

Special Education Advisory Panel Meeting

Minutes

March 11, 2011

Members in Attendance

Scott Montgomery
Stephen Barr
Pat Kopetz
Lauren Zeliff
Laura Moseley
Theresa Valdes
Jerry Neal

Byron Koster
Lori Christiansen
Jamey McVicker
Doreen Frappier
Mary Kay Savage
Sue Sharp
Pam Schneeflock

Russ Brock
Becky Romine
Trish Grassa
Danny Tipton
Tammy Pence

Members Not in Attendance

Angela Brown
Denise Buersmeyer
Donna Cash

Martha Crabtree
Thurma DeLoach
Kathleen Harnetz

Michelle Hoffmeister
Steve McDannold
Dorothy Parks

Copies of handouts and presentations for this meeting are available at:

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

Call to Order/Introductions – Scott Montgomery called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes – Lori Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mary Kay Savage commented that in the Annual Performance Report (APR) it states the SEAP approved the changes to the APR. The changes to the APR were presented to the panel in December but there was no vote on whether the panel approved. The group discussed how to address the issue. Doreen Frappier made a motion to add the following sentence to the December panel minutes “The SEAP did discuss and did not make any recommendations to the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report.” Byron Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed. Everyone was asked to review the APR and SPP and let Lina know of any concerns. There will be a brief discussion at the June meeting. Tammy Pence seconded the earlier motion to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved with addition of sentence.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) – Mary Ann Burns, Director of School Improvement Initiatives, presented information on Missouri Professional Learning Communities. To view her presentation, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/documents/se-admin-seap-plcpresentation.pdf> . She also handed out copies of the Mid-Year PLC Newsletter which is available at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/sii/documents/PLC-Mid-Year-Newsletter-2011.pdf>. For more information on the MO PLC Project, please visit: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/sii/prolearning> or <http://www.mopl.org>.

Introduction to Top 10 by 20 – Stephen Barr, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Special Education, presented information on the Department’s Top 10 by 20 initiative. The State Board and the Commissioner have launched this major improvement initiative that aims for student achievement in Missouri to rank among the top 10 states by 2020. To view the handouts, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>. For additional information on the Department’s Top 10 by 20 initiative go to:

<http://dese.mo.gov/top10by20/about.html>. Stephen asked the panel to review the information at their subcommittee meetings and provide him with feedback.

Department Update (Working Lunch)

- The Department is working with districts to help them determine how to expend their federal ARRA funds which as of September 30, 2011, will be vanishing. In these difficult financial and political times, we do not want the U.S. Department of Education to see that these funds were not expended; it will look bad for Missouri.
- The electronic IEP process is once again back on track. It will now be part of the new Student Information System. It will be a module of the system instead of integrated into the system. DESE will not mandate the new system but hopes districts will see the benefit of buying into it.
- There have been lots of concerns regarding ECSE funds and rising program costs. The Department has been reviewing data trying to identify regions of the state and/or specific activities which seem to be higher than in others areas of the state. The Department feels reasonable cost containment strategies need review to help ensure the stability of the program.
- There has been talk about student growth models and DESE initiated a student growth pilot. About 150 districts have signed up. It is a two year process. Russ Brock indicated he and some other school administrators had a concern about the pilot. He said the pilot was reported as being for teacher evaluation and districts who volunteered to be part of the pilot were not getting what they thought they were. Stephen indicated he would share this concern with the Commissioner.
- There is currently a bill on Teacher Evaluation Compensation. Not sure at this time were it is going. The Department does not have enough information about the bill and hopes the process is slowed down so we can get an idea of what is going on. Any teacher compensation plan must fair for everyone and be practical and doable.
- A project funded by the U. S. Department of Education created a set of common core standards. Missouri is invested in the development of these common core standards. The standards will be benchmarked against international standards. Workshops have been held across the state providing a crosswalk between the current standards and the common core standards. There is some variation but not a lot. New assessments aligned to those standards will be piloted in 2014 or 2015.
- Diploma Project – The Department is looking at what students are doing after they leave school and what assistance can be provided. What are the prerequisite courses students must have to be successful? Parents need to be involved in this process. There was a lot of discussion by the panel on this topic.

Subcommittees met from 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Evaluation** – no report
- **Rules and Regulations** – The subcommittee is reviewing/revising the bylaws to indicate what needs to be done if the panel's vice chair or secretary leaves during their term. The subcommittee is also reviewing the Parents Guide to Special Education. They are also discussing how Missouri stands in relation to other states with regard to due process. Jerry wrote a letter to Stephen Barr. Missouri and Delaware are the only states that use a three member hearing panel. Other states use an independent law judge or an independent hearing office. This would be a cheaper option (about \$60,000) for Missouri. Currently, the reason Missouri has a three member hearing panel is because of statutory language which mandates it. An entity other than the Department would have to recommend a change to the Legislature. The panel asked the subcommittee to contact the other 48 states and obtain cost information and determine if those states had ever had a three member hearing panel (if so, why did they switch to something different).

- **Monitoring** – The subcommittee is reviewing due process. They will be asking the Department for additional information. The subcommittee is also interested in providing input on the Missouri State School Improvement Plan. Stephen indicated the State Board will meet next week and plans to approve for public comment. It will be probably another two months before the State Board acts on the plan.
- **Programs** – The subcommittee
 - felt the PLC presentation was very good but too broad. They would like the focus to be on how the program affects students with disabilities. Suggested a special education teacher from one of the PLC schools come and explain how it affects special education students in their school.
 - would like an update on how special education students fit into the Common Core Assessments.
 - would like additional information on MIM, Early Childhood Special Education, Highly Qualified Teachers, and Top 10 by 20.
 - was concerned about schools only using MAP or NAEP to gauge student mastery/success. They felt more should be done throughout the year. If the focus is only on those tests, do the results really give accurate data?
- **Nominations** – There are vacancies in the Individuals with Disabilities/Parents of Children with Disabilities category and the Administrator category. The subcommittee reviewed the file of nominations and has selected some possible nominees. The panel needs nominations from southwest Missouri and Springfield areas. A few members will have terms that expire at the end of June. Lina has contacted them to determine if they want to serve another term. Nomination forms for Officer and Executive Committee members were handed out at the meeting. You do not have to ask the person if they want to serve; the subcommittee will do that. The majority of the Executive Committee must be from the Individuals with Disabilities/Parents of Children with Disabilities category.
- **Public Comment** – The subcommittee reviewed three comments received on the panel’s email address. Pat Kopetz wanted to make panel members aware of the Resource Directory, Help for Students with Disabilities located on the web at http://coe.umsl.edu/web/centers/disdir/main_layout.cfm.

Adjournment – Pat Kopetz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lauren Zeliff seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.