

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2011

5:30-7:00

Members Present: Sheldia Sparks, Lisa Wasson, Denise Beatty, Kathy Dykes, Rachel Baker, Janice Horohov, Gaye Blackburn, Lisa Pickering, Kim Grasso, Alva Clark, Karen Guettler

Presentation: None

I. Call to Order: Made by Kathy Dykes

II. Introductions were made

III. Approval of Agenda: Denise motioned and Sheldia seconded the motion.

IV. Approval of Consent Items

- a. Review minutes—approve or amend. Minutes were approved. Motion made by Janice and seconded by Gaye Blackburn.

V. Old Business

- a. Update from Ad-hoc committees

Education: Sheldia discussed the interview on channel 18 but two members. Sheldia reports they were phenomenal and did a great job talking about the Parent Resource Center and the retired teacher mentoring program. Next month the hope is to be on WKYT.

Communication: Lisa reported information about HANDS club at TCMS, summer camp list, information on Autism institute, lunch shop and the Disability Expo Flyer. AKA conference was successful with a lot of good feedback.

Vocational/Post Secondary: The committee had some break-out sessions. Janice reported about what questions parents have after students get out of high school. Janice seemed to have some good feedback about the transition fair. Lisa reported that the students seemed to enjoy, were well behaved.

Placement/Service: Karen discussed her responses from BSHS, LHS, HCHS sent responses and all developed a packet. Next steps will be to work on a packet to develop a generic set of documents and then add some and provide to others. She also spoke to Janis Gilbert with the alternative schools. Also may be interesting to do some data collection like a parent survey to get their feedback. The goal is setting up a communication system. A thought to develop a survey to current 9th grade parents, current 6th grade parents and current kindergarten parents.

- b. **Review a terms of office for the members:** Mrs. Dykes reviewed the process and asked members to provide feedback on their term as terms are different depending on entry onto the committee.

VI. New Business

- a. **Discuss option of meeting monthly or every other month:** Committee wanted to discuss about the option for future meetings. Sheldia discussed that she likes the every other month as seems to have more people every other month and everyone commitments. Mrs. Grasso felt like meeting every month for a new member has been helpful in getting

caught up. Otherwise there may be an 8 week distance. Mrs. Dykes requested that everyone email her back their preference and committee agreed majority would rule. Sheldia discussed previously that committees could have informal meetings as well. Mrs. Dykes mentioned that she did need to give the communications office the answer for tomorrow for the calendar. The group thought that the months would be: August, September, October, November, **(skip December)**, January, **(skip February)**, March, **(skip April)**, May, **(skip June and July) on the 2nd Thursday of the month.**

- b. **Motion by Lisa Pickering to accept the schedule for 2011-2012 and seconded By Alva.**
- c. Set calendar dates for school year 2011-2012
- d. State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children Seeking Members
- e. Focus Groups to meet with Consulting firm for Superintendent search
 - 1. Wednesday April 20th NorthEast Christian Church
 - 2. Public Forums
- f. Other agenda items:
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

VII. Open Chair (15 minutes)

- a. Public Comments
- b. Individual comments from council: Alva suggested that perhaps the parent advisory develop some commentary for the superintendent search committee. Lisa suggested that perhaps submitting a set of questions for the candidates to answer. Mrs. Dykes said that the cabinet members will be meeting candidates and perhaps she can ask those questions during that time. She isn't sure how that part of the process will work.
Commentary includes:
A superintendent that supports programs for students with disabilities, brainstorming of new programs and ideas that come out of this committee.

Some questions:

Type of programming have they promoted, supported and follow through? Support inclusion?

How well do you support the special education director and the working relationship with previous directors?

How successful was the candidate in closing the education gap in the past?

How would you define special education?

What are the outcomes you expect to see that will define a successful special education program?

Focus on individual needs not programs?

Early start programs for student and their families?

As we are on the cutting edge of programs, how will you continue and increase those opportunities? An approach of open mindedness?

Disability Expo fair coming up on April 21st. This falls during testing window but employees are going: employment trainers, resource specialists and College Connection staff.

VIII. Adjournment of meeting: Motion by Karen and seconded by Gaye.