Oct 4, 2008, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM at the Middle School Campus. She is looking for SEAG members to staff the SEAG booth and a school district Special Services booth. TF Chair Schmidt said that the SEAG needs a district representative for next year.

8 Unfinished Business:

- Chair Collins and Vice Chair Schmidt will present quarterly Report and Recommendations to ESD School Board on 24 September 2008.
- First SEPAG priority for Full-Time Special Education Director not resolved (Community Forums in Dec 2007) – Specific wording of motion passed 6 to 5 at June 12, 2008 meeting:
- *"ESD SEAG would like to commend ESD for recognizing the need to place a Dean of Students at Columbia Crest Elementary School to accommodate the increasing student enrollment at CC. The SEAG would like to recommend that the plan, as initiated to relieve the ESD Special Education Director of other administrative duties, including principal of CC, continue forward within the next two school years. We believe the needs of district special education students require the full attention of a 1.0 FTE administrator. Also, the commute time between Ashford and Eatonville draws away from the valuable resources of a specialized administrator from already scarce resources."*
- Presentation of "dissenting opinion" to be submitted to ESD School Board from: Mr. Trent (facilitator), Mrs. Bacher, Ms. Mainard, Mrs. Bertoia, and Mrs. Arthur.
- Exit Interviews - Recommendation to ESD School Board – Tabled.
 - Look for trends
 - Retroactive
- "Fall Fest" - First annual community ability awareness event

9 New Business

- Definition of Inclusion for Eatonville School District – Review small group work

10 Future SEAG Agenda Items:

- Inclusion Presentation – By ESD students and teachers
- Review ESD Climate Survey Results
- Develop position on Exit Interviews
- Examine parent education mandates
- Examine Washington Education Association training opportunities
- Plans for a SEAG booth at all future school open houses
- Determine how the district intends to present training to parents

11 Adjournment 8:14 PM -

APPENDIX – 1

2008-09 SEAG Meeting Dates –1st Thursday every month - Alternate 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Sept 4, 2008 - 6:00 PM at EES

Oct 2, 2008 - 4:00 PM

Nov 6, 2008 – 6:00 PM

Dec 4, 2008 – 4:00 PM

Jan 8, 2009 – 6:00 PM (Exception: Thurs, Jan 1 moves to Thurs, Jan 8)

Feb 5, 2009 – 4:00 PM

Mar 12, 2009 – 6:00 PM (S/B Thurs, Mar 5 but on ESD calendar Mar 12)

Apr 9, 2009 – 4:00 PM (Exception: Thurs, Apr 2 moves to Thurs, Apr 9)

May 7, 2009 – 6:00 PM

June 4, 2009 – 4:00 PM

APPENDIX – 2

SEAG Task Forces:

APPENDIX A - SEAG Interview Task Force:

Sally Betschart
Shannon Powel
Gretchen Sharpe

Members of SEAG participating in the interviews for prospective new hires. (OT/PT Specialist and Psychologist Positions – Any other prospective hires?)

APPENDIX B - SEAG Secondary Special Education Task Force Report:

Sally Betschart
Steve Collins
John Trent
April McKinney

Development/Make-up/structure/ Funding

- a. Location
- b. Staffing/Teachers
- c. Curriculum
- d. Training for staff (Gen Ed Teachers, Sp Ed Teachers and Aids)

APPENDIX C - SEAG Transition Task Force:

Renate Bertoia
April McKinney
Tina Schmidt
Gretchen Sharpe
Karlene Hayward

APPENDIX D - SEAG Community Events Task Force:

Sally Betschart
Michele Frink
Abby Leukeman
Shannon Powel
Tina Schmidt
Gretchen Sharpe

Would like one staff member for this task force

- a. "Fall Fest" – Saturday, October 4, 2008 12:00 Noon-4:00 PM – First WA State Disability History Awareness Month (SB 6313 - Creating Disability Awareness Month in October for schools)
 - ii. Key Note Speakers: Senator Marilyn Rasmussen and Kristin Blaskowitz
 - iii. Resource Fair
 - iv. "Eatin' in Eatonville" and entertainment
- b. Initiate Monthly Community Presentations/Guest Speakers – Start this fall 2009 – Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June - Topics? Survey at "Fall Fest"
- c. SEAG Booth/flyer at EMS/EHS Registration (Aug 2009)
- d. SEAG Booth at Eatonville School District Employee Benefits Fair (Aug 2009)

Cristin Blaskowitz