

**Holiday Inn at Koger Center
Richmond, Virginia 23235
January 20-21, 2005**

Thursday January 20, 2005

PRESENT

Suzanne Conroy, Stacie Ellis, Emily Dreyfus, Anne Fischer, Heidi Lawyer, David Martin, Cindy Mills, Carmen Sanchez, Shirley Ricks

STAFF

Pat Abrams, Patrick Andriano, Doug Cox, Judy Hudgins, Phyllis Mondak, Marianne Moore, Cathy Pomfrey, Paul Raskopf, Nate Sparks, Art Stewart, Karen Trump, Irene Walker-Bolton

VISITORS

Kathy Beasley, Heather Brunner, Marsha Goldberg, Bradford Hulcher, Marie Ireland, Cindy Kennebeck, Jeanne Knieriemen, Paula Madigan, Aulsie Hojnicky, Joel Acree, Melanie Sterling, Mark Howard, Didi Zaryezny, Joe Szakos, Pierre Ames, Barbara Flannagan, Randy Jennings, Sue Palko, Carol Schall, Linda Oggel, John Toscano, Tony Gentry

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Anne Fischer called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Members introduced themselves. Ms. Fischer thanked members for coming.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two individuals provided comments. Emily Dreyfus read two letters that she had received and Pierre Ames read three letters and shared trends and issues that have been brought before PEATC.

LUNCH

AUTISM PANEL

Paul Raskopf, Virginia Department of Education; Carol Schall, Virginia Autism Resource Center; John Toscano, Commonwealth Autism Services; Linda Oggel and Sue Palko, Training/Technical Assistance Center at Virginia Commonwealth University; Tony Gentry, Partnerships for People with Disabilities Assistive Technology Project; Barbara Flanagan and Randy Jennings, Pulaski County Public Schools

Panel members provided information concerning autism numbers, definitions and diagnostic issues, challenges that are facing the state in working with those individuals and the increase in the numbers of individuals diagnosed with autism. Presentations continued with an account of the issues involved in building a statewide network, an overview of autism specific services, and the use of handheld computers. The session concluded with an overview of the programs, services and resources used in Pulaski County Public Schools.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent
Division of Special Education and Student Services

Mr. Cox invited Mr. Nate Sparks and Ms. Melanie Sterling to present updates to the committee.

Mr. Nate Sparks, a specialist in the division of assessment at the Department of Education, talked with members about special education alternate assessment issues. He discussed matters related to the *Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)*, including training in localities and assessment manual revisions.

Ms. Judy Hudgins introduced Melanie Sterling, program specialist, at the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Ms. Sterling provided an update on the *Effectiveness Training for Local Special Education Advisory Committees* funded by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. The goal of this initiative is to improve the effectiveness of local SEACs through development and implementation of a series of training initiatives aimed at building capacity and effectiveness of local SEACs and participation of all stakeholders as they strive to improve services for students with disabilities. Ms. Judy Hudgins, parent specialist at the Department of Education, provided a brief update on the survey being conducted collaboratively with the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University as part of the initiative. The survey will be sent to directors of special education, school board chairmen, and LAC chairmen.

BYLAWS

Ms. Heidi Lawyer moved that the bylaws be accepted as amended. Ms Shirley Ricks seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

MINUTES

There was a discussion regarding procedures and format of minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

At the July 2004 meeting a motion was made that at the conclusion of each quarterly meeting, a one-page summary of the motions adopted, and any recommendations would be forwarded to the Board of Education for consideration. The suggestion was made to follow up with Charlene Christopher.

Mr. Cox stated that the Board of Education has submitted the Proposed Amendments to Virginia's Consolidated State Application Accountability Plan Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Two of the proposed amendments deal with students with disabilities.

Friday January 21, 2005

PRESENT

Cindy Mills, Stacie Ellis, Carmen Sanchez, Emily Dreyfus, Anne Fischer, Suzanne Conroy

STAFF

Doug Cox, Cathy Pomfrey, Judy Hudgins, Paul Raskopf, Pat Abrams, Karen Trump, Irene Walker-Bolton,

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Anne Fischer called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Introductions were made.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

No business was conducted, as there was not a quorum.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued)

H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent
Division of Special Education and Student Services

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Paul Raskopf, Acting Director, Division of Financial and Data Services, at the Department of Education to provide members with an update on reporting requirements. After a brief report using preliminary numbers, members requested that Mr. Raskopf be invited to the April 2005 meeting to provide further information with data supplied to members before the meeting.

Mr. Cox introduced Dr. Karen Trump, Director of State Schools and State Operated Programs at the Department of Education. Dr. Trump shared a *Feasibility Study* for the Consolidation of the two Virginia Schools for the Deaf, Blind & Multi-Disabled. This study was directed by the 2004 General Assembly.

There was a discussion by members. Ms. Carmen Sanchez asked if the committee should provide an official comment. Mr. Cox told members that comments would be welcome by the Board of Education. An official comment could be worked on at the April meeting of the SSEAC if members choose.

RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION DRAFT POLICY GUIDELINES

Irene Walker-Bolton, Specialist
Division of Special Education Instructional Services

Ms. Irene Walker-Bolton shared with members a draft copy of the *Guidelines for the Development of Policies and Procedures for Managing Student Behaviors*. She reviewed the guidelines and explained the procedures used to write them. After some discussion, she requested that members return the draft with any comments and suggestions. Ms. Walker-Bolton asked that the guidelines not be made public at this stage of development.

Ms. Anne Fischer asked that the committee review the guidelines again at the April 2005 meeting. Ms. Carmen Sanchez requested that a copy of the revised guidelines be mailed to members before the April meeting.

Mr. Cox shared with members a brief summary of legislation introduced before the General Assembly that will have implications for special education if passed.

Mr. Cox informed members that the second *Great Virginia Teach-In* would be held in Richmond on March 5, 2005. The Great Virginia Teach-In is a recruiting and information fair designed for teachers considering a career move to Virginia, as well as students and other professionals considering teaching as a career.

Mr. Cox stated that the department is in the process of filling vacancies. He announced that Marie Ireland would be starting as the specialist for autism and speech-language. Interviews have been held for two positions - specialist for programs in local and regional jails and also specialist of severe disabilities. Recruitment paperwork is being processed to fill the parent specialist position vacated by Sandra Peterson. He told members that Judy Hudgins would cover duties in the interim.

Mr. Cox distributed a copy of [Superintendent's Memo No. 7, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 \(P.L. 108-446\)](#) (IDEIA) and responded to questions. The memo was disseminated to provide information and guidance on IDEIA.

BUSINESS

AUTISM ISSUES

The question was raised, after hearing presentations by the autism panel, what the SSEAC would prefer to do with the information. Mr. Cox stated that he would like for the SSEAC to prepare a report for the Board of Education with recommendations. He told members that John Toscano and Carol Shall would be happy to come back at any time. He suggested consideration of a subcommittee that could start writing recommendations. Suzanne Conroy and Stacie Ellis were asked to meet with Marie Ireland, look at the comments received in public comment sessions and begin work on these recommendations.

CONSTITUENCY ISSUES

There were no constituency issues that needed to be addressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Cox stated that the department would contact the school divisions involved and write a letter to each person who had commented thanking them for their interest. Ms. Sanchez asked that members be copied on the letters. Members also asked about follow-up to the comments received at the October 2004 meeting held in Roanoke. Several members said they would like to know, when possible, whether issues or situations have been resolved.

MEMBERSHIP

There are two vacancies on the committee - a representative of higher education and the position of a person with disabilities. One application has been received for the higher education position. There was some discussion regarding the filling of the two positions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Paul Raskopf - Information LRE reporting; APR; Data, federal comparison to state numbers
- Subcommittee on autism follow-up
- Restraint & Seclusion – a more comprehensive draft document
- Discussion of reorganization of subcommittees
- General Assembly update
- Status of regulatory process
- Priority Project update
- Inclusion video
- Teacher teacher.com

Ms. Sanchez requested a copy of the current addresses of local SEAC chairs.

The meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

April 14-15, 2005

Omni Hotel

1000 Omni Blvd.

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