

**State Special Education Advisory Committee
(SSEAC)**

**Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport
Richmond, Virginia**

Thursday July 15, 2010

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	X		Mona Holmes		X
Judy Averill		X	Lori Jackson	X	
Mike Behrmann	X		Bernadette Jones	X	
Suzanne Bowers	X		Jackie Myal	X	
Mary Ann Discenza	X		Jacqueline Nelson	X	
Christina Draper	X		Jennifer O'Berry-Ham		X
Fran Goforth	X		Peter Squire		X
Melodie Henderson	X		Tamara Temoney	X	
Sandra Hermann	X		Carletta Wilson		X

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff			
Pat Abrams	Suzanne Creasey	Doug Cox	Shelley Loving-Ryder
Cathy Pomfrey	Paul Raskopf	John Eisenberg	Irene Walker-Bolton

Guests			
Carolyn Beckett	Jane Singleton	Charles Gillespie	Bekah Saxon
Dr. Steve Tonelson	Dr. Robert Gable	Cherie Takemoto	Chris Lourie
Tarra Hollins	Debbie Kilpatrick	Matthew Dennis	Sharon Stone
Jennifer Bassett	Connellee Armentrout	James Welch	Katie Wojinski
Denise Ridley McCoy	Samantha Vanterpool	Nan Zhang	

Call to Order

Dr. Mike Behrmann, Chair, called the meeting to order. He asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

Business Session

Dr. Behrman stated that there was a quorum.

1. Minutes

- The minutes from the April 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

2. Annual Report

- Dr. Behrmann announced that he had drafted the 2009-2010 Annual Report and explained his reasoning for including certain issues and topics. The committee reviewed the draft document looking at each topic.

There was discussion and some questions regarding the issues to be included. **Ms. Sandy Hermann moved, with a second by Ms. Jackie Fagan, that the VDOE staff would be given the authority to make any editorial and formatting changes, taking into account suggestions made at the current meeting. The staff at VDOE will prepare a final document to present to the Board of Education. The motion passed.**

3. Report Follow-up to Public Comment from previous meeting

- Dr. Pat Abrams distributed a report she had drafted and summarized the actions taken for addressing two areas of concern raised at the public comment period at the April 2010 SSEAC meeting:
 - Disability History and Awareness
 - Grading Students with Disabilities

4. Future Meeting Schedule and Locations

(Locations tentative)

- October 14-15, 2010 - Holiday Inn Select Koger Center
- February 10-11, 2011 - Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport
- April 14-15, 2011 - Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport
- July 14-15, 2011 - Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport

Presentations

Guidelines & Resources Update

Dr. Pat Abrams, Dr. Suzanne Creasey, and Mr. John Eisenberg provided information about resources available on the VDOE web-site. Summarized in the presentation were:

- FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) pertaining to the regulations
- Fast Facts (one page information briefs regarding topics of interest)
- Guidelines and monographs developed by VDOE (e.g., response to information, special education eligibility, vision impairment, hearing impairment, speech/language impairment, English language learners with suspected disabilities)
- Resources in process (additional FAQs, guidelines for areas including traumatic brain injury, OT and PT in schools, autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blind, and intellectual disability)

Members were reminded that FAQs and guidelines are not regulatory but provide information based on published legal opinion and regulations. For specific situations in which there are questions, members were informed that school divisions should rely on guidance from their attorneys.

Break

Effective Schoolwide Discipline Project Update

(Ms. Irene “Walker0Bolton, Dr. Steve Tonelson, Dr. Robert Gable)

Ms. Irene Walker-Bolton introduced Dr. Steve Tonelson and Dr. Robert Gable. An update on the Effective Schoolwide Discipline (ESD) Project was provided. Members were informed that since the beginning of the project in the spring of 2005, 151 Virginia schools have participated in statewide ESD training. Additional trainings will be held in August 2010.

Public Comment

Tarra Hollins-representing the SEAC from Spotsylvania County

Ms. Hollins talked about her committee’s activities and member involvement. She encouraged the SSEAC to continue their mission about special education issues and concerns across Virginia.

Lunch

Presentations Continued

State Assessment Update

(Ms. Shelley Loving-Ryder, Mr. Doug Cox)

Ms. Shelley Loving-Ryder and Mr. Doug Cox provided an Assessment Update on VMAST and VGLA.

Topics included:

- VMAST Implementation Schedule
- VGLA Phase Out Schedule
- VMAST – VGLA Comparison
- Implications for Practice
- Questions and Answers

Ms. Loving-Ryder told members that additional information regarding the VMAST and the VGLA is available at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/index.shtml .

Questions can be directed to the Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement (804) 225-2107 or to Student_Assessment@doe.virginia.gov

State Performance Plan-Annual Performance Report Discipline Data

(Mr. Paul Raskopf)

Mr. Paul Raskopf presented information on the Annual Performance Report (APR), including information related to state and division level determinations.

Break

Assistant Superintendent Report

(Mr. Doug Cox)

Mr. Cox provided an update on activities in the Division of Special Education and Student Services. He talked about several topics including:

- OSEP determination letter
- Commission of Youth
- Governor's Initiatives
 - Charter Schools
 - University/College Lab Schools
 - Virtual Schools
- Aspiring Special Education Leaders
 - Will complete Cohort 2 first week in August
 - Will start Cohort 3 second week in August
 - Cohort 3 will be joining the SSEAC for the February meeting
- Autism Center
- “Show Your Spark”
 - Partnership with Professor Garfield Foundation

- VDOE is paying for additional assembly programs this year
- Dyslexia screening study
- ED Summit
 - ED study by ODU is nearing completion
- TBI Task Force
- Comprehensive Services Act
- Children with mild intellectual disabilities
- AIM-VA
 - Continuing to see increased use: about 1,000 additional requests a year
 - Continuing to monitor quality control issues
- Parent survey (Indicator 8)
 - 5,500 to date
 - 2 highest response rates – Autism and Learning Disabilities
- RTI
 - Beginning third year of implementation
 - Will support RtI pilots with a coaching model
 - Considering a new cohort of schools that will work closely with pilot sites

Constituency Reports	
Name	Report
Eva Aikens	The concern in Region 6 has been how the budget cuts will affect the students and teachers going forward.
Judy Averill	Absent
Mike Behrmann	Oral
Suzanne Bowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most of the Parent Resource Centers are closed for the summer, however, ● Fairfax County Parent Resource Center has a “Summer of Success Resource Packet” that is packed full of great resources including academic resources, community centers, computer clubhouses, FCPS resources, museums & more! PRC Resources, summer camps, teen centers and travel guides. http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/documents/SummerofSuccesspacket2010.pdf ● The Frederick County Parent Resource Center is bringing back CAMP RE-CREATION. Frederick County Parks and Recreation and Winchester City Parks and Recreation have partnered again this summer to bring back Camp Re-Creation, now in its second year. This unique program is designed to give children with special needs and opportunity to participate in recreational opportunities throughout the summer. Participants should expect to have new experiences in a fun and exciting atmosphere. Included in the summer activities are Hiking and Fishing, Swimming, Baseball, Kickball, Volleyball and Pottery, Soccer, Disc Golf, Football, and Basketball. Dates start June 22 and go to August 5. Fee is \$5.00 per week. For more information call 540-665-5678
Mary Ann Discenza	Oral
Christina Draper	Oral

Constituency Reports

Name	Report
Fran Goforth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The directors of special education have been working on the data related to the indicators in order to meet the submission timelines for VDOE. • Due to cutbacks in the budget for the 2010-2011 school year, school divisions are working closely with staff members to make adjustments. • There is concern from some that stimulus monies will run out at the end of this upcoming school year and how they will continue to fund some of the initiatives for the following year. • The VCASE conference will be held on October 13th in Charlottesville.
Melodie Henderson	<p>The Virginia Education Association is in the process of training new trainers to be leaders in a newly developed IDEA Cadre. This cadre will be available to provide training throughout the state to address specific special education needs. It is an affiliate of the National Education Association's IDEA Cadre. Also, I would like to announce that I will be pursuing my Master's in Educational Leadership beginning this fall.</p>
Sandra Hermann	Oral
Mona Holmes	Absent
Lori Jackson	<p>I have been in touch with several divisions in region 3 in regards to sharing of resources. Mathews County SEAC has been working with the local division in the implementation of Disability Awareness and History month activities during the month of October. One of the focuses for local SEAC's has been recruiting parents to serve on the SEAC. My local SEAC has scheduled several community outreach opportunities aimed at recruiting new members including setting up an information table at Kindergarten Screening.</p>
Bernadette Jones	Absent
Jackie Myal	Oral
Jacqueline Nelson	Absent
Jennifer O'Berry Ham	Absent
Peter Squire	Absent
Tamara Temoney	<p>VDSS is continuing to move forward with our Children's Services System Transformation to reduce the number of youth in out of home placements and increase community based placements. The Transformation website vafamilyconnections.com provides detailed information about our progress and efforts. We are seeking opportunities to educate local school systems about our efforts to support youth within the community.</p>
Carletta Wilson	Absent
(PEATC) Carolyn Beckett Information Specialist	(see final pages of this document)

Friday, July 16, 2010

SSEAC Members					
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Eva Aikens	X		Mona Holmes		X
Judy Averill		X	Lori Jackson	X	
Mike Behrmann	X		Bernadette Jones	X	
Suzanne Bowers	X		Jackie Myal	X	
Mary Ann Discenza	X		Jacqueline Nelson		X
Christina Draper	X		Jennifer O'Berry-Ham		X
Fran Goforth	X		Peter Squire		X
Melodie Henderson	X		Tamara Temoney	X	
Sandra Hermann	X		Carletta Wilson		X

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff			
Pat Abrams	Suzanne Creasey	Doug Cox	Tara McDaniel
Cathy Pomfrey	Susan Trulove	John Eisenberg	

Guests			
Samantha Vanterpool			

Call to Order

Dr. Mike Behrmann called the meeting to order.

Dr. Mike Behrmann asked members to consider the issue of the evening public comment period. Several ideas were discussed including that of inviting local SEAC chairs. There was some discussion including the reasons for inviting them, what issues would be addressed, and who would be responsible for arrangements. Several suggestions were made including training on member roles and providing some guidance for the local committees.

A motion was made to invite the local advisory committee chairs from two regions at a time for training. The motion passed.

Mr. Doug Cox reminded members that the rules for a quorum are in the SSEAC's operational procedures but are not Board of Education (BOE) procedure.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee's Reports

Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Ms. Melodie Henderson reported for the Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

1. Board of Education conducted its first review of a recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to approve a Braille assessment for teachers seeking an initial license with an endorsement in Special Education – Visual Impairment
2. General Assembly funded the 3rd year continuation for Personnel Preparation Grants for special education teachers
3. We anticipate flat funding for following personnel grants
 - ECSE consortium
 - VI Consortium
 - Radford's HI program
 - SD Consortium
 - Personnel Preparation for General Curriculum endorsement

Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Ms. Christina Draper reported for the Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

The subcommittee recommends that:

- 1 SEAC Chairs will be invited once a year (2 regions per meeting) to meet with the SSEAC; travel expenses for these individuals will be reimbursed by VDOE.
- 2 It is suggested that Friday's session be focused on communication/problem solving/ data collection between local SEAC reps and the SSEAC
- 3 The Partnership will provide introductory training and provide information on how to request training and technical assistance for on-site
- 4 Data will be analyzed on an annual basis to
 - provide recommendations to the DOE and the Board of Education on statewide systemic challenges with possible solutions
 - Establishing better lines of communication between SSEAC and localities
 - Identify training needs designed to improve effectiveness of local SEACs
5. It is recommended that the role of the regional representatives on the SSEAC be amended to include a visit to at least one SEAC each quarter. It is also recommended that the DOE reimburse the cost of attendance at these meetings.
6. It is suggested that the order of SEAC regions for invitation
 - October: Region 4 and 5
 - February: Regions 2 and 3
 - April: Regions 6 and 7
 - July: Regions 1 and 8

It was proposed that the subcommittee be charged with developing a letter for dissemination to Regions 4 & 5 which will need to be sent by VDOE no later than Sept. 15. It was approved by the committee. The subcommittee will work with Gloria Dalton to get this letter finalized and sent.

Rtl Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Ms. Lori Jackson reported that Pilot Schools are beginning the third year of implementation of Rtl. There are now four state coaches working with the pilots.

Upcoming issues include:

- New coaching manuals are under development.
- Development of online training manual
- A new cohort of approximately 15 schools
- Updated evaluations will be coming in the fall from Dale Mann

Public Comment Review from Thursday AM and Thursday PM

Dr. Mike Behrmann reviewed the three public comments received, one given in person and two received by email (below):

- Tarra Hollins-representing the SEAC from Spotsylvania County
- The Arc of Rappahannock's public comment provided by Charlie House, Director of Advocacy submitted via email with concerns about the Virginia Department of Education and the Board of Education's (BOE) decision to revert to an age cut-off of six years old for the 'developmental delay' eligibility category.
- Sue Sargeant submitted a comment on behalf of The Arc of Rappahannock about the need to get Restraint and Seclusion policies in Virginia ASAP as well as requesting mandated Child Abuse recertification training with special focus on student abuse by special education teachers, staff and administrators.

Future Agenda Items

Several items were suggested as possibilities for future agenda items including:

- Career & Technical Education Barriers Discussion/Presentation
- VMAST
- State performance/annual performance update
- Autism spectrum update report
- Study of services of students with ED
- Personnel preparation update
- Restraint and seclusion update
- Charter, lab, and virtual schools

Future Meeting Dates

(Locations tentative)

- October 14-15, 2010 - Holiday Inn Select Koger Center
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Adjourned

CONSTITUENCY REPORT – Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee July 15-16, 2010

Carolyn Beckett, Information Specialist

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)

As Virginia's Parent Training and Information Center for families of children with disabilities, PEATC provides families and the professionals who work with them training and support regarding early intervention and special education systems. PEATC works to promote active partnerships between parents and professionals that lead to positive results for children.

PTI Highlights

- **Executive Director Cherie Takemoto to Leave PEATC** – After nearly 20 years of dedicated service as Executive Director, Cherie Takemoto will leave PEATC in the fall of 2010. She will be greatly missed within the organization. Cherie's plans include finishing her doctorate at George Mason University and then determining how she can use her talents to continue to change lives for children with disabilities.
- **PEATC Headquarters to move to Richmond** – the Board of PEATC has approved the move of PEATC's state headquarters to Richmond during the fall of 2010. This move will coincide with the hiring of PEATC's new CEO who will work out of the Richmond office.
- **IEP Checklist iPhone App** – There have been over 7,500 downloads of this app. Version two will be released within several weeks.
- **Information and Assistance** – During the month of May, PEATC reached the PTI requirement for Year 1 intakes even though the grant year does not end until September 30, 2010. The minimum intakes number required for Year 1 of the PTI Grant is 6,500 and as of May 31 PEATC intakes totaled 6,535.
- **Virginia Parent Surveys** – On behalf of VDOE, PEATC staff called numerous families to encourage them to complete the parent survey. Families had the choice of completing the survey online, on the phone (staff entering the information), or via a printed copy (sent to them by PEATC). PEATC staff created two Excel data sheets to keep track families contacted.

- **YouTube** – PEATC staff are working with a 14-year-old self advocate, David, who has incredible technical expertise, to produce a series of YouTube videos on the special education process. There will be six three-minute videos (“webisodes”). David is linking the videos together with an ongoing humorous conversation with an invisible “voice” – and – a fireball explosion at the end of each video. The target audience is young adults with disabilities who may need convincing that it is worthwhile to participate in their educational planning. As David so eloquently puts it, “the adults in those meetings really aren’t jerks – they are trying to help you become who you want to be.” David will be presenting with Cherie at the upcoming OSER’s mega leadership conference in Washington D.C.
- **August PEATC Leadership Conference for Parents** – PEATC is excited to announce the opportunity for parents to participate in the *Parents as Collaborative Leaders* training to be held August 25-27, 2010, in Blacksburg, Virginia. By the end of the training, participants will have fine tuned their leadership skills to become more effective advocates for their children and more active leaders in their communities. Ongoing PEATC consultation will be offered. All expenses are paid for the training. Child care reimbursement is available. Applications are available through the PEATC website www.peatc.org and must be received by July 22, 2010. Selected participants will receive a confirmation letter with details and exact location.

NEXT STEPS Transition Program - Highlights

- **Recipient of National TATRA Award** – At the July, 2010, TATRA (Technical Assistance on Transition and the Rehabilitation Act funded by RSA) Conference, PEATC’s NEXT STEPS Transition Program was awarded the National TATRA Award for Excellence in Transition-Focused Parent Training.
- **2010 Webinar Series** – There has been a great response with 4,623 viewing the 2010 series. In addition, the 2009 series continued participation with 4,956 views. We do not have a final tally on Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Continuing Rehab Credits (CRCs). CRCs may continue to be disseminated though CEUs are discontinued once the series ends for the year.
- **Survey of transition professionals** – regarding views of parent involvement. We are asking professionals their perspective on the issues of parental involvement. There have been 73 responses so far. The findings to will be collated for a summer release. This survey will close this month in June.

Outreach Highlights

- **Thank you VDOE** – With support from VDOE, PEATC will be a part of a bi-monthly radio program in Central Virginia.
- **Media Coverage** – during the summer, PEATC will be participating in numerous major events and festivals organized by Latino radio stations and newspapers.
- **Latino Parent Leadership Group** – On Saturday April 17, PEATC organized the first Parent Leaders training in Spanish, culturally adapted and translated, based on the Parents as Collaborative Leaders project. Over 25 parents attended the training, enthusiastically participating in all parts of the process. The emerging leaders analyzed what it takes to be a

leader and how to invite Latino families to meetings and events. The strategies that they identified were both practical and creative.

- **Outreach to Richmond, Central Southeast Virginia and Northern Virginia** Building on previous special education workshops in Norfolk and Petersburg, Rosalia Fajardo, Patricia Ojeda and Roberto Quintero held trainings in Chesterfield and Richmond. On April 13th, they presented in Chesterfield, Virginia at the St. Augustine Church to a group of 24 parents with children with disabilities and other parents who were interested in finding out more about special education. The workshop introduced families to the process of special education and included topics such as parents' rights in their child's school, how to communicate in an effective way, developing and implementing an IEP. The following day PEATC hosted a group of parents in Richmond City. The families attending were from Puebla, Oaxaca, and Guerrero, Mexico and spoke a different dialect of Spanish called Mixteco.
- **Ethiopian Community** – On April 10, 2010, Rosalia Fajardo, Outreach Director, took part in the Ethiopian Community Health Fair sponsored by the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC). ECDC serves the African immigrant and refugee community in the United States through a wide spectrum of programs that are conducted locally and nationally.
- **Mexican Embassy** – PEATC Latino Staff, Rosalia Fajardo, and Roberto Quintero, traveled with the Mexican Consulate to Roanoke to help over 700 Mexican immigrants understand the importance of their involvement in their children's education. For the past three years, the Mexican Mobile Consulate has asked PEATC to be a part of their outreach initiative, so that families have a better understanding of rights and responsibilities in the American educational system. Fajardo delivered three presentations on special education, while Quintero presented on the importance of parent involvement. PEATC staff also participated at the Mexican Consulate Health and Services Day in Manassas. PEATC will be at future Mexican mobile consulate tours including stops in Charlottesville, Richmond and Virginia Beach.
- **Asian American Health Fair** – PEATC Board Member, Susan Chen, has arranged for PEATC to have a free booth and visibility at a major Vietnamese/Asian community event in July.
- **US Census** – PEATC has been reaching out to the Latino community to register for the 2010. We were a key partner of the Complete Count committee at the State level as well as for Fairfax County census efforts. As a result of this work more Latino families had awareness, outreach and education about the 2010 Census campaign in Fairfax County.

TRENDS

- **Increased Number of Calls from Parents Who Are Receiving Mixed Messages regarding ESY**

The resurgence of an old trend – ESY not being offered by school systems – and when parents request it, they are receiving mixed messages. Schools' avoidance of the ESY conversation may be driven by budget cuts, although they hesitate to articulate this reason. Instead, several families have been given implied messages that their child's IEP would expire if they took any time to discuss ESY prior to the IEP meeting. These same parents were not told that an expired IEP would continue

until a new one was developed and that the responsibility rested with the school system. Numerous parents have initiated ESY conversations with the schools as late as mid-June – assuming ESY to be in place because their child has had it in years past and no one has called to discuss any changes. These parents have been shocked to learn that the schools have decided their children will not need ESY this year because their children were “making progress”. (In one instance, the progress was defined as passing the SOLs - even though the student’s grades had gone from Bs and Cs to Ds and Fs.)