

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

December 12, 2008

Members Attending

Lynda Roberts	Nancy Thomas	Martha Crabtree
Byron Koster	Jeaneal Alexander	Russ Brock
Scott Montgomery	Pat Jackson	Donna Cash
Lisa Amundson	Trish Grassa	Ray Wicks
Theresa Valdes	Kris Callen	Sherri Tucker
Brenda Boyd	Heidi Atkins Lieberman	Eileen Huth
Angela Brown	Roxie Lanier	Dorothy Parks
Steve Viola	Jerry Neal	

Members Not Attending

Thurma DeLoach	Tammy Hicks	Mary Kay Savage
Doreen Frappier	Michelle Hoffmeister	Bev Woodhurst
Melissa Frazier	Ginger Luetkemeyer	Shirley Woods

DESE Staff

Pam Williams

Copies of handouts for this meeting are available at:

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

Call to Order – Due to Bev Woodhurst, chair, being unable to attend the meeting, Lynda Roberts chaired the meeting. Lynda called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Jerry Neal made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Brenda Boyd seconded the motion. Motion approved.

DESE Update

- End of Course Exams – DESE is considering whether to permit an exception for students with disabilities for the four follow-up end of course exams (not the first four end of course exams) based on the student’s IEP decision. Nancy Thomas made a motion indicating the panel would like to see DESE pursue this exception. Trish Grassa seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- SELS/SELS2 – SELS/SELS2 is the division’s main method of communication to school districts including information on technical assistance, professional development opportunities, funding, etc. Heidi recommended panel members not already receiving SELS/SELS2 to sign up at http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html#Subscribe.
- Missouri Integrated Model (MIM) – Heidi provided an update on the status of the MIM. Missouri is in its first year of the Missouri Integrated Model (MIM) (five year grant awarded

to Missouri from the U.S. Department of Education) with 14 districts selected to pilot the model. This is a regular education (Division of School Improvement and Division of Career Education) initiative and is in collaboration with the Division of Special Education. At this time, the federal grant funding has been decreased from what had been originally indicated. Not sure by how much. The pilot districts/schools are in their “preparation” phase, with implementation to begin next school year.

- Teacher Retention – Have been reviewing what other states are doing regarding teacher retention. Many states provide some type of financial incentive. In Missouri financial incentives are sometimes provided by local districts; however, stakeholders in Missouri do have concerns about use of these incentives since it causes competition among different types of teachers/providers.
- Due Process Hearings/Disclosure – The link to the 2007-08 due process hearing decisions was sent to panel members prior to the meeting and a hard copy of each decision was available at the meeting for panel members to review http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Complaint_System/07-08_DPDecision.html. A summary sheet handed out provides a nice summary of the data in connection to these decisions along with the data reports provided to the SEAP.
- Regional Response to Intervention (RtI) Meeting – A team of staff from the divisions of School Improvement, Career Education, and Special Education attended the regional RtI meeting in Chicago recently. Missouri is currently in the spotlight with the work we have been doing with three-tiered models of intervention through School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS), Professional Learning Communities (PLC), High Schools that Work, Reading First, and RtI. Missouri is only one of a few states to be given the opportunity to receive high intensity technical assistance and resources from the National Center on RtI because of the collaboration we have shown between special education and regular education, and because of how far along we are in the implementation of three-tiered models.
- Blind Task Force (BTF) - The BTF is looking for candidates to fill a couple of important slots that are currently vacant. They need an employer that works for an agency/organization that employs kids who are blind or visually impaired (someone in the position of hiring/firing staff). They also need a high school student who is blind or visually impaired. The nomination form is located at <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Blind/documents/btfnomform-4-08.pdf>.
- Exploration of the Statewide IEP System – A group of DESE staff and stakeholders recently met with several potential vendors to give the group a feel of what is currently available and what a Request for Proposal (RFP) would need to ask for. If DESE decides to move forward, the next step will be to develop an RFP and get vendor bids. MOCASE recently did a survey and most districts indicated they would make the switch once they finished their current vendor contract. A cost structure has not been developed but envision it allowing districts to share in the cost but be cheaper than contracting on their own. Heidi indicated that she does not have any intention of making the system mandatory.

Draft State Performance Plan (SPP)/Annual Performance Report (APR) – The draft SPP/APR was emailed to panel members prior to the meeting for their review. When IDEA was reauthorization in 2004, it included provisions for each state to develop a state performance plan and, as part of that requirement, each year the Division has to submit an APR to the U.S. Department of Education. There are specific categories along with specific indicators for each category that must be covered in the SPP/APR. Each state is required to establish targets for meeting these indicators for a six year period (received stakeholder input). Those targets can change and the Division is proposing changes to the targets for three indicators. Pam discussed with the panel the proposed changes and asked for feedback. After discussion, Brenda Boyd made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to the SPP and APR. Eileen Huth seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MSIP Presentation – Pam Williams presented information on MSIP and special education. To review the PowerPoint presentation, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

Working Lunch - Child Complaint Written Decisions – Sherri Tucker expressed concern with the number of child complaints showing that districts were out of compliance. She was also curious as to the social economic advantage of the families involved with the withdrawals. She wanted to know if DESE collected information about whether students stayed in the district or moved to a different district after child complaints were withdrawn. DESE does not collect this information. Child complaints being withdrawn could be for a number of reasons; it could be the parent and district reached an agreement and not necessarily that the family wanted to move to a different district.

Subcommittee Reports

- Evaluation – nothing new to report.
- Rules and Regulations – The Rules and Regulations subcommittee along with the Nominations subcommittee met and discussed the regulations making up the membership of the advisory panel. Ray indicated they are suggesting a survey be done of current panel members to determine if members currently serving on the panel still qualify under the category they represent. To qualify under the parent of a child with a disability category, the child must have a disability as defined by IDEA and be no older than 26. To qualify under the teacher category, the person must be a current teacher. A draft survey will be sent to the panel chair and Heidi for their consideration and then to panel members for their review and comments. Other suggestions included making the language on the survey and the nomination form consistent; doing an annual survey of panel members; and, including in the Commissioner’s appointment letter the specific category the member is filling on the panel. Questions to consider: (1) If a panel member is found to be no longer eligible to serve on the panel, would they be able to finish their term? (2) Will changes need to be made to the bylaws?
- Monitoring – nothing new to report.

- Programs – The Programs subcommittee is reviewing information from other states with regard to what they do to retain and recruit special education teachers. They would like to provide some suggestions to DESE. If panel members have any suggestions, forward them to Lina. The subcommittee asked for the link to district MSIP review information (<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/msip/>) along with a phone number (573-751-4426). The subcommittee felt a presentation concerning the transition outcomes project would be interesting and they would like more guidance pertaining to NAEP.
- Nominations – DESE is working on the paperwork for the two parent vacancies.
- Public Comment – Five comments were received in the panel’s public comment email. The subcommittee will continue to monitor the emails received and report to the panel as necessary.

Future Panel Meetings

September 10, 2009 (Thursday) – Truman Building, Room 400

December 11, 2009 (Friday) – Truman Building, Room 400

Adjournment – Pat Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Montgomery seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.