

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities
Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b
October 2, 2013
Meeting Minutes
4:30-7pm

In Attendance: Dick Cohen, Bonnie Dunham, Molly Kelly, Mike Pinard, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Renea Sparks, Joan Holleran, Lynda Thistle Elliot, Mary Ellen Pantanzis, Janet Reed, Denise Maher, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Catherine Meister, Heather Worthen, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Ellen Boudreau.

Guests: Alan Pardy-NHASEA, Tom Grinley (Parent)

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comment

- The October meeting was brought to order at 4:35pm. Bonnie welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.
- Approval of minutes: Dick Cohen made a motion to approve the September annual retreat minutes. Renea Sparks seconded the motion. All in favor, with two abstentions.
- Public comment: None

Agenda Item II: Recap from Annual Retreat:

- The new subcommittees were reviewed in the four priority areas of: *Special Education Financing and Funding; Effectiveness, Accessibility and User-Friendliness; Unmet Needs of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities; Secondary Transition* and now are trying to get everyone matching up to a subcommittee.
- A motion was made from Dick Cohen, relative to how public input is obtained and that it should be left to the subcommittee, (from either invited guests or not invited guests) on how the input is addressed. Candace Cole-McCrea seconded the motion. Discussion was to look further into this and what is in by laws. Fourteen members were in favor, with two members opposed.
- *Ways to involve legislative members:* Liaisons to the Legislative members: *John Jackson* is liaison for Senator Kelley, *Sue Marcotte-Jenkins*, is liaison for Representative Ladd, *Cheryl Pacquette* is liaison for Representative Arsenault, *Bonnie Dunham* is liaison for Senator Stiles. The liaison's role is to touch base with them before each SAC meeting. The liaison will report during the legislative update time. Renea Sparks will be the alternative liaison, in the event someone else cannot fill the role.

Agenda Item III: Subcommittees meet and report out:

- *Secondary transition:* Kestrel
- *Unmet Needs of Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities:* Dick Cohen

1. Following up on discussions that began the September retreat, there was discussion pursuing a goal of having PBIS/Multi-tiered systems of support in all schools in NH. The means to achieve that may be through legislation which would incentivize schools to do that. The committee members felt that we need to think about it over the month and when Maureen Tracey is back for the November SAC meeting make a firm decision . Maureen is a key member of our committee. The thought was that the legislation would be introduced at the 2015 Legislature so waiting one month to make a recommendation to the Commissioner would not prejudice the effort.
 2. In order to get true implementation , in addition to legislation there should be a campaign to make the public aware of PBIS and its benefits therefor enhancing the likelihood that the local schools will adopt it, not just in name only but truly as part of their cultures.
 3. There was also discussion about the need to reduce/eliminate resort to seclusion and restraint. More deliberation is needed.
- Special Education Financing/Funding: Bonnie

Agenda Item IV: Legislative Update: Bonnie reviewed the legislative handouts.

Agenda Item V: Bureau Update: Santina Thibedeau

- *Federal "shut down"*: The Next Step grant funded by OSEP and all federal websites are shut down~ Webinar's are shut down~ Federal Staff will not be responding to emails. Bureau will keep SAC updated.
- *October is Parent Involvement month*. Santina went to the Women's prison graduation in Goffstown, NH. A young woman graduated from the program called "Start" in the prison to help with hospitality services. The Developmental Disability council (DD Council) will survey parents about what were the good things that happened in their child's transition. Joan Holleran suggested members email Terry Stafford (Terry.Stafford@doe.nh.gov) with any questions regarding the survey.
- NAMI is sponsoring a *Mental Health and Schools Conference* on October 11th, the bureau will be attending.

Agenda Item VI: Adjournment

- Janet Reed made the motion to adjourn. Kerri Lynn Kimner seconded the motion.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.