

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

**Education Committee Meeting**

**LOCATION**  
Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

**Meeting Date**  
**January 20, 2011**

**Attendees:**

Anna Attla, Chair  
Eric Gebhart  
Tonja Updike  
Sharon Miranda  
Ric Nelson  
Ernie Manzie

**Community Members/Guests:**

Art Arnold  
Geri Benshoof  
Janean Butler  
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
Karen Jenkins  
Terese Kashi

**Staff:**

Teresa Holt

Prepared by: Paula DiPaolo

**CALL TO ORDER – 2:15 p.m.**  
**ROLL CALL**

**Welcome from the Chair**

**Announcements and Good News**

Teresa Holt announced that Eric Gebhart was able to schedule a meeting for the Council before the joint Senate and House Education Committee to talk about funding for SESA and the sunset provision. Millie Ryan and Nancy Nagarkar are working on the presentation.

**Election of New Voting Members**

Item was tabled until the next meeting.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Sharon Miranda **MOVED** to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2010 meeting. The motion **PASSED**.

**Correspondence**

*Inclusive Practice Award*

Teresa Holt stated that they have received seven nominations.

*Data from Erik McCormick*

Teresa Holt stated that she received the data back from Erik McCormick regarding the graduation and drop-out rates at the Alaska State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

	Graduation Rate
2003/2004	100%
2004/2005	33%
2005/2006	16%
2006/2007	20%

2007/2008 28.6%  
 2008/2009 50%  
 2009/2010 60%

Teresa Holt stated that she forwarded this information to Duane Mayes to share with the DEB board.

Teresa then shared the statistics regarding the graduation and drop-out rates of students with disabilities.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus asked Teresa Holt to check with Erik McCormick regarding statistics for students who go through their 21<sup>st</sup> year in order to graduate.

Teresa shared the following statewide drop-out rate statistics:

Year	Without Disabilities	With Disabilities
2003/2004	4.9%	5.2%
2004/2005 *	6.18%	4.97%
2005/2006 **	5.7%	6.0%
2006/2007	5.3%	6.1%
2007/2008	5.0%	6.4%
2008/2009	5.0%	5.9%
2009/2010	4.7%	6.3%

\* Year HSGQE began for regular ed students

\*\* Year HSGQE began for special ed students

Teresa also noted that the graduation rate statistics are for students in 9 – 12 grades, while the drop-out rate statistics are for students in 7 – 12 grades.

Teresa stated that she will e-mail the statistical information to the committee members.

Teresa stated that she, Ric Nelson, Julie Broyles, and Eric Gebhart have been discussing putting their efforts toward removing the HSGQE on hold until they have had a chance to meet with the new commissioner and gain the support of the Department and the State Board of Education. She noted that if a bill does get sponsored, though, the Council will support it.

Gerri Benshoof suggested that the Council meet with Eddie Jeans, the Department's legislative liaison, to see if the Department has a continuing position on the removal of the HSGQE.

### Restraint and Seclusion Letter

Teresa Holt reviewed some changes that were made to the restraint and seclusion letter and asked for additional comments or suggestions.

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus suggested that documentation needs to be kept on the fallout in terms of the emotional impact on a child from the traumatic impact of restraints having been used on them.

### Update from Stakeholder Meeting

Teresa Holt stated that she, Julie Broyles, and Eric Gebhart went to Juneau to participate in a meeting to set new targets for the indicators and/or extend the targets. Teresa and Eric Gerbhart reviewed some of the new information for committee members regarding areas the stakeholders reviewed including graduation rates, drop-out rates, and disproportionality. Teresa also noted that next year's report will be the first time districts have to report on suspension and expulsion of students in different demographics.

### Review of Indicator 13

Teresa Holt noted that indicator 13 is the percentage of youth with IEPs (16+) with measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services.

Teresa reviewed a list of questions from the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee. She received the following comments and suggestions from the committee members that she will draft into formal comments from the Council.

1. In your community, who are the participants or leaders in the transition process and what are their roles?
  - Responsibility on special education teacher. DVR often doesn't come until the student is a senior.
  - DVR rarely participates in meetings.
  - DVR often takes the easier students first.

- Option of subsistence lifestyle for transitioning students doesn't pay the bills.
  - Suicide and depression seem higher for students without jobs.
  - DD providers not getting invited to transition planning meetings.
2. What are the critical elements needed to make transition successful?
- Starting younger.
  - Thinking out of the box.
  - Centralized place to go to get information related to voc rehab.
  - Earlier involvement from DVR and responsibility not left entirely upon school district.
  - Have districts hold inservices at the beginning of the year and invite DD provider, DVR, TVR, etc., to have face-to-face contact.
  - DVR should accept students aged 14 and up, not 16 and older.
3. Are there specific changes that can result in more effective transitions?
- Student-led IEPs
  - If the school can do more referrals in the DD process, there might be more people referred to DVR.
4. What are the challenges and/or solutions to getting community-based employment trainings?
- Small town, people have stigma from past misdoings.
  - Do community-wide trainings.
5. What role does assistive technology play in the transition process?
- Who is responsible to pay for it?
  - Use of assistive technology dependent upon good communication by all partners in the community.

Art Arnold introduced himself to the committee members as the new transition coordinator for DVR. He explained that he is in the process of gathering information about what is working, not working and asking what the division

can do better to make things work again.

Art Arnold noted that the Department of Education has a good online resource called "Community Contacts and Resources". Under the name of each school and school district is a DVR contact, a DD contact, mental health, early childhood, and a TVR contact.

### **Report from the State Board of Education**

Geri Benshoof stated that they are meeting next week via teleconference. She stated that the agenda is posted on the board's website and anybody is welcome to participate by calling in through the legislative information offices. Their face-to-face meeting is scheduled for the end of March in Juneau.

### **Report from SESA**

There was no report from SESA available for this meeting.

### **Report from DEED**

There was no report from DEED available for this meeting.

### **Important Future Meetings/Conferences/Trainings**

- ASSEC – February 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, Anchorage.
- State Board of Education and Early Development, March 17 – 18 in Juneau.

### **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The next teleconference for the Education Committee is scheduled for February 10, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.