

**Eatonville School District**  
**Special Education advisory Group (SEAG) Meeting**  
**May 15, 2008**  
**Eatonville Elementary School (EES) Library**  
**DRAFT #2 (additions -BLUE)**

- Call to Order: Chair Steve Collins called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Members present: Sally Betschart, Kathy Gillespie, Abigail Lueckeman, Kelli Bacher, Kelly Mainard, David Jacobson, Shannon Powell, Diane Heersink, John Trent, Renate Bertoia, Gretchen Sharpe, Cheyann Joyner, Steve Collins, Ray Arment.
- Members absent: Jerin Hall, April McKinney, Colleen Arthur
- Members resigned since last meeting: Marge Powell (Secretary), Amie Henry (Secondary Gen Ed Rep.)
- Requests: Since the secretary resigned, Chair Collins requested a volunteer to take minutes for the meeting. Kelly Mainard agreed to take minutes with the condition that the meeting adjourn on time, 8pm as indicated on the agenda.
- Announcements: A. Abby Lueckeman was elected as the general education student representative.  
B. The School Board took no further action on the SEAG's request to have two general education parent representatives. **The school board denied the SEAG's request to add a gen ed parent.** As such, the SEAG will elect one general education parent to fill this role.  
C. There is not yet a clear understanding of whether SEAG members may participate on ESD interview teams. The school board is scheduled to discuss this at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
D. Ray Arment gave an update on an upcoming climate survey. The goal is to better understand the climate in the district. It was last done approximately 10 years ago and involves extensive interviews with staff members and community members. The climate survey is performed by two interviewers from outside the district. The district is currently seeking parents who wish to participate. They should contact their child's school for scheduling.
- General Ed Parent: Kelli Bacher was elected to be the general education parent representative to the SEAG.
- Approval of Minutes: Minutes of April 10, 2008 and April 24, 2008 were approved.
- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Presentations: **Tina Schmidt** presented and reviewed aspects of the last SEAG meeting (April 24<sup>th</sup>) and provided her views as follows: 1) Everyone wants what is best for children. 2) Respect each other's different perspectives and expertise, 3) Goal is to collaborate together to bring recommendations to the ESD School Board to solve complex issues and to improve special education services

[Small Work Group Session – Expertise of SEAG Members](#)  
[Small Work Group Session - ESD Sp Ed Visionary Work](#)- Create our mission statement.

**Janet Gonzalez, Washington State SEAC representative** spoke for about 20 minutes on resources available to help special education teams and districts. Numerous hand-outs were provided.

New Business: There were two items on the Agenda under New Business 1) Full time special education director and 2) Exit interviews. Both issues were tabled to be added to unfinished business for the next meeting.

Unfinished business: **A. Survey to other WA state school districts** of similar size as Eatonville. Tina Schmidt passed out a compilation of web sites for districts of similar size as Eatonville.

**B. SEAG Interview Task Force Report:** There was conflicting information regarding whether SEAG members could participate in the interviews for prospective new hires. Mr. Arment will recommend a school board work study session to discuss the feasibility of parent participation.

**C. SEAG Middle School/High School Task Force Report:** Members who volunteered to serve on this task force visited with middle and high school staff and reviewed the schedules for the '08-'09 school year and staff outlined various possible scenarios (e.g. severely disabled versus a learning disabled student) without discussing any specific students. Sally Betschart noted that she did not feel that reviewing master schedules fit the intent. Kelli Bacher noted that it would be very difficult to discuss this in more detail because each special education student's program is crafted by that student's IEP team and satisfaction or dissatisfaction that a parent may have with a student's program should always go through the child's IEP team.

**D. SEAG Transition Task Force Report:** Gretchen Sharpe reported back that she attended the recent after-hours district-wide transition meeting and it was very good. Transition programming is moving forward.

Future SEAG Agenda Items: Tina Schmidt stated that October, 2008 is the first Washington State Disability Awareness Month. Items for consideration include a possible kick-off event, a flyer, and other possible activities were suggested. Tina Schmidt, Sally Betschart, Shannon Powell, and Abby Lueckeman volunteered to become the Disability Month Committee to further develop ideas.

Definition of inclusion: After a short discussion it was determined that not all SEAG participants define inclusion in the same way. As a future agenda item, it would be helpful to have an understanding of the inclusion continuum.

Transition Speakers: There was discussion about possibly having Janet Gonzales and a SEAG community member speak on transition.

Adjournment: Chair Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:33

Attachments: [Expertise of SEAG Members](#)  
[ESD Sp Ed Visionary Work](#)

### **Expertise of SEAG Members (06-12-08):**

Ray Arment – ESD Superintendent, Sp Ed Undergrad, student teach undergrad, parent of child with 504 Plan, long range planner, futurist

Colleen Arthur – Gen Ed Teacher Rep (PK/Elementary), Reading Specialist (primary ed)

Kelli Bacher – General Ed Parent Rep, Education/Psych Masters, caring, good listener, mother, life resident, works at different district (Clover Park School District)

Renate Bertoia –Community Member Rep (business owner), member of Eatonville Chamber of Commerce, advocate, organized, determined, team player

Sally Betschart – Sp Ed Parent Rep (CC), parent, child care provider, team player, not afraid to speak up

Steve Collins – Sp Ed Parent Rep (EMS), organizer, decision maker, logic/concrete, move forward

Kathy Gillespie – Sp Ed Classified Staff Rep, patient, creative, life resident, life experiences (child with special needs), training

Jerin Hall – Eatonville High School Student Rep

Karlene Haywood – EHS Vice Principal, 29 years in Education (mostly Sp Ed), 17 Administrative positions in four districts, believes in kids abilities,

Diane Heersink – ESD Administrative Rep, EES Principal, Parent of two children with special needs, taught Sp Ed, abstract/random, event organizer

David Jacobson - ESD Administrative Rep, ESD Sp Ed Director

Cheyann Joyner – Eatonville High School Student Rep, organized, crafty, compassionate, caring

Abby Luekeman – High school student, Teaching Academy, friendly, mature, wants to learn, assertive, loves to present/speak

Kelly Mainard – ESD Itinerant Staff Rep, ESD Psychologist, Education/Psych Masters, caring, good listener, mother

April McKinney - Sp Ed Teacher Rep (Secondary)

Shannon Powell – Sp Ed Parent Rep (WES), Spinning an idea, looks through rose colored glasses, work with foster care children (advocate for both child and family), trainer for foster care/adoptive parents

Tina Schmidt – Sp Ed Parent Rep (EES), Adult Educator, detail focused, persistent, peacemaker, nursing background (RN)

Gretchen Sharpe – Sp Ed Parent Rep (EHS), Trouble shooter, organizer, crafty, friendly

John Trent – Sp Ed Teacher Rep (PK/Elementary), Consistent, accountable, calm

## **ESD Sp Ed Visionary Work (06-12-08):**

Child driven  
Sensitive to child development  
Students are the focus  
Student empowerment  
Self-advocacy

Use of evidence based research/practices  
Benchmark outcomes

High level of respect for everyone  
“Understanding”  
We are all valued

Community based

Parents and staff working together  
Parent and staff education  
Empowering parents in education of their child  
Staff/parent teams  
Learn new ideas from others – Work shops; Guest speakers  
Team work  
Communication  
In district education open to parents  
Parent involvement

Continuum of services  
Consistency of services (Quality) across all schools  
Continuum, year to year – Summer programs  
Program stability – Itinerant stability; Consistent service

Needs focused resource allocation  
Maximize resources – Time, Talent, Parents/staff, Funds

Inclusive  
Natural flow  
Common goal  
Responsive  
Creative thinking