

Special Education Advisory Panel
April 20, 2006
Minutes

Members Present

Deana O'Brien	Trish Grassa	Melissa Frazier
Ray Wicks	Pat Jackson	Bev Woodhurst
Steve Viola	Kent Kolaga	Joan Zavitsky
Lynda Roberts	Ken Southwick	Barbara Scheidegger
Theresa Valdes	Kris Callen	Amanda Coleman
Jeaneal Alexander	Martha Crabtree	
Eileen Huth	Doreen Frappier	

Members Not Present

Tamara Arthaud	Cathy Einhorn	Patti Simcosky
DeAnn Fiedler	Nina Murphy	Richard Staley
Melodie Friedebach	Kim Oligschlaeger	Meghan Stewart
Mike Hanrahan	Dorothy Parks	Pam Walls
Deb Hendricks	Mary Kay Savage	Shirley Woods

DESE Staff

Pam Williams	Mary Corey
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Guests/Visitors

Eric Remelius, past panel member

Copies of handouts distributed at the meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes – Deana O'Brien called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Kent Kolaga made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Formal Recommendation #9 – Kent Kolaga asked Pam Williams what the responses received so far look like. Pam did not have that specific information with her.

Formal Recommendation #12 – The panel discussed with Pam Williams the specific differences between a resolution conference and a resolution session and whether the resolution conference actually accomplishes anything. DESE does not have statistics on the use of resolution conferences. Pam indicated in the proposed regulations if there is an agreement reached in the resolution session, it becomes a legally binding document. In the resolution conference, it is an informal agreement. Pam indicated this is proposed legislation and the panel's response can be as individuals directed to the legislature. Kent indicated that the formal recommendation is a position of the panel and any recommendations can be taken to the legislature. Kent indicated the concern the panel had at the last meeting was not addressed by DESE. Pam indicated DESE's response is that we feel this is redundant, but she will have a follow-up conversation with Melodie Friedebach to let her know the Panel feels the two are different and that the resolution conference still needs to be included in the state regulations. Kent Kolaga made a motion asking DESE to please reconsider their position on this. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. One opposed. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Formal Recommendation #13 – Kent Kolaga indicated that the felt DESE's response was totally nonresponsive. Kent indicated he feels that DESE does know what legislative issues are going on and he still wants someone from DESE to talk with the panel at a future meeting. Deana O'Brien asked Pam Williams for the contact information for John Copenhaver (MPRRC) so she can talk with him about the panel's role in the development of legislation as it affects policy, rules, and regulations. Pam indicated the Commissioner would

not be available to attend the June meeting but could attend the August panel meeting. Kent Kolaga made a motion to resubmit their response as originally submitted and that the panel wants someone to come to a future panel meeting to discuss. Bev Woodhurst seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention.

Nomination Forms for Officer Elections – Nomination forms were available at the meeting for members to take. Submit forms to Barbara Scheidegger. The nominations subcommittee will contact everyone nominated to verify their interest. Officer elections will be at the June meeting. It was suggested that a list of members running for office be sent via email prior to the June meeting.

MAP/MAP-A – Michael Muenks, Director, Missouri Assessment Program, discussed MAP and MAP-A with the panel. Michael indicated that during the MAP-A pilot, everything appeared to be okay because districts were asked to give to only one student, DESE did not anticipate how overwhelmed teachers would be once they had to actually use it district-wide. He indicated DESE is trying to simplify the MAP-A to still do as much as possible but still keep it approved (hoping to reduce the paperwork by 1/3 to 1/2). DESE must also keep in mind that in 2008 they will need to add science for three grade levels also. The Assessment Section is listening to comments/suggestions and is trying to make it as simple as possible. Joan Zavitsky indicated the timeliness for the MAP-A training are not good and would really like to see this information sent to districts in June/July.

It was suggested, since there is a lot of concern regarding MAP testing, that the programs subcommittee be asked to review this further and then propose a recommendation to the panel which could be submitted to DESE. The programs subcommittee would like to have some direction on specifically what they are to review regarding this topic. Michael Muenks indicated that the focus is on the fundamental changes. He also indicated that the Outstanding Schools Act is more progressive than No Child Left Behind. He suggested the subcommittee give him a list of concerns. Deana indicated the charge for the programs subcommittee is to come up with recommendations (fundamental changes) and if they have questions, to contact Michael. Lina Browner will send a copy of the Outstanding School Act to the chair of the programs subcommittee.

Working Lunch/Subcommittee Meetings (1 hour)

By-laws – At the February panel meeting, the panel reviewed the changes made to Article VI-Sections 1, 3, and 6 (new section). Kent Kolaga made a motion to accept the changes made to Article VI-Section 1. Lynda Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed. Kent Kolaga made a motion to accept the changes made to Article VI-Section 3. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Kent Kolaga made a motion to accept the new Article VI-Section 6. Trish Grassa seconded the motion. Motion passed. Lina Browner will email a copy of the by-laws to the panel.

DESE Update

Child Count – Child count information was emailed to panel members prior to the panel meeting. Mary Corey indicated the information showed five years of trend information for school age children (child count, incidence rates, placement, and race/ethnicity).

SPP Part B Second Approval – Pam Williams indicated DESE has received final approval from OSEP on the Part B State Performance Plan. DESE also had a conference call with OSEP (Larry Ringer and Angela McCaskill) to clarify some things in the letter. OSEP is asking for some additional information/clarification from DESE including a description of what counts as a dropout, an expanded description of our data collection procedures, and a description of the state's requirements for graduation with a regular diploma (must be included in the February 2007 APR). OSEP also wants documentation indicating that the alternate assessment is now consistent with the regular statewide assessment (must also be included in the February 2007 APR).

Regarding district monitoring, OSEP wants verification that DESE is making sure districts with areas of noncompliance are in compliance within one year of the district's final monitoring report. If a district continues to be out of compliance after one year, DESE must report what actions the state has taken with that district (must report this data to OSEP by June 1, 2006). Kent Kolaga asked if he could get a copy of the June report.

Part B Application – Pam Williams indicated that the Part B application will be sent to OSEP tomorrow (April 21, 2006). It is pretty standard (a set of assurances since there are no final regulations yet).

Federal Regulations – Pam Williams indicated we are still waiting (possibly by the end of summer). OSEP has scheduled their conference for the end of August.

Exit Criteria (new graduation requirements, ACT, differentiated diplomas) – Pam Williams indicated the new graduation requirements were approved by the State Board and are posted on the web. They include a change from 22 to 24 units of credit starting with this year's 8th grade class and include a requirement for a half unit of a personal finance class. There is also a provision for districts to submit a request to DESE for approval for students to receive credits for what is being called an embedded class (an example would be a student taking a career education class with a lot of math included, the student could get some math credit) but this would have to be approved by DESE. Kent Kolaga and Pat Jackson asked for additional clarification on this topic (want to make sure that students would not be getting double credit for a class).

ACT – Pam Williams indicated there were several proposals from the Commissioner's work group on high schools. One proposal was to use the ACT in place of the MAP at the high school level. Town hall meetings were scheduled around the state for discussion on this proposal. Comments from panel members can still be submitted to Stan Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of School Improvement. A final decision on this proposal has not been made yet. Deana O'Brien indicated that she is charging the programs subcommittee with investigating this proposal (what score on the ACT would indicate proficiency and did the work group look at any other college entrance exams also what problems would there be when adding a science piece and a writing piece to the ACT).

Differentiated Diplomas – Pam Williams indicated that the high school work group also made a recommendation regarding differentiated diplomas but as far as Pam knew it was not currently being discussed. Lina Browner will email the link for the Report on Improving Missouri High Schools to the panel.

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation – Lynda Roberts indicated they are working on the annual report. She plans to have a draft ready to forward to the panel for review after June 7. It will not contain the June minutes or recent subcommittee work. Each subcommittee will be asked to turn in an addendum to their report at the June meeting. Lynda plans to have the annual report completed by July 15. It will be sent to panel members for another review and will be voted on at the August meeting.

Rules and Regulations – Ray Wicks indicated his subcommittee is waiting on the federal regulations. He also wants clarification from the panel on the charge for his subcommittee – he does not feel that legislation is within the boundaries of the bylaws. They are working on scheduling the Commissioner to speak with the panel and on Sunshine Law procedures. Their subcommittee would like to focus on things they can have some impact on and do it in a timely fashion. Some panel members felt that, when there is upcoming legislation, the panel should be given a heads up. Deana O'Brien indicated that legislation does affect rules and regulations. A panel member stated that the panel was created to advise DESE not the legislature. The panel needs to have knowledge of legislative issues but should not be making legislative changes. Pat Jackson suggested that panel members as individuals should take positions on proposed legislation. Pat also indicated that proposed legislation is a matter of public record so why should the panel ask DESE to be responsible for notifying the panel. Deana indicated that she felt the rules and regulations subcommittee has not received timely notice of past rule and regulation changes from DESE. The panel wants to see the proposed changes before it is put out for public comment. They want to be involved in the changes while the changes are being made not after they are made.

Monitoring – Kent Kolaga indicated the monitoring subcommittee is hoping to have a format for the annual due process and child complaint report by the June meeting. They will look at focused monitoring after the redesign. The subcommittee also hopes to have some data regarding the child complaint satisfaction survey before the June meeting (concerned with thoroughness of the data since so few have been received).

Programs – Martha Crabtree indicated the programs subcommittee plans to meet before the June meeting to discuss recommendations for MAP and MAP-A. Martha indicated that they would like to receive a copy of the Outstanding Schools Act and the old RFP that was used. They would also like to be informed of the expected areas of change in the new RFP, so they could focus their time and energy in those areas of change. The programs subcommittee would like to have someone from Effective Practices come to the June meeting to

discuss the following: the RtI model as it is currently implemented in Missouri, DESE's position concerning RtI, and guidance on what the federal regulations are looking for RtI (will it eventually be mandated in several years). The programs subcommittee would also like to know what MSBA's position is concerning the ACT/MAP issue. DESE will contact MSBA and get back with the programs subcommittee on their response. Martha also indicated they would like to have Stan Johnson talk with the panel at a future meeting regarding this topic. The subcommittee would like to be able to make a recommendation to the panel.

Nominations – Barbara Scheidegger indicated five panel members, under the category Parents of Children with Disabilities and/or Individuals with Disabilities, will have their third and final term end in June. Currently, there are 78 nomination forms on file from 2003-2006, of that, 61 are for that category. The subcommittee has been making phone calls to potential nominees and plans to make selections based on geographic area, disabilities, age(s) of child, and variety of experiences. They will submit their recommendations to DESE by May 1. DESE will make the final selection after completing background checks. They would like to have this soon so that appointed panel members (appointment effective July 1, 2006) could attend the June meeting. The subcommittee is also accepting officer nominations and nominations for members at large for the Executive Committee (elections at June meeting).

Public Comment – Beverly Woodhurst indicated she emailed her notes (chair was not present at the last meeting) to the subcommittee after the last meeting and wanted to get together to discuss their charge. A couple weeks ago the chair emailed the subcommittee asking for volunteers to take individual items and investigate but at this time there has been no progress. Beverly indicated that the subcommittee will have some sort of plan to present to the panel at the next meeting.

Discussion of Sunshine Law Policy – A draft Sunshine Law policy and sample Notice of Open meeting was emailed to panel members prior to the April meeting. Meeting agendas must be posted at least 24 hours in advance to give the public an opportunity to attend/participate in the meeting (email agendas to Lina at least 48 hours in advance). If the meeting will be via conference call, contact Lina well in advance so that she can set up the conference call with the state operator. The official custodian of panel records must be a panel member. Deana will review the draft Sunshine Law policy and sample Notice of Open meeting and suggest needed changes. The panel will review and vote on at the June meeting. A panel member asked if someone at DESE could check on other options for facilitating on-line simultaneous conversations (meetings) such as Moodle. Communicating between meetings is okay as long as panel members are not doing business.

Future Meetings – October 13 and December 8 - both in the Truman Building, Room 500 and both at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment – Beverly Woodhurst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.