

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 11, 2010

5:30-7:00

Members Present: Stella Smith, Rick Christman, Sheldia Sparks, Kathy Dykes, Rachel Baker, Gaye Blackburn, Lisa Pickering, Janice Horohov

Presentation: The Learning Center, Ron Chi (waiting confirmation)

Mr. Chi will be unable to attend and will be rescheduled for the December meeting. He will also at that time have application ready

- I. Call to Order: Ms. Dykes called to order. Rachel Baker will be the secretary for this cycle. Ms Baker gave an overview of the learning center. The school was initially designed to address kids that were “falling through the crack”. The program is open to middle and high school students. The program expands in phases and the teachers are trained with a common culture in mind and the school focuses on non-traditional programming to assist students and get them engaged.

Ms. Dykes asked Ms. Baker to give an overview of AIM and Project Rebound. Aim is an alternative program we have here at IAKSS. It is a continuous program for students at the high school level. Project Rebound and Aim have merged and are now working together. Rebound kids have made mistakes, but do not always have an extensive history and are placed by the directors. Aim students do have IEP's and the program is a continuum of services and some need extra time to get their diploma so they work on credit recovery as a dropout prevention program. The programs are working well together and Ms. Baker is the principal. These kids do have the potential of going down the wrong road. Project Rebound is designed to help keep get the kids on the right track and get them back to their schools. Merging the two programs has worked well and kids are being successful.

PASS? Several middle schools and all high schools are participating. The program has great results for the population enrolled. Elementary schools are getting trained as well.

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Consent Items

- a. Review minutes—approve or amend.

V. Old Business

- a. Update from Ad-hoc committees

Education: Sheldia was interested in the mentoring program for teachers set up with retired teachers providing the service. The application is online. Mrs. Sparks wondered how they could let principals know that this is available, getting the word out in the community and getting a list of all the teachers as well. One suggestion would be maybe running ads on

Channel 13. Kathy will contact Linda Dawahare about scheduling. Sheldia also suggested Brice Jones and Beau presenting some of the assistive technology available as well.

Communication: Stella Smith discussed the new club, Hands Club, at Tates Creek Middle School. The program is a model of the gummy bear club. Mrs. Smith reported that they had 45 kids in attendance at the first meeting. The club does activities focused on understanding and building social skills. The view allowed student to work together regardless of disability. At one point, Mrs. Smith stated it was hard to tell who had a disability and who didn't. Commerce Lexington is interested in partnering with FCPS to promote and offer supports for the program currently as well as promote growth throughout the schools. Lunch shops through the PRC are going well and CTE has been partnering to provide a facility for the meetings. Stella provided a brochure for the parent rights that will be provided to facilitators to assist parents in understanding their rights in a focused way. The large document can be intimidating but will be partnered with a brochure. Janice reported that the brochure was used in a meeting she attended and the parent was very excited and appreciative of the short version which is very parent friendly. Mrs. Smith also shared information on the schedule of the State Parent Advisory committee. She is a member and stated there is so much information to filter through but she said she can share our views. She also said there is another open forum for the State Advisory Panel as well. Mrs. Sparks asked about what happened to the big parent conference. Mrs. Smith explained that the state is not doing one big conference and the state is working in regions, Fayette County continues to sponsor the AKA conference which is open to any parents that would like to attend. Jessamine County works with us to support the conference. Mrs. Pickering discussed the transition fair in Jessamine County but had to cancel this year. Mrs. Pickering wondered if we could partner and do a transition fair in collaboration with the AKA conferences. The first year had approximately 25 people attend and we hope to build. Although information has been supplied in multiple ways, attendance is often low and getting people to come is a struggle. The state conference struggled with getting parents to the conference as well. Mrs. Pickering shared that the parents that were at the AKA, did follow up and did really make some connections.

Vocational/Post Secondary: Mrs. Pickering discussed that we had talked about a job fair. Mrs. Smith and Ms. Baker discussed that the committee met and had some great ideas but much bigger and needed some more people on the committee to work with them to get all involved. A suggestion was to look at planning closer to students exiting. Mrs. Pickering also brought up the transition fair at ECU. She mentioned having students that had transitioned to talk about their plans during the panel discussion at lunch. She requested that if we know of students to participate to give those names.

Placement/Service

- b. Stimulus Update: Money has been used for technology purchases and updates for AIM. Becky Farmer has requested to order a math program that works hands on to assist students with math skills acquisition.

## VI. New Business .

- a. Update on applications-copy of revised letter home to 3,650 letters to parents. Ms. Dykes provided a letter about the application process for the council membership. A letter is going out to all special education parents about the council. Mrs. Dykes was aware of the date change for deadline but the letter emphasizes the new date. The mailing should be going out soon. New visitors came in and wanted to sit and listen to the committee and gather some information. Mrs. Dykes explained the make-up of the committee as well as the purpose of the committee.
- b. Review changes in the by-laws—ambassador language :

Terms of Office has new language to help address allowing the committee to have a quorum to move forward. A suggestion by Mr.Christman is just simply having members' present make a quorum. Mrs. Pickering questioned having an ambassador would not necessarily help have the quorum as the ambassador would not allow for a vote. Discussion continued because the current quorum requires 8. Another point was that if you miss so many meetings you will be replaced. Mrs. Sparks stated we are officially on the calendar every month but we may also want to discuss going back to every two months. Mrs. Dykes reviewed the official membership at this time applying the rule of missing meetings removes you from the committee. The terms of office were revised to state: "members present will be a quorum".

VII. Open Chair (15 minutes)

- a. Public Comments: No questions at this time. Visitors were interested in finding out what the committee is about. Mrs. Dykes explained that we are in the process of taking applications for membership. Mrs. Dykes gave an overview of the smaller committees of the group.
- b. Individual comments from council: No comments at this time from council members.

VIII. Adjournment of meeting: Meeting was adjourned although there was no quorum.

IX. Ad-Hoc Committees