

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

Minutes

Regular Meeting of Committee Representatives

May 10, 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: Patricia Schonlau, Doreen Frappier, Ella Wolfe, Lynn Berger, Mike Charland, Julie Brown, Keith Roderick, David C. Ekin, Stephen Barr, Kyle Borah, Patty Yocum, Donna Borgmeyer, David Wilson

The following committee representatives were absent: Trevor Knoblauch, Donna Prouty

Guests: Anthony Blades, David Baker, Missouri Assistive Technology

Doreen Frappier, Chairman, presided

1. Welcome and Introductions: Doreen F.
2. Roll Call of BTF Members: Julie B
3. Review and Approval of May 10, 2011 BTF Agenda: Doreen F.  
Approved and seconded
4. Review and Approval of November 9, 2010 Minutes: Julie B
  - February Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.
  - Item #6: Lynn B. stated that she did not attend the AER National meeting in Little Rock, AR.
  - Lynn B provided information on the Space Step Lighthouse program, and other Lighthouse programs.
5. Introduction of Guests/Visitors and Public Comments: Doreen F.
6. BTF Member Updates/Comments: Doreen F.
  - Accessibility of Online Testing  
Currently, EOC exams are not available to be taken online in alternate formats. Field test questions are omitted from hard copies of the exams. Doreen is concerned that field questions may not be suitable for the blind/vi students, but this data will not be available if those children are not given the opportunity to participate in field test questions. More research needs to be done on increasing accessibility of online EOC testing. Doreen asked David Baker and the Academic and Vocational Committee to follow up.
  - Need assessment results back from DESE to better ensure a fair and valid measure of the student's abilities.
  - Should student's IEP document a primary mode or preference as to the best process to follow while testing? (Braille, having someone read questions aloud to student, etc.)
  - David Baker, Missouri Assistive Technology  
Charged with taking a look at online assessments that school districts are currently using to help students. (Study Island, Scholastic, Edison Learning)

- Letters were sent out asking for feedback related to this question, “What do you do to ensure that your programs/software is accessible to visually impaired students?”
- There were no responses to this letter.
- Next step? Feedback from school districts that have dealt with the issue of accessibility.
- What is out there that would give a legal push to make these companies more accommodating to students with visual impairments? Is there a law that covers accessibility when companies produce these tests?
- Comments or questions: Email David.BKR@att.net

DESE Update: Dr. Barr

10 By 20 Objectives – Handout

- Focus on clear issues of improvement
- Of the 4 major goals, 3 would affect kids directly with the 4th goal dealing with the agency.
- **Goal #1** implements common core standards.
  - Need to think concretely regarding technology and what needs to be done not only for Missouri but also on the national level.
  - Will likely reduce the number of states with their own standards and formats.
  - Encourage more communication and “borrowing” among districts and teachers making it “safe to take risks and talk about what works.”
  - More summaritive and formative assessments for a clearer picture of how students are performing over time not just at the end of the year.
  - How do we help implement high quality core content, curriculum, and assessment practices so that everybody can access the data?
    - Feedback from districts.
    - Train people in a process and give them access to the districts to train and expand the number of folks that understand and can follow the process.
    - Statewide system of support needs to be developed to support all districts, schools and educators which implies the system needs to use technology and personnel to get the job done.
- **Goal #2** relates to helping children enter kindergarten ready to learn.
  - The two major components are parent education and quality preschool that focuses on learning.
- **Goal #3** relates to effective educators.
  - Focuses on the process of screening and preparing teacher candidates.
  - Focuses on helping all educators meet the new educator standards.

7. BTF Vacancies: Doreen F.

- We need to have any applications for currently vacant slots submitted immediately.
- Can we please post these vacancies on SELs?
- BTF has the following vacancies at this time:
  - Consumer Organization: National Federation of the Blind Representative.
    - Will be appointed by NFB.
  - Two (2) Parent Representative positions
  - Two (2) Teacher Representative positions
    - Lynn Berger will not seek reappointment in July 2011
    - Ella Wolfe will not seek reappointment in November 2011
  - One (1) Employer Representative position
  - One (1) School Building Principal Representative position
  - Nomination form can be found on the DESE Special Education website at <http://dese.mo.gov/se/documents/se-btfnomform2011.pdf>

- Regina will draft a SELs indicating that BTF is currently accepting applications for the above noted vacancies to serve on the Blind Task Force and send to Dr. Barr for review and posting.

8. Standing Committee Updates

- a. Academic and Vocational Services: Patty Y reported that this committee will meet following the BTF meeting for discussion. Add David Wilson as new member of committee. Add David Wilson as new committee member.
- b. Children's Vision Summit: Doreen F reported that due to lack of funds and increased hotel costs, the committee will be looking at other options for having some kind of educational resource made. CVS will meet following the BTF meeting.
- c. Rules: Ella had no report. New Chairperson: Patricia S.
- d. Student Achievement: New Chairperson: Julie B.

9. Current Workshops/Events within the State

May 13	Working with Students with Low Vision Heart of MO RPDC, Register at <a href="http://www.heartofmissourirpdc.org">www.heartofmissourirpdc.org</a> ; Accommodations, contact Jan DeHart 573-882-6156
May 20	Independent Living Skills for the Student with Visual Impairments, Heart of MO RPDC, Register at <a href="http://www.heartofmissourirpdc.org">www.heartofmissourirpdc.org</a> ; Accommodations, contact Jan DeHart 573-882-6156
June 24-25	INSITE Training for Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MoSPIN, first session)
Sept 30-Oct 2	MSB-St. Louis Contact: Ginny Williams at 573-295-4808 <a href="mailto:ginwilliams@aol.com">ginwilliams@aol.com</a>
September 15	Welcoming Students with Visual Impairment to Your School, MSB, Contact: Jennie Mascheck 314-776-4320, ext. 1250 <a href="mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov">jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov</a>
October 26-28 January 25-26	Hand In Hand: Understanding Deafblindness for Educational Teams of Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Losses
April 18-19	MSB-Held in Cape Girardeau Contact: Susan Bonner – 314-776-4320, ext. 3255 <a href="mailto:susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov">susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov</a>
November 2011	TADPOLE and TOAD: Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills MSB and the National Instructional Partnership of American Printing House for the Blind Contact: Yvonne Ali at <a href="mailto:Yvonne.ali@msb.dese.mo.gov">Yvonne.ali@msb.dese.mo.gov</a> ; 314-776-4320, ext. 3256
Spring 2012	VIISA (Vision Impaired In-Service in America) Course I: Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Vision Impairment and Their Families MSB Contact: Jennie Mascheck at 314-776-4320, ext. 1250 <a href="mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov">jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov</a>

10. Agenda for Next Meeting: No suggestions made.

Motion for Adjournment – Made and Seconded

Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 p.m.  
Next meeting scheduled for August 2, 2011.