

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 8, 2008

5:30-7:00

I. Call to Order 5:43

Members present: Kathy Dykes; Sherri Williams; Elise Kalika; Cathy Evans; Dylan Paul; Kevin Fleming; Leisa Pickering; Heather Dieffenbach; Patti Parsons; Reba Johnson; Jennifer Lloyd; Connie Loventhal; Dana Landry

II. Introductions no members of community present

III. Approval of Agenda: Elise motion to approve, Cathy seconded.
Agenda approved

IV. Approval of Consent Items

a. Review minutes approve or amend

Committee reviewed minutes from previous meeting. Dylan motioned to approve; Elise seconded. Minutes approved.

V. Old Business

a. Presentation of each Ad-Hoc committee

- Placement Marlene Huff, chairperson. Reba presented information from group. She provided copies of that information to group. Discussed IEP process and need for checks and balances for the school year. Group discussed role of the facilitator and how they could play a larger role with parent education, etc. Group will develop a mission statement.
- Education Connie Loventhal, chairperson reported on meeting. Discussed that committee could compile a list of best practices/strategies to be used, along with research based interventions/strategies. This could be incorporated into teacher education. Committee discussed training issues, and the option of online trainings. Ms. Kalika discussed mandated trainings provided at school levels, and how those trainings

are determined. Ms. Dykes reviewed that all new teachers will receive training regarding special education prior to beginning of school. Ms Parsons suggested that this area be changed from education to training. Ms. Loventhal discussed that this should review the educational aspect which would then lead to more effective training. Mr. Paul stated that setting up the need for the teachers, then that would lead the ideas for training. Ms. Dykes discussed that this would focus on education as a whole. Ms. Parsons felt the committee was developed based on parent concerns regarding training. This would involve parent education, teacher education, student education. Ms. Kalika reviewed notes from previous meeting regarding the development of the committees. Training appeared to be the main issue. Ms. Loventhal discussed that the committee felt there was a need across the district regarding how we were educating students. Ms. Parsons expressed concern that the teacher training piece not be diluted. Committees will develop a mission statement, and present that to the council.

- Transition Dylan Paul, chairperson. Mr Paul discussed the prioritization of 3 immediate needs. The biggest issues are:
 1. School to school the need to develop a handbook, list of forms parents need to complete, list of activities/meetings that should occur.
 2. Resource to regular/collaboration/inclusion, and ensuring that there are no additional transitions added to the students day.
 3. Parent/Peer/Teacher mentoring program. This would provide someone to assist with the transition to ensure all areas were addressed, and parent and students needs are met.
- Communication Cathy Evans chairperson provided handouts/power point presentation Effective parent/teacher communication council reviewed power point presentation by Ms. Evans. Ms Lloyd asked if there was a protocol in place for communication between parents and teachers.

There is not a specific protocol, but communication should be driven by individual needs. Ms. Kalika asked about reducing the tip sheet to one page and providing to parents and teachers.

Communication committee was asked to develop a one page tip sheet to provide to the district. Ms. Dykes will provide this to Facilitators to give to parents. Ms. Parsons discussed communication with the school as a whole. Currently each school has a different system of communication to provide parents with information of what is going on. Committee will research multiple methods of communicating with parents to meet the multiple needs of parents.

- Vocational/Postsecondary Elise Kalika - provided handouts to council discussion of development of mission statement. Recommendation of a Transition Fair for FCPS. Vocational education in FCPS technology education. It is very technical, and currently 25% of students at vocational schools are identified as special education. The committee discovered that there are not enough placement options for special ed. Ms. Kalika discussed the ILP system currently in place. Parents need to learn about the ILP system. Ms. Pickering discussed that parents need to have more information regarding options to parents regarding what is out there what is offered. Ms. Pickering also asked if there could be a panel discussion involving agencies, and FCPS representatives together to address the low number of students participating in the community based work transition program. This committee will be called Vocational/Postsecondary Transition.
- b. Update on Yahoo listserve Patti Parsons reviewed the progress on this. FCPS-SEAC-subscribe@Yahoogroups.com
- c. Sharing of Acronyms list Ms. Dykes found several and will condense that information to provide to the Council.

VI. New Business Ms Dykes discussed recent presentation on Channel 13, and reviewed information shared there. Ms. Kalika discussed that the parent resource center is under utilized.

- a. Next steps

VII. Open Chair

- a. Public comments no members of public present Ms. Parsons shared that there was a request for a survey of parents regarding what areas may need improvement. Also, an email listserve to provide information to parents of what is going on in the district. Ms. Dykes requested members contact her if they are interested in presenting their committee on channel 13
- b. Individual comments from council

VIII. Adjournment of meeting: Motion to adjourn by Dylan Paul; seconded by Elise Kalika at 7:10