

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2010

5:30-7:00

Members Present:

David Taylor  
Sheldia Sparks  
Cathy Evans  
Lillian Sundy  
Dr. Janice Horohov  
Sandra Spurgeon-Tinker  
Denise Beatty  
Dr. Leisa Pickering  
Gaye Blackburn

Others Present:

Tanya Sturgill – Autism Resource Specialist  
Rachel Baker – Special Education Administrator

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.

II. Introductions

Ms. Tanya Sturgill and Ms. Rachel Baker are our guest speakers tonight. Ms. Sturgill is here to discuss the Autism grant and Ms. Baker is here to discuss the Transition Fair.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to add Transition Fair under new business. Motion was made by Cathy Evans to approve the agenda and Sheldia Sparks seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

IV. Approval of Consent Items

- a. Review minutes—approve or amend. Minutes were approved. Motion was made by Cathy Evans and seconded by Lillian Sundy.

V. Old Business (25 minutes)

- a. Update from Ad-hoc committees—

#### Education:

The committee is working toward meeting, given the weather and holidays. The committee is working on obtaining information to put together for families to share. Discussion related to having an open line of communication with families and among staff. The committee has discussed strategies related to working toward developing a core group to assist new teachers.

#### Communication:

Stella could not be here tonight. She is attending a forum in Frankfort, KY. Ms. Sundy reviewed communication information. The parent meeting was previously held and the next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010 at Tates Creek Public Library. Brochures have been developed pertaining to the Fayette County Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Information regarding facilitator packets were shared with tonight's committee. Strategies for sharing information with parents included Surveys, Magnets containing information, emailing information, electronic surveys, getting the word about the meetings and luncheons. Ms. Dykes stated these could be some projects that could be worked on this summer.

Information will be shared with facilitators reminding them to share information regarding the parent resource center. Brochures will be given to facilitators to include with Notice of ARC Meetings.

#### Vocational/Post Secondary:

Stimulus spending toward assistive technology and transition. Dr. Pickering indicated the committee would like to meet with Rachel Baker regarding the assistive technology for post secondary education.

#### Placement/Service

No updates at this time.

#### b. Stimulus Update

MUNIS was down today. No information can be reported tonight. Ms. Dykes will share the information at the next meeting.

Every school except one elementary on the North side of town applied for the grant. This school felt they had excessive funding and would prefer another school got the money.

The grants were approved for all schools, except one high school (requested funds to pay for a clerk).

The committee would like to see how the schools spent the funds. Ms. Dykes will obtain the information and share with the committee.

## VI. New Business

### a. Autism Grant

Ms. Sturgill discussed the Autism Grant. This is a state initiative with 3 goals:

1. Increase understanding of teachers of evidence based standards;
2. To provide Technical Assistance for students with Autism; and
3. Improve parents perception of services that children with Autism are receiving.

The project started with Jefferson County Schools this year. Fayette County Schools will begin next school year.

The Autism support team includes a core group of five people. There will be 4 models sites during the first year. After the first year we hope to have 4 additional sites over the next five years. They will target 3 students at each levels.

The project will not create cluster classrooms. The determining sites will be based on principal and parental involvement.

### b. College Connection

Ms. Baker discussed the BCTC program regarding courses and peer tutors. Two students per high school will participate in this program. Student ranging in age from 18 to 21 attend FCPS. These students will participate at BCTC with their peers. Several students from TCHS started the courses (some remedial 099 courses). These classes will assist in preparing these students for college courses.

The students applied and were approved by BCTC. Then, ARC meetings were held regarding the steps in getting these students started. Other students from FCPS will start Tuesday.

Ms. Lisa Wasson will be presenting during one of the future meetings. Ms. Sundy asked if the peer tutors will be receiving college credits? Ms. Baker indicated the peer tutors are at-risk students who may see an opportunity to attend college later for credits.

Ms. Pickering urged Ms. Baker to get these kids to the March Transition Fair.

The Transition Fair handout was reviewed by Rachel Baker. Students are typically juniors and seniors. Generally, more seniors attend the transition fair. The students sign up at the schools. Registration forms are sent to the co-op in a batch.

Ms. Pickering stated the fair has lots of booths and sessions. It may be beneficial for juniors to attend.

c. Read 180 Update

This program looks at comprehension for students. Read 180 has been purchased for all high schools and alternative programs. Reading and Math are areas to attack at the high schools. Ms. Baker indicated the program rolled out on January 5<sup>th</sup>. The students may be working on Reading 180 along with another program. Read 180 works well with high school students. Very age appropriate – computer work, silent reading – it is a 30 minute program.

System 44 – if students have low reading skills, this program is utilized. Gray area students are included.

Next Meeting February 11th - Gummy Bear Video – Peer Tutoring; Lisa Wasson – Transition; Kim Cooper – Reading Programs for Elementary Schools.

Ms. Sparks stated information from the Early Start office will be helpful. Transition activities from Early Start to Kindergarten are critical.

VII. Open Chair (15 minutes)

a. Public comments—

No comments

b. Individual comments from council—

Ms. Dykes stated we are going to have a Principal Focus Group for Special Education. The committee will include the special education administrators, elementary, middle, and high school principals. The focus group will address systematic issues regarding special education.

The committee discussed ways to work with new teachers in Fayette County regarding support, mentoring type strategies, etc.

VIII. Adjournment of meeting

Motion to adjourn made by Cathy Evans and seconded by Denise Beatty.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.