

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2009

5:30-7:00

Members Present:

Cathy Evans
Dr. Janice Horohov
Lillian Sundy
Dr. Leisa Pickering
Judy Russell
Stella Smith
Hazel Forsythe
Karen Guettler-James
David Taylor
Amy Koegel

Others Present:

Kellye Vincent – Communication Disorders Resource Specialist

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

II. Introductions

Ms. Kellye Vincent is our guest speaker tonight.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Ms. Cathy Evans and seconded by Ms. Judy Russell.

IV. Approval of Consent Items

- a. Review minutes—approve or amend. Minutes amended to correct the names on page three and use “Doctor” with Janice Horohov’s name and to include in Members Present that Ms. Karen Guettler-James was in attendance at the last meeting.

Motion made by Stella Smith and seconded by Dr. Leisa Pickering to approve the amended business.

V. Old Business (25 minutes)

a. Update from Ad-hoc committees—

Education:

Mr. Taylor indicated the committee has no updates at this time.

Communication:

Ms. Smith distributed the Parent Resource Center Newsletter for December 2009 – January 2010.

The last lunchshop was a success with over forty people attending. The topic for February 23rd is High School to Post-Secondary Transition Issues. Dawn Stinson will be presenting during this meeting. Later on in the year, Tanya Sturgill will be presenting on Autism issues. Transition from Elementary to Middle School will be presented later in the year with Dawn Stinson leading the group.

A new support group called “Special Kids and Families” will meet at the Tates Creek Public Library from 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM followed by a special speaker. Ms. Spurgeon-Tinker will be the guest speaker for the first meeting. She will be sharing some of her life experiences and will be talking about the Michele P. Waiver available for parents to apply.

Ms. Cathy Evans noted social groups are done after school at Dunbar High School.

Ms. Smith shared the packets of information that are distributed to facilitators. This packet includes basic information about the Parent Resource Center.

Vocational/Post Secondary:

Dr. Leisa Pickering – the committee will continue their work and share out in the future.

Placement/Service

Ms. Guettler-James – no updates at this time.

b. Stimulus Update

Ms. Dykes reported that we have spent 1.1 million so far with 240,000.00 in encumbrances.

Grants were approved for each school. Each school was given the opportunity to request up to \$10,000.00. The budget office has prepared a spreadsheet showing what the schools have ordered. Ms. Dykes will share this information at the next meeting.

Ms. Smith asked if all schools ordered. Ms. Dykes stated that about four schools did not order.

Dr. Pickering asked what has been ordered at the high school level. Ms. Dykes stated that Ms. Rachel Baker would be the contact person regarding spending at the high school level.

Ms. Dykes stated that Ms. Baker and Ms. Sherri Williams just attended a conference looking at Reading and Math software for students with disabilities.

VI. New Business

a. Safe Crisis Management - Kellye Vincent

Ms. Vincent is a certified trainer for Safe Crisis Management. She has been trained on several methodologies in dealing with behavior. She trains teachers and paraeducators. She can only train employees of a school district. The training involves a curriculum and workbook. De-escalation strategies is the first training component. Hands-On techniques are the last resort with Safe Crisis Management training. It is not always about breaking up fights, but sometimes maintaining positive behaviors. Since 1986, we have dealt with more and more behaviors to address in the school. Strategies taught include reflections regarding your tone, your behavior. The curriculum is the most important. It talks about the functions of behaviors. What triggers inappropriate behaviors, such as lack of medication. The stages of managing behavior are included in the training. Techniques taught are ones appropriately used in public schools rather than what may be used in institutions. We are taught to maintain – take the control from the individual until the student can regain their composure. Managing when things are out of control and people are in danger of being hurt. Techniques are not like those used by law enforcement. Ms. Vincent recommends that teams be trained in the schools. It is a good plan to have something together in case needed.

Dr. Bob Munroe is a trainer. Others have been sent to be “trainer of trainers.”

Newspaper articles have included information regarding physical restraint. We do not practice face down restraints. We first try the least restrictive – to talk to the person using strategies to assist the person in calming down.

Ms. Sundy asked what would be a resource for Parks & Recreation or other non-school agencies to be trained in Safe Crisis Management. Ms. Vincent stated the agency may contact JKM Training. Ms. Smith asked if parents can be trained. Not from Ms. Vincent. She stated parents may contact JKM for information.

Ms. Sundy asked what JKM stands for? www.jkmtraining.com Joseph K. Mullen (JKM).

b. YMCA-Winter Ball information

Brent Wallace contacted Ms. Dykes regarding the Winter Ball. Ms. Smith will get the information out to the parents. The handout regarding the Winter Ball was included in the council packets.

c. Tentative future agenda meeting items:

1. Autism Grant – Tanya Sturgill
2. Lead OT/PT regarding their part in school systems. How Wii's are used effectively in the classrooms. Joel Clark, Physical Therapy, has provided documentation regarding how Wii's improve movement, mobility, and social communication.
3. Reading Programs –Kim Cooper
4. Early Literacy Skills Programs – Becky Farmer
5. Behavior Interventions & Ideas for Parents – Donna Thomas
6. Visual Impairment – Ellen Patrick

Ms. Evans would like to see future information on transition and vocational rehabilitation. Ms. Smith would like to see Lisa Wasson come and talk to the group regarding PIP – Post-Secondary Inclusion Program. PIP is a 3 year grant, being in the 2nd year. It is provided through BCTC. Ms. Dykes will check with Lisa and see if she can come to one of our meetings.

Dr. Pickering – update on the new school – The Learning Center – maybe at the end of the school year.

Ms. Evans mentioned receiving information on how the job fair worked in Louisville. Maybe Kevin Fleming could provide some information related to this job fair. Dr. Pickering stated some of the programming

was higher than the fit for the students. Some information did not apply to them. Low incidence students attend, but not as many of the mainstream students are attending.

Ms. Evans feels there may be a gap in services.

Ms. Guettler-James would like to have more information from curriculum planning for those transitioning from middle to high and preparatory from high school to college. More information related to these transition issues.

d. Child Count Information

Information regarding Child Count Comparisons for 2007-08-09 was provided to the council members.

We have 3,925 students with disabilities reported on the December 1, 2009 Child Count Report.

Mr. Taylor requested the key for what the initials mean for each of the disabilities. Ms. Smith indicated she would be glad

VII. Open Chair (15 minutes)

a. Public comments—

No public comment

b. Individual comments from council—

Ms. Guettler-James commented the folder that went around (Parent Resource Center) was really nice. It contained valuable information.

Ms. Koegel commented on the IEP, asking why the annual goals are so vague. Ms. Dykes indicated annual goals are written differently due to cycles. States do it differently. Goals are also written in benchmarks, which is also vague. The Short term objectives are written along with the annual goals.

A good resource related to goals and benchmarks may be found from the Nebraska Department of Education website.

Ms. Dykes stated that goals are now written to the Program of Studies and the Core Content.

VIII. Adjournment of meeting

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Guettler-James and seconded by Ms. Evans. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

- IX. Ad-hoc Group Meetings (locations will be secured by meeting time)
- Communication
 - Education
 - Placement/Services
 - Vocational/Post-Secondary