

**TASK FORCE ON BLIND STUDENT ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL PERFORMANCE BLIND
TASK FORCE (BTF)**

Minutes

Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives

August 2, 2011

A regular meeting of the committee representatives of Blind Task Force (BTF) was called to order at Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA), 2100 I-70 Drive, S.W., Columbia, Missouri, at 10 a.m. pursuant to the notice sent to all directors in accordance with the bylaws.

The following committee representatives were present: Doreen Frappier, Keith Roderick, David C. Ekin, Stephen Barr, Kyle Borah, Patty Yocum, David Wilson

The following committee representatives were absent: Julie Brown, Ella Wolfe, Patricia Shonlau, Mike Charland, Kelly Helmick, Trevor Knoblauch, Sheila Wright (National Federation of the Blind Missouri Representative), Donna Borgmeyer; Lynn Berger

Guests: None

Doreen Frappier, Chairman, presided

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Doreen F.
2. **Roll Call of BTF Members:** Doreen F.
3. **Review and Approval of August 2, 2011 BTF Agenda:** Doreen F.
Approved and seconded
4. **Review and Approval of May 10, 2011 Minutes:** Doreen F.
5. **Introduction of Guests/Visitors and Public Comments:** Doreen F.
6. **BTF Member Updates/Comments:** Doreen F.
 - Draft a letter of support for pilot project.
 - Letter from Marty Exline
 - Use this letter or draft our own?
 - David E. suggested a change in first paragraph of letter to include “those with deaf/blindness” and term “strengthens and supports”.
 - Doreen F. suggested that “The Missouri Blind Task Force” be changed to include the entire title of “Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance (The Missouri Blind Task Force)
 - Suggestion to create Letterhead for Blind Task Force. Regina will prepare a draft for approval.Motion to prepare letter to Marty Exline, Motion carried.

DESE Update: Dr. Barr

Handouts

Law passed providing disability awareness instruction.

- Finding curricular pieces to use to create guidelines (not rules) for curricular development that can be integrated into the curriculum and education programs in school districts.
- These pieces would be more inclusive than just the special education arena, but music, history, etc. to help not only the students but the educational leadership and teachers.

- Change notions and expectations from, “they can’t” to “they can”.

MSIP 5 – Missouri School Improvement Process

- State will no longer go in and conduct routine reviews.
- Accountability measures included to encourage “rethinking the capability of students.”
- ALL students should be college and career ready.

New Directors Academy, July 2011

- Trained 72 New Special Education Directors within the state.
- Significant turnover of special education directors. Topics included:
 - Understanding law from administrator’s and teacher’s perspective.
 - Understanding indicators by which special education is evaluated.
 - Understanding role of federal, state and district level relationships.
 - Understanding data and compliance and familiarizing participants with the improvement process especially as it relates to proficiency rates for students.

Discussions from the Administrator’s Conference

- Mass Customization
 - What would customers need from us and how we would look at this data to change our practices and incorporate it into the school improvement process?
- 10X20 Dashboard
- Common-Core Tests
 - A lot of attention being paid to this item.
 - Smarter balanced assessments
 - States to voluntarily work together – common though process.
 - Potential cost efficiency
 - Higher quality textbooks truly aligned to the standards.
 - Companies start aligning their professional development based on these concepts and smarter balanced assessments.
 - Driven by technology but will have most of the accommodations embedded and will incorporate performance based assessments.
 - Better accommodate students with disabilities.
 - Does not take away local or state level control.
 - Better prepare students for the GLOBAL economy
 - Movement back toward students learning critical thinking and not just ABC’s.
 - Assessments drive instruction
 - A lot of students don’t stay in Missouri and having the same level of testing in other states will be a plus.

Missouri School for the Blind - Patty Y.

- Potential to implement nationwide in the area of technology.
- Prepare students to be ready for the workforce and make them aware of resources available to them on the internet.
- Currently updating computer labs. Computers are being pushed out of the lab setting into the classrooms.
- Fall enrollment has increased significantly since June 2010.

7. BTF Vacancies: Doreen F

- (1) Consumer Organization National Federation of the Blind Representative
- (2) Parents of Blind or Visually Impaired Students attending public school in Missouri
- (1) Teacher of the Visually Impaired
- (1) Public School Building Principal
- (1) Employer
- (1) Institutions of Higher Education
- (1) Student
- Please promote!

8. Standing Committee Updates

- a. Academic and Vocational Services: Patty Y.
- b. Children's Vision Summit: Doreen F.
- c. Rules: No report
- d. Student Achievement: No report

9. Current Workshops/Events within the State

- September 15 Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to Your School
 - MSB, Contact: Jennie Mascheck at jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov; 314-776-4320, ext. 1250
- September 17 100th Anniversary at Delta Gamma Center in St. Louis
 - 1st Annual Family Festival at Shaw Park, St. Louis
 - For more information: visit www.slsbvi.org or call Karen Skender at 314-301-7303
- October 26-28 Hand in Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Educational Teams of Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Losses
 - MSB-Held in Cape Girardeau, Contact: Susan Bonner at susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov; 314-776-4320, ext. 3255
 - Additional dates: January 25-26, 2012; April 18-19, 2012
- November 4 Missouri AER Conference, Columbia
 - Contact: Trish Callier; 636-634-1137
- November 9 TADPOLE and TOAD: Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills
 - MSB and the National Instructional Partnership of America Printing House for the Blind, contact Yvonne Ali at Yvonne.ali@msb.dese.mo.gov; 314-776-4320, ext. 3256

10. Agenda for Next Meeting:

- How can the state do things better?
- By-Laws Purpose Statement
- Connecting students with jobs while in school--Discuss significant issues that need to be dealt with.
- Transition
- Employment Readiness

Motion for Adjournment: Motion made and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:13 PM

Next meeting scheduled for November 8, 2011