

# EATONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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## Special Education Advisory Group Minutes October 10, 2008

**NOTE: We did not have a quorum present at this meeting, so these minutes were not approved by SEAG**

**1 Call to Order - 4:20 PM - Late start due to lack of membership present**

Members present: Colleen Arthur, Cristin Blaskowitz, Diane Heersink, Shannon Powell, John Trent, Gretchen Sharpe, Steve Collins, Ray Arment, Tina Schmidt.

Non Members present: Ken Anderson, Tami Samples, Elisa Bovey, Amy Hasenbalg, Wendy Owens

Members absent: Kelli Bacher, Renate Bertoia, Sally Betschart, Kathy Gillespie, Kelly Mainard, April McKinney, Abigail Lueckeman, Jerin Hall, Cheyann Joyner.

**2 Flag Salute - The Chair, Mr. Steve Collins, led the flag salute.**

**3 Announcements - SEAG is still in need of a secretary to take minutes and a Secondary General Ed Teacher Rep. – No one has come forward for either position. Mr. Travis Rush, EMS may be interested in the Secondary General Ed Teacher Rep position.**

Ms. Blaskowitz reported on changes in the district to move a Special Ed teacher from EES to EMS where the need was greater for students due to increased SS enrollment at EMS and decreased SS enrollment at EES. She commented that the transition is “a positive move”.

**4 Approval of Minutes: Quorum not present, therefore minutes not approved.**

**5 Public Comments**

- None

**6 Reports -**

**a Survey Report - Other WA state school districts of similar size as ESD -  
Nothing new to report**

**b SEAG Interview Task Force Report - Nothing new to report**

**c SEAG Secondary Special Education Task Force Report - Nothing new to report**

- d **SEAG Transition Task Force Report** – Ms. Sharpe reported that the new Transition program for ESD is “going well” and that “teachers are enthusiastic” and “parents are pleased” with the progress made so far.
- e **SEAG Community Events Task Force Report** – Fall Fest Committee Members presented on the upcoming “Fall Fest” Ability Awareness Event – Saturday, Oct 4, 2008 - 12:00 Noon-4:00 PM at EMS. Ms. Blaskowitz will be one of the two Key Note Speakers. Senator Marilyn Rasmussen who sponsored the Senate Bill to initiate October as Disability History Awareness Month in Washington State will also speak. Ms. Schmidt asked for SEAG membership and ESD SS Staff to participate in the SEAG/ESD SS Resource Booth and also asked for school board members and Mr. Arment if they would like to participate as the Coloring Contest judges. Mr. Trent, Ms. McKinney and Ms. Bertoia volunteered to be in the booth. Ms. Heersink stated the EES would provide a poster about EES SS.

**7 Unfinished Business:**

- a. Vice Chair Schmidt presented the quarterly Report and Recommendations to ESD School Board on 24 September 2008: SEAG recommendation to ESD School Board and dissenting opinion of first SEPAG priority for Full-Time Special Education Director. The above recommendation was passed by a 6-5 vote by SEAG:

*“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” submitted to ESD School Board from Mr. Trent (facilitator), Mrs. Bacher, Ms. Mainard, Mrs. Bertoia, and Mrs. Arthur:

*“The dissenters simply wanted to stop with a "thank you," rather than turn it into a time-framed recommendation that also included a perhaps unworkable mandate that the special services director should henceforth not be expected to assume any additional duties (some examples mentioned included overseeing 504 accommodation plans and remedial education programs). Also, we would hope that the special services director would not consider the time taken to commute to Columbia Crest a drain on resources, but an opportunity share in and enhance the valuable work going on there.”*

Ms. Schmidt also presented to the ESD School Board on the upcoming Fall Fest and invited School Board members to Fall Fest and asked for volunteers to be Coloring Contest judges. Mr. Homan stated he would be a judge.

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8 **New Business**

- Definition of Inclusion for Eatonville School District – Review small group work -- See Appendix 3

9 **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

10 **Adjournment 6:00 PM -**

Respectfully submitted by Tina Schmidt, Vice Chair

## APPENDIX - 1

### **2008-09 SEAG Meeting Dates** -1<sup>st</sup> 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)

## APPENDIX - 3

Small Group Break Out Session on "Definition of Inclusion" (Sept 11, 2008)

A free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) educating students with disabilities in regular classrooms with their non-disabled peers, in the school they would attend if not disabled, to the maximum extent possible.

What it means to our district - Evaluate each child's needs individually - starting with the least restrictive environment.

Student by student

\*Team effort needed as to what inclusion means for each student

Needs are - miracles, money, staff

It does not equal full inclusion

FAPE supercedes full inclusion

"Regroup" if first plan does not work

Definition of inclusion is a school philosophy that educates the special ed students with peers to the maximum extent appropriate!!

Considering:

1. Social
2. Emotional
3. Physical
4. Academic

A belief - of parents - of school - of teachers

Different for every kid

Individual

All about the kid

A right to be with non-disabled kids

All special ed kids are general ed kids first

Bring general ed kids to special ed class

Creativity - Thinking outside the box

Flexible - "Blended"

A lot of training for GE staff and support