

EATONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent
Raymond F. Arment III

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

Special Education Advisory Group Minutes November 6, 2008

1 Call to Order: 6:14 PM

Members present: Sally Betschart, Kathy Gillespie, April McKinney, Kelly Mainard, Cristin Blaskowitz, Shannon Powell, Diane Heersink, John Trent, Gretchen Sharpe, Steve Collins, Ray Arment, Tina Schmidt, Colleen Arthur, Jerin Hall.

Members absent: Abigail Lueckeman, Renate Bertoia, Cheyann Joyner, Kelli Bacher

2 Flag Salute: Tina Schmidt led the flag salute.

3 Announcements:

- Mr. Rush was suggested as a possibility to fill the vacant General Education Secondary Teacher Representative position for SEAG.
- Jerin Hall suggested that a high school student might want to serve as SEAG secretary as community service hours. Mrs. Hayward stated she would post a position for SEAG secretary at EHS.

4 Approval of Minutes:

- April McKinney moved to approve the minutes from September 11, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Gretchen Sharpe. There was no discussion and no dissenting votes.
- There was not a quorum present at the October 10, 2008 meeting so these minutes were not approved, however, October 10, 2008 meeting minutes are posted.

5 Public Comments:

- There were no public comments.

6 Reports:

- Survey Report: nothing new. Ms. Schmidt plans to release the data to the other districts that contributed to the survey, after she asks Mr. Arment to review it.
- SEAG Interview Task Force: nothing new.
- SEAG Secondary Special Education Task Force: nothing to report other than trying to arrange a meeting with Ken Anderson.

- SEAG Transition Task Force: General comments were made such as that students were working in-district at present and that there is a need for outside job prospects. The suggestion was made to have someone speak at a future meeting on community placement plans.
- SEAG Community Events Task Force: We were pleased with the attendance and success of Fall Fest. Fundraising needs to start in the spring for future events.

7 **Unfinished Business:**

- ESD Special Services Mission Statement: Cristin Blaskowitz reported that the process of building rapport and relationships needs to precede other work on the mission statement. The plan is to have a district Special Services mission statement created by the end of this summer.
- Scope of ESD Special Services Department: Cristin Blaskowitz gave a report mentioning special ed, Title/LAP, pre-school, and the birth-to-three program. There was some discussion about the suitability of putting the needs of highly capable students under the special services department. Currently the highly capable program is over-seen by Mrs. Lucy Fountain, ESD Curriculum Director.
- ESD Staff and Parent Training: a) Companionship and SEAG information tables are planned for the middle school and high school conference times; b) there were no surveys filled out at Fall Fest regarding desired training opportunities; a training needs survey will go in the EEA newsletter; c) determining how to present training opportunities to parents will come later, after the survey of interest is taken; a suggestion was made to alter the survey form to include data collection on how potential participants want to access the training (e.g., web-based, seminars, etc.) Mrs. Schmidt will revise the survey. ; d) SEAG plans to have an information booth at all future school open houses, plus conferences and Community Day.

8 **New Business:** discussion on paraprofessionals

- Cristin has been going through the Paraprofessional Handbook with our teacher assistants as training.
- There are 14 Washington State Core Competencies for paraprofessionals; 95% of our teacher assistants have them.
- Online training for paras is available, and many are accessing this.
- Teacher assistants have portfolios to track their completed trainings.
- All ESD teacher assistants have had 22 hours of training since August 2008 to current and two more full days of training are planned for the remaining school year.
- The terminology doesn't matter; that is, whether they're called paraprofessional, teacher assistants, teacher aides, etc., it's still the same work and job category.

An aside: April McKinney will write up what's been accomplished so far in addressing the list of SEAG Priority Work. This will be presented to the board at the next quarterly report from SEAG.

9 Future SEAG Agenda Items:

- December 2008 Meeting – ESD Transition Services – Current program and plans for the future.
- Climate Survey Results: these results are being incorporated into the school improvement plans at each school.
- It was decided to take the “inclusion” presentation off the agenda.
- It was decided to take the topic of exit interviews off the agenda.
- Added for future consideration is the topic of “What do we want to accomplish as a group?”

10 Adjournment: 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by John Trent, Member with revisions by Tina Schmidt, Vice Chair.