

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

Minutes
Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives
November 13, 2012

A regular meeting of the committee representatives of the Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance 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. For information on the BTF, visit <http://dese.mo.gov/se/btf/>.

The following committee representatives were present:

- Stephen Barr, DESE Representative
- David C. Ekin, Employers Representative
- Doreen Frappier, Parents of blind or visually impaired students attending public school in Missouri Representative
- Deana Griffin, Employers Representative
- Kelly Helmick, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Diana Lawson, Public School Building Principals Representative
- Keith Roderick, Department of Social Services Representative
- Patti Schonlau, Consumer Organization: Missouri Council of the Blind Representative
- Devon Sgroi, Student Representative
- Diane Stockman, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Louise Whitworth, Teachers of the Visually Impaired Representative
- Patty Yocum, Missouri School for the Blind Representative

The following committee representatives were absent:

- Donna Borgmeyer, Rehabilitation Council for the Blind Representative
- Julie Brown, Public School Special Education Administrators Representative
- Mike Charland, Orientation & Mobility Specialist Representative
- Ian Shadrick, Institutions of Higher Education Representative

Guest(s): Dacia Luck, potential Consumer Organization: National Federal of the Blind Representative

Patti Schonlau, Chairman, presided and Regina Miller, Administrative Assistant, Office of Special Education, recorded the proceedings of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions: Patti Schonlau

1. Roll Call of BTF Members: Regina Miller
2. Review and Approval of November 13, 2012, BTF Agenda:
After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the agenda for today's meeting was approved.
3. Review and Approval of August 7, 2012, Minutes:
Correction to member of Children's Vision Committee – add Doreen Frappier. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the corrected minutes of last meeting were approved.
4. Introduction of Guests/Visitors and Public Comments

5. Guest Speaker: “Increasing Student Achievement and Teacher Effectiveness Through Guided Self-Assessment and Goal-Setting”, presented by Joy Waddell and Ann Newman, Missouri School for the Blind. Showed significant increases in proficiency rates in all reportable content areas. Participated in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) – Teacher teams that come together to look at data and discuss ways to improve. Some of the data reviewed are results of Classroom Walk Throughs (CWTs). When conducted on a regular basis, CWTs provide the most accurate snapshot to help to shape and support goals and objectives. While teachers select their own goals, their decisions are influenced by participation in the PLC.

6. Children’s Vision Summit (CVS): (see handouts) – It was suggested that the title be changed to better focus on not only children, but parents and educators. Recommendation was Summit for Parents and Educators of Children with Visual Impairment/Blindness: Transition through the Ages (Birth to Adulthood). Motion was duly made and seconded to approve new title, motion was approved.
 - Update on funding sources (see handouts) - Who is receiving the monies and how is payment expected? Because no one on Blind Task Force has the authority to collect the monies contributed, each donor has been made aware and understands that they will be assigned to a bill related to the costs of the Summit. They will then direct pay the bill.
 - Goals/Objectives of CVS - Prepare an evaluation with four or five general questions that will need to be answered by all participants.
 - Karen Blankenship is the keynote speaker. She knows the VI curriculum and expanded core. She has requested we provide her with the goal and objectives that we wish to see accomplished as a result of this summit. Suggestions included: educate parents and teachers on ways to improve the education of children who are visually impaired or blind; ensure good coverage from beginning of education process (birth to adulthood); and, broaden the transition concept. Key areas of transitions. Patti Schonlau will summarize and forward to Ms. Blankenship.
 - Advertising/Booths: Vendors will be responsible to set up their own booths.
 - Additional planning by BTF is needed for this event. Members will participate in a conference call on April 23, 2013 (set up through State Operator). Patti Schonlau will coordinate.
 - Three meeting rooms and the conference center that can be broken into four additional rooms for breakout sessions. 45 minute sessions with 15 minute breaks.
 - Registration: Diana Lawson has volunteered to be responsible for setting up registration.
 - Registration Deadline - April 15, 2013.
 - Lodging Reservations Deadline - March 25, 2013—25 rooms are blocked for this event.
 - Notification: Keith Roderick has volunteered to design and distribute two flyers: Save-the-Date (more information to follow) and an informational flyer giving registration information, etc. Please provide Keith with all pertinent information as soon as possible. Will need to send Save-the-Date immediately. Distribution: SELs, Facebook (Create an “Event”), MSB Upcoming Events.
 - Diana Lawson will be the third person on LRE panel of presenters.
 - Pam Thomas (First Steps) and Louise Whitworth (Early Childhood) will work together on transition from First Steps to ECSE. Louise will contact Pam Thomas via email.
 - Thumbdrives will be purchased to provide presentation materials to participants. Still to be decided: Will there be a way to have materials

available online to download or pdf? Who will purchase thumbdrives, gather materials from presenters, and place on the thumbdrives.

- o Budget needs to cover: Food, some rooms, equipment rental (projectors, laptops, screen, etc). Will need to take a closer look at these costs to ensure we have allotted enough monies to cover unexpected expenses.

7. DESE Update: Dr. Barr

- OSE received a five year development grant to support activities that will improve student outcomes across the state. The grant will help support costs of evaluation, training activities, and expansion of the use of technology for professional development.
- Waiver on NCLB – first monitoring call included ESEA and OSEP personnel. This partnership is expected to continue.
- Compliance Section is conducting on-sites that are focused on compliance issues and not improvement. The school improvement arena will be monitored by the Effective Practices Section of DESE
- Teacher Leader Standards – Pilot program in process for next year to test out the use of the educator standards as part of the educator evaluation process. Recommend that teachers get involved in the evaluation pilot.
- Blind Skills Specialist still needs to be filled. South Central will be the fiscal agent.
- Senate Bill 595 passed and put into action. Changes Due Process Hearings to an Administrative Hearing Commission. Our agency and office will continue to receive the initial paperwork.
- Part B State Plan was released for Public Comment but eventually tabled by State Board and placed on the State Board agenda for the November meeting.
- Part C State Plan comment period opened up for an initial 30 days and extended for additional 30 days. Two major areas of interest: ABA and recommendation to cease extended services to children in First Steps services once they reach the age of 3.

8. Standing Committee Updates

- Academic and Vocational Services: Working on Children's Vision Summit
- Rules: Working on Children's Vision Summit
- Student Achievement: No report

9. BTF Membership Update

- Dacia Luck (NFB), Devon Sgroi (Student Rep), and Deana Griffin (Employer Rep)
- Vacant slots still needing to be filled: (2) Parents (2) Students (1) Special Ed Administrator

10. Nomination of Officers:

- Chair - Patti Schonlau to remain as chair.
- Vice Chair - Keith Roderick
- Secretary - Louise Whitworth

11. 2013 Meeting Dates: 2/12/2013, 4/23/2013*, 8/6/2013, and 11/12/13. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting dates for 2013 were approved.

*Tuesday, April 23, 2013, Conference Call will replace the May meeting.

12. BTF Meeting Catering for 2013 - McAlister's was selected.

13. Agenda for next meeting – will focus primarily on the summit.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.