

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

**5:30-7:00**

**Members Present:** Alva Clark; Sandra Spurgeon-Tinker; Rachel Gott; Kim Grasso; Leisa Pickering; Karen Guettler-James  
Presentation – Hands Alive – Mike Muncy -  
Guest: Dr. Shelton, Superintendent;

- I. **Call to Order:** 5:30
- II. **Introductions:** Sarah Wiler joined the group as a parent/guest
- III. **Approval of Agenda Items**
  - a. **Approval of Agenda** – motion to approve seconded – Agenda approved
  - b. **Review minutes**—approve or amend. Motion to approve seconded – minutes approved.
- V. **Old Business**
  - a. **Update from Ad-hoc committees**

**Education:** Update on Special Needs Awareness Week  
**Communication:** Mock Video Update  
**Vocational/Post Secondary:** Ms. Pickering attended a conference at George Mason College regarding different opportunities for post secondary education. She suggested working closely with the high schools across the state, and determining the interests and desires students have for their futures.  
**Placement/Service:** Karen asked if anyone has been able to review the survey to look at the idea of transitioning into public school, transition between programs, levels, schools, post-secondary, etc. She has developed a questionnaire for entering public school in Kindergarten. The survey is a baseline to create resources. She will work with individuals at UK to develop and revise the surveys. The group discussed advocates and how to access this if a parent would like to bring an advocate.
  - b. **Follow-up on preschool question:** Kathy provided information regarding screening and referral in the preschool level and First Step Referrals. She provided information on numbers and the process regarding children at these levels. She reviewed a handout provided to the group. Kathy reviewed the difference between a Service Plan and an IEP. Ms. Pickering asked about a child moving from an IEP or 504. Kathy will provide written information on this at the next meeting.
  - c. **Update on Mock Video** – Sandra discussed the plan for developing the video, and the different perspectives. The goal is to help parents and to welcome them to the schools. She also discussed a plan to share with KDE in an effort to provide assistance to all parents.
  - d. **Hands-Alive—Update** (Mike Muncy) Mike reviewed the Hands Alive activity in which our students recently participated. Around 100 students participated in the program – from Fayette County and surrounding counties. Mike presented a video which channel 36 showed on their segment, “What’s cool in your school?” Mike provided information from our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Mike reviewed the process of transition planning for post secondary transition. He also reviewed the programs offered at KSD, and the cultural immersion desires within the DHH community. Sandra discussed previous employee who struggled with the cultural issues within the DHH community, and Ms. Wiler discussed her family and their activities within the DHH community. Ms. Grasso asked if the district has a relationship with

EKU and their program for Interpreter certification and Mr. Muncy explained that we do work closely with them.

**e. Special Needs Awareness Week-update** (Kim Grasso) Kim reported on updates regarding special needs awareness program at Glendover Elementary School. She shared a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the activities in which students participated. These activities simulated different areas of exceptionality. Teachers incorporated activities throughout the day. Kim will be working with the PTA to have this program available for other schools.

## **VI. New Business**

Dr. Shelton joined the group for a question/answer session. The group made introductions. Kathy reviewed the process used within the group and gave a brief history of the Parent Advisory Council. Dr. Shelton opened for questions. Ms. Spurgeon-Tinker discussed the different presentations and groups that have been brought to the group. She asked about the process for hiring a teacher with certification for FMD/MSD, and how we are bringing those teachers in. Her concerns were that often we miss out on good FMD/MSD teachers by not hiring them when the opportunity arises. She asked why we are not getting in at the beginning by hiring the FMD/MSD teachers when they are available. She requested consideration be given when the FMD/MSD teachers apply for employment. She reviewed her own experiences with this issue. Dr. Shelton reviewed the KTIP process with assigning mentors for new teachers, and we can discuss helping Principals with hiring, however that is a SBDM process, but we certainly can influence and assist with recruitment of certified teachers. Mrs. Grasso asked if the district controls the training for teachers and/or aides. Dr. Shelton explained that there are professional development requirements. Ms. Clark asked who has the ultimate accountability for the class – Ms. Dykes explained that each teacher has a growth plan and their PD follows that. Ms. Grasso stated she felt there was a lack of training for Special Ed teachers and paras. Dr. Shelton discussed that PD funds have been cut, and this has an impact in that schools are not receiving money for PD. The state still has requirements the teachers and staff must meet. He reviewed the state process for PD and how that was cut. He discussed that there are additional concerns with training for special education. There is often competition between schools and the district offices regarding trainings. Kathy reviewed training provided by the district. We have provided embedded PD during school days, and we work with the Principals Advisory council regarding trainings. Sandra stated she would like to reiterate that at the school level we need to hire the best instructors, and we do not have time for teachers who are not skilled in their position. Kathy reviewed the history of FMD/MSD programs within the district, and the work regarding recommendations and provisions for serving students within this population. Dr. Shelton stated if a specific certification is required for a position, then he will ensure that the person with the correct certification is hired. Ms. Pickering asked about the “cap” of an FMD classroom. Ms. Dykes discussed the specifics of caseloads and class size. Ms. Dykes explained staffing and recommending looking at a certification in individual situations. Ms. Spurgeon-Tinker explained the goal is to support the special education department and give parents the opportunity to have a good experience. Dr. Shelton explained that anything we can do procedurally to ensure the appropriate events occur, then the district will do so. Kathy discussed that this week a school recognized they need a program, and let her know about that. Ms. Guettler-James discussed the importance of providing good education particularly in the early years. She also asked about PD and if there is a push towards online PD. Dr. Shelton explained many PD trainings are available online. Guettler-James discussed many online programs which would be beneficial. Ms. Grasso explained she was pleased to see that Dr. Shelton would be reviewing staffing and working toward closing gaps that exist. Dr. Shelton explained he came from a district that had many resources. He has been amazed by the resources offered in FCPS. Dr. Shelton offered to

attend another meeting. He will attend the January Meeting. Sandra explained the parent advisory council is working to coordinate a mentoring program for FMD/MSD teachers.

Ms. Grasso suggested consideration of a special education resource library for teachers to access lesson plans, activities, adapted materials etc.

**a. Review schedule for rest of year** (January 12<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>)

**VII. Open Chair** (15 minutes)

**a.** Public Comments – no comments

**b.** Individual comments from council - no comments

**VIII. Adjournment of meeting:**

Ad-Hoc Committees (if needed)